



Baldwins Gate CE Primary School

Return to School

Information for Parents

It is our intention that this document will provide you with more detailed information and guidance on exactly what the children's experience of school will be like in the coming weeks.

School has been open during this period for critical worker and vulnerable children. We have had less than ten children every day and have been able to keep the children safe. With the increase in pupil numbers we have altered some of our procedures to accommodate the changes from today.

Please read the following information carefully.

Everyone is trying to do their best in this unique situation and I thank you for your efforts in keeping all our children safe.

Mrs C Lowe
Headteacher

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Who will be returning?

School has reopened to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

If your child is in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 there will be no change to the current provision and Home Learning will continue to be the education offer for those year groups. This may change, as the government has stated that they would like to have all primary year groups return before the end of the Summer term. This may or may not be possible depending upon the level of risk.

How will Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 return?

The government has issued guidelines that children should be in classes of no more than 15, *and* that classrooms should be arranged that ensure children are seated 2m apart. Our groups can accommodate 15

to ensure we keep to this guidance. Social distancing remains a concern for us. The age groups of the children do mean that it will be extremely difficult, probably impossible, for staff to ensure children remain 2m apart. Social time and toileting are particularly difficult, as are Early Years settings, where children learn in very different ways. We will frequently remind the children of safe spacing but cannot guarantee it.



S O C I A L D I S T A N C I N G



Social Bubbles

Following government guidelines, we intend to keep the same group of children together at all times, with the same teacher and support staff, if possible. This is what the Government have called a 'social bubble'. This may not be possible, for example when children are taught by part time staff, when a member of staff is unwell or if your child is also in critical worker provision but we will do this as much as we can.

Children will stay in their room. This means that:

- the children will have lessons and eat in their rooms
- they will not meet together in the hall
- they will play outside in their class groups and not mix with other classes

What will their day look like?

Our school day will run using staggered start and finish time. Children will be dropped off and picked at allocated times. Breaks will happen in the morning and afternoon in designated outside spaces so that the children remain in their 'social bubble'. Children will have school lunches or their own and eat them in their own classrooms before playing outside in their own 'social bubbles'. We will talk to the children and remind them regularly about social distancing but this will be extremely difficult to maintain.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

There is a one way system in operation around school. Parents should enter via the tall green pedestrian gate from Tollgate Avenue and leave via car park. This will ensure social distancing. The children will come immediately into school and we ask that parents don't linger.

Unfortunately parents will not be allowed in school for the time being. If you need to contact the school please telephone or email the school office.

Outside Time Time outside will be spent with the same group of children. Following government guidelines, where needed, the outside areas will be separated to stop groups of children from mixing. Lessons will also be outside when this is appropriate. This is because it is safer for the children to be together outdoors, than together indoors.

Lunchtimes School dinners will be provided or children can bring a packed lunch from home. Children will eat in their classroom and not together in the hall.

Moving From Location to Location All children and adults will wash their hands (or sanitize where this is not possible) whenever they enter the building or enter a classroom. Children will also sanitize their hands before using any shared equipment.

What will my child need to bring?

Own Resources We do not wish children to bring anything in from home. School will provide each child with their own set of equipment that will not be used by any other child.

Outside Clothes We will hopefully be learning outside more than usual so please make sure that they have a coat with them and hat if the weather is good. If they can come into school with sun cream applied it would be appreciated.

Morning Break If your child likes to eat something at morning break, please send a healthy snack. Please remember we are nut free.

Water Bottle Please send a filled, named, water bottle each day.



Lunch If your child brings their own packed lunch.

Toys, bags and other things from home. Please do not send your child with any other items from home, such as toys or book bags. We will not be sending reading books home.

