

Re-opening to all children on March 8th

Dear parent/carers

We are really excited about welcoming back all of our children. We cannot wait to hear the buzz of excited children eager to learn around school again.

In this newsletter, you will find all the information needed for the re-opening on Monday March 8th. I will apologise now for the length of the letter and the familiarity of its contents but it is important the key information around our procedures and protocols are shared and followed by everyone.

COVID-19 Response

As a school we have continued to implement procedures and protocols to minimize the possibility of contracting or spreading Covid. No-one can 100% say this will not happen, all anyone can do is minimize the risks.

As a school we will continue to implement guidance given. Our procedures will continually be reviewed and refined.

- The school will continue to operate as four phase bubbles: Foundation, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2
- Children are asked to bring the **minimum** amount of personal belongings into school (see section below)
- When around the school location parents/carers are asked to maintain 2m apart and respect social distancing
- Parents/carers to be on the school grounds for the minimum amount of time, wear a mask and maintain social distancing
- Parents/carers are currently not allowed into the school building
- The school will continue operating a cashless system so all payments for anything school related must be paid via your child's Squid account or a bank transfer. The exception to this is snack payments (see section below)
- We have once again adjusted the procedure for the start and end of the day to minimize the number of adults on/around the school site (see section below)
- Staff will be wearing masks as they move around school
- When in the classroom staff have the option to wear a face covering if 2m distance cannot be maintained
- There will be a one-way system operating around school to minimize contact
- Additional cleaning will continue to take place throughout the day

- Primary aged pupils are not required to wear masks while in school

If as a school we feel that an action does not follow our protocols parents/carers will be informed and reminded of the reasons why we are doing what we are doing.

Attendance

The government have said that normal rules and laws about school attendance come into force on March 8th. This includes the Education Welfare Service intervention for poor attendance and fines.

Birklands' non attendance protocols will be reinforced from this date. It is therefore expected that **all** children attend school each day unless there is a genuine reason for absence.

We will be enforcing this as we feel it is crucial that all of our children return to school to receive the education that they are entitled to. Our children have had a patchy access to education for nearly a year now and that amounts to a big loss of quality education. **We expect all parents and carers to work with us and ensure their child is in school every day so all children can get back on track with their learning.**

Start of the School Day

All adults will need to adhere to social distancing and wear a mask please when waiting to drop-off/collect their child/ren and groups of parents will not be permitted to be on the school grounds.

Both sets of gates will be open from 8.25am. Children are expected to arrive between 8.25am and 8.45am. They will enter through one of the sets of gates and go straight up to their classroom. Staff will be around to direct children to the correct place.

Where possible adults should **NOT** come on to the school playground and allow their child to enter the school ground independently.

If an adult brings their child onto the playground because they feel the child is not able to enter school without them, they **MUST** leave the school grounds as soon as their child has entered the school building.

At 8.45am the gates will be closed. Anyone arriving after that time will have to buzz at the main school gate and wait for someone to let them in.

Uniform and Personal Belongings

All children should be in correct school uniform each day, with the exception of PE days.

School uniform includes correct school shoes please. Trainers or fabric shoes are **NOT** permitted. Information relating to uniform can be found on our school website.

On the days of the week that your child has PE we would like them to arrive wearing their PE kit and they will stay in this all day. This strategy reduces the amount of personal belongings any child need to bring into school.

All children will still need to bring their **own water bottle**.

Reading book, home-school diary, homework book, water bottle, morning snack (if coming from home) and packed lunch (if required) should be brought to school in a **small** size bag. Over-sized bags should not be brought into school. Children will be asked **NOT** to bring this bag again if staff feel it is too big.

At this moment in time, we would appreciate it if scooters and bikes were no brought into the school grounds.

Break and Snack Time

The school will be operating different morning break times for each phase. During this time the children will be able to socialise with others within their phase and either eat a healthy snack from home or purchase one from our catering team.

Snack such as toast, fruit and juice can be purchased at 30p an item. All children are limited to either one or two items per day. **These will need to be pre-paid for each Monday.**

Children should bring either £1.50 or £3.00 in an envelope each Monday. This will be recorded and enable the catering team to keep a track. They will **NOT** take any money unless it is in an envelope.

Children will not be allowed to purchase snacks on the day. They should be pre-paid each Monday.

Lunchtime

Your child/ren can either have a hot meal prepared and cooked by our lovely catering team or bring a healthy packed lunch from home.

Please note that the school will only be offering **one meal option** during this ter. See the school website for our current menus> It will be week three's menu on 8th March.

Meals should be paid for via your child's Squid account.

If your child opts to bring in a packed lunch from home, this should be stored in a box or disposable bag. This should go home each day. Any lunch-boxes/bags left at the end of the week will be disposed of.

End of the Day

The school will be operating different times for each phase to be dismissed. The times have been staggered to enable playgrounds to be clear before the next 'bubble' is dismissed. With this in mind, please leave the relevant area of school as quickly as possible.

The dismissal times are:

- 2.45pm for EYFS (Foundation)
- 2.55pm for Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3 & Y4)
- 3.00pm for Key Stage One (Y1 & Y2)
- 3.05pm for Upper Key Stage Two (Y5 & Y6)

If your child is in Key Stage Two and is able to walk home or meet you just away from the school grounds please do this, as it will minimize the number of people on the school grounds.

Reminder, that on the playground **all** adults must adhere to social distancing.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will continue to only be available to working parents. Therefore, please only use this when genuinely required.

This will begin week commencing 8th March from 7.30am. For safety reasons we will be limiting the number of places available. Places **MUST** be booked in advance via our school website. The link to this will be up and running and available via our school website at 8am on Wednesday 10th March for w/c 15th March. Bookings for w/c 8th March should be done via text to 07713 077372 or 07713 077416. The cost is £2 per session.

Breakfast Club should be paid via your child's Squid account or bank transfer by the end of the week. Failure to do so will result in your child's place being withdrawn. Invoices can be raised on a monthly basis if this is agreed with the school office.

Children accessing Breakfast Club should **arrive no later than 8.10am**.

After School Wrap Around Care Club

The school will continue to operate its after school club. The cost is £8.00 per day, per child. If you need to access this care on a regular basis the cost is £7.50 per day, per child.

The wrap around care operates from the end of the school day until 5.30pm.

This club will commence week beginning 8th March. For safety reasons we will be limiting the number of places available to twelve. Places should be booked in advance via our school website. The link to this will be up and running and available via our school website at 8am on Wednesday 10th March for w/c 15th March. Bookings for w/c 8th March should be done via text to 07713 077372 or 07713 077416 Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

After school club should be paid via your child's Squid account or bank transfer by the end of the week. Failure to do so will result in your child's place being withdrawn. Invoices can be raised on a monthly basis if this is agreed with the school office. Again, if these are not paid in a timely manner, your child's place will be withdrawn.

You will not receive a confirmation. However, the limit is set on the school website so you will not be able to book a place if there are none available. If you need to cancel or change any bookings, please contact the school office by email at office@birklandsschool.co.uk.

As we have such a limited number of places, please only book if you are working and have no other child care options.

Our full Covid risk assessment can be found on our website.

If you have any questions or need anything clarifying, please do get in touch.

Mrs C Smith

Head of School