

Benhurst Primary School

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Head teacher: Mr D. Denchfield BA (Hons) NPQH

Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Message from the LIFE Education Trust

At LIFE we are extremely proud of the way that our staff, pupils and parents have responded to the extreme situation we are facing. We feel that whilst the current crisis has been incredibly difficult for many of us, we have been able to show the optimism, creativity and compassion which we so strongly believe in.

From 1st June we are pleased that we will be able to welcome more pupils back into our schools. We must stress that this is not a return to normal schooling for these pupils or for the staff that are supervising them.

Every school has undertaken extensive risk assessment in the last week using templates from the local authority and teaching unions which follow Department for Education advice. Following this:

At Primary (Benhurst, Dame Tipping, Margaretting and Roxwell)

- At present and throughout the lockdown, we will continue to supervise vulnerable pupils and pupils of keyworkers.
- From 1st June all LIFE Primary schools will welcome back Year 6 pupils.
- From 15th June all LIFE Primary schools will welcome back Reception and Year 1 pupils
- From 29th June it is our ambition to welcome back all pupils.

Pupils in school **WILL NOT** follow their normal programme of lessons. Pupils not attending school will continue to complete the work set by teachers.

At Secondary (Frances Bardsley and The Bridge)

- At present and throughout the lockdown, we will continue to supervise vulnerable pupils and pupils of keyworkers.
- From 1st June we will invite Year 10 and Year 12 pupils to attend at specific times for some face to face contact.

Pupils in school **WILL NOT** follow their normal programme of lessons. Pupils not attending school will continue to complete the work set by teachers.

For reassurance, please note that parents will not be fined for non-attendance during this time and our schools will not be held to account by the Board, local authority or government for attendance levels.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience in allowing us to develop a reopening strategy. In the last week, the reopening of schools has been intensively discussed and debated and it is clear there are widely differing views and opinions. Any type of school reopening will be welcomed by some and not by others. As a school, we must be open and honest with parents and share the key information for you to make an informed decision. I fully understand and respect that at this time, many of you may not wish to take up the offer of a return to school.



Summary of the current school reopening strategy. (This is subject to change based on new guidance from LIFE, the local authority or central government)	
Monday 1 st June	Key Worker children & Year 6 <u>ONLY</u> Staff will ring Year 6 parents this week to answer any questions they may have and to ascertain if their child will be returning to school on 1 st June.
Monday 15 th June	Key Worker children, Year R, 1 & 6 <u>ONLY</u> We will write to YR & Y1 parents W/B 8 th June with this information
Monday 29 th June	Key Worker children, Year R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 We will write to Y2,3,4 & Y5 parents W/B 22 nd June with this information

Monday 1 st June. Summary for Key Worker children & Year 6 who are returning to school.	
Clothing	Clean school uniform to be worn every day. PE kit in school every day. To be sent home for washing weekly.
Times	9:00 start 3:30 finish
Entrance/Exit	Entrance to Benhurst via Benhurst Avenue <u>only</u> . Exit from Benhurst via Warren Drive <u>only</u> .
Start/end of the school day	Y6 - Line up behind the green chair marked Y6 in the playground. Key Worker - Line up by the green chair marked Key Worker in the playground. Children will be dismissed from the same place in the afternoon. Parents must socially distance at all times when on school premises.
Lunch	Packed lunches are preferred. Home lunches are not permitted. Lunches are eaten in their bubble classroom. Different class bubbles are not permitted to play together.
Class bubbles	Class bubbles, staffing and a home classroom will be allocated on Monday 1 st June. Children will not be able to move to other bubbles until the government guidance on social movement is lifted. Children will not be with their normal friendship groups and it is very possible they will not be with their class teacher or in their usual classroom.
Learning	Bubbles will undertake the Google Classroom activities in line with those not in school. Additional sessions will also be planned to supplement this.
Key Health & Hygiene points	Toilets and sinks will be cleaned by our cleaning team every hour. Door stops and hand sanitisers are in place across the school. Taped demarcation will be in place as required. Children will regularly clean their hands (e.g. on arrival, before/after eating, after sneezing/coughing). Children will be allocated their own desk & key stationary. There will be limited access to some school equipment and resources. If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their household should self-isolate for 14 days. Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Household members of the bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.
ABACUS	ABACUS breakfast club and after school club remains closed until further notice.



If you have any questions, please email or phone me at school; I am very happy to help and talk through any questions, concerns or family situations you may have. As always, thank you so much for your support.

Take care and stay safe.

Mr D Denchfield
Head Teacher