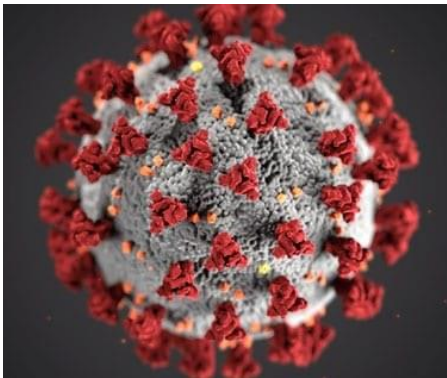
Uniform To enable a daily change of clothes we request no uniform please and practical shoes for outside play.

What will my child be learning?



The government guidelines state that schools should decide on the most appropriate learning for the children. We will not be able to deliver the full National Curriculum but we will be focusing on the core elements, Maths and English and also including other elements of our curriculum. We will start to assess the children and begin to use this information to plan future learning. We will also be focusing on their wellbeing. This has been a huge change for the children and school will be a very different place in the short to medium term. We must prioritise children's wellbeing so that they are happy and comfortable in school. It will take a significant amount of time to get the children back on track, but we will do our best.

What Health & Safety procedures will be in place?



Cleaning We are implementing an increased cleaning and disinfecting routine within school.

The School Grounds We have a one way system and social distancing procedures in place within the school grounds. This is to ensure parents can drop off and collect their children whilst maintaining social distancing. Parents will be asked to follow this strictly. Markings will be used to ensure families are 2m apart at all times. Please can we ask that parents leave the school grounds as

quickly as possible. A quick flow will mean that all children can enter and leave school safely and effectively.

If you need to talk to a teacher please email or contact school by phone.

If a child falls ill with COVID symptoms If a child falls ill and displays symptoms of COVID-19, they will be removed from class and parents will be called to take them and any siblings home. We will advise parents that they should follow government guidelines and not bring their child to school for 7 days, and their siblings for 14 days as guidelines state. Staff who are with your child will use PPE equipment. We will ask that you take your child to have a COVID test, which will be available to children attending school. In the event of a positive test, **ALL** children and staff in that group will be asked to self isolate for 14 days.

What if my child is clinically vulnerable?

If your child is clinically *extremely* vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning.



If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school.

Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups. If you believe your child falls into one of these categories, please contact the school for more information.

What if I am worried about my child returning to school?



I want to reassure you that we won't be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what's best for your child's health and wellbeing. We recommend that you consult the advice available before making an informed decision. There is a lot of information in the public arena and we appreciate it is a worrying time.

What about critical worker provision?



NHS



Police force



Education



Fire service



Ministry of
Defence



Environmental
health service



Highways
England Traffic
Officer service



Prison
service



Probation
service



Local
authority

The school will still open for vulnerable pupils and the children of **critical** workers. It will **not** open for other children whose parents are returning to work.

We need to make it crystal clear that this is still **emergency** school provision and **must only be used as a last resort for those deemed as critical workers.** The new guidance from the DFE states that children should only be in groups of a maximum 15, as demand increases it is more difficult for us to keep your child as safe as we would like. **We therefore cannot stress enough that if you are able to make provision at home for your child you must please do so.**

Of course, we continue to be here if you need us. My staff and I are more than willing to support frontline workers who are doing so much, at risk to themselves at this time.

To ensure that school can continue to provide emergency Critical worker provision, and to keep your child safe can I remind you that **emergency Critical worker provision is only for your working hours.** Please ***do not*** use it for other reasons, eg shopping or to have a free day.

Please book your child in and let us know if you are cancelling in advance as places may become limited.

The government's latest guidance – Critical workers who can access schools or educational settings – can be accessed here:

[Critical workers who can access schools \(1st June 2020\)](#)

Finally



Hopefully, this gives you the information that you need to understand how school will be working over the coming weeks and months. I know that none of this is ideal and the pressures on parents and families is huge at this time. I wish that school could do more but safety is our primary aim right now.

I will keep you updated once we now more about when the school will be able to reopen for other year groups. For pupils at home, staff will continue to support you and your child with home learning and school will continue to provide meal support for those eligible.

This last half term has been very hard and I would like to thank you all for your understanding and support. Ultimately, you as parents know how to keep your children safe and we hope that you continue to do this.