

Benhurst Primary School

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Friday 14th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Potential School Return Update

Following to my letter on Tuesday, I would like to provide you with a further update. Firstly, thank you to those parents in YR, Y1, Y6 and key workers for completing the Google survey. If you have not yet done so, please do so today - it is important we have a clear understanding of the interest before the Trust considers how best each school can consider safely opening more widely.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhPMwfGjBIYc5ZTxt74gGn8sUgZl9Pv7KiiBpCQD84T3qsmg/viewform?usp=sf_link

As you will be aware, it is the government's ambition that some children will return to primary schools from the 1st June. Currently, we are undertaking detailed risk assessments of the school in accordance with the Department for Education and Local Authorities advice and templates to determine what we can offer. We anticipate this will be completed by the middle of next week when I will be able to write to you again with a clearer offer. Please accept my apologies for the delay but the government are issuing guidance daily which we must carefully consider.

Below is a link to the government's information to parents and carers regarding schools.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers?utm_source=cc9c1c49-4c5e-4748-8698-06ec4a877f73&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

This week, I have spoken with a number of parents who had many questions and were undecided at what is best for their child if there was an opportunity to return in June. Below is a brief summary of the key points which may help guide your decision.

- The safest place for your child continues to be at home.
- Children who are in the clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable group should remain at home as this is the safest option.
- Children who return will be in 'bubbles' of no more than 15 until further notice. 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 due to smaller bubbles.
- It is likely your child will not be in their usual classroom and will not have their class teacher.
- The curriculum will be different to normal curriculum delivery as not all resources will be available to the children to prevent the spread of the virus. Initial learning will be via Google Classroom activities. Additional sessions will also be planned to supplement this.



- Google Classroom will remain in place to support children who remain at home.
- Break and lunchtime will be separate across the school. Bubbles will remain together for the day and will not mix with other bubbles. Many popular games will not be permitted.
- PE lessons will be very limited as we will be unable to clean the equipment between each bubble using it.
- If your child has an EHCP it is likely that the support they receive may not be their normal support.
- Children will have staggered drop off and pick up times to avoid parents congregating in the playgrounds and putting themselves at risk.
- ABACUS breakfast club and after school club remains closed until further notice.
- If your child is suspected of displaying symptoms they must be collected from school immediately.
- Currently, you will not be fined if you choose not to send your child back to school.
- We cannot guarantee that children will keep a social distance from your child at all times. Our children are naturally social and gravitate towards each other and staff!
- All school trips, special events and assemblies have been cancelled until further notice.
- Currently, we have no information regarding COVID-19 testing for staff or children at school.
- **We cannot eliminate the possibility that your child may be exposed to the virus at school.**

In providing this summary, my intention is to ensure you are fully aware of how we will operate for the foreseeable future. If you are provided with the opportunity for your child to return in June, please carefully consider these points before making your decision. Many parents I have spoken with this week have indicated they feel uncomfortable at sending their child back to school at this point and with these restrictions. The current government guidelines do not require you to return to school and we fully understand if you do not wish to take up any offer that you may be given.

For those children who do return to school in June, we will of course work hard to keep them safe and happy in their bubbles. We will carefully explain to them how and why we now operate as a school and in bubbles. Parents will also play a key role in preparing their children for this and supporting the school.

If you have any further questions, please email or phone me at school; I am very happy to talk through any questions you may have or to discuss any concerns. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank those parents who our staff have spoken with this week; their understanding of the current situation and views have been clear, measured and well-reasoned. You have been fantastic and we cannot thank you enough.

Take care and stay safe.



Mr D Denchfield
Head Teacher