

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents of children in Reception, Year One and Year Six

Our Re-Opening Plans

You will know that the Government have announced the return to school for children in Reception, Year One and Year Six. Thank you to those parents who have responded to our online survey, if you have not done so yet please do reply as I am trying to ascertain numbers of children returning. At this stage I have been instructed to make a comprehensive plan for children returning in the week commencing 1st June. **Teaching trade unions and Government Ministers are meeting on Thursday 28th May when they will together assess the regional R rates (rate of infection) and make a final decision on whether schools can open.** In this letter I will lay out our plan for teaching these three year groups on site as from the week commencing 1st June 2020 **as long as we get the Government go ahead expected on 28th May.**

The general principle is that we will teach children in 'bubbles' of no more than 15 children with 2 adults. The individual bubbles will operate with the same 15 children, same 2 adults, use the same classroom and follow a strict timetable for arrival, departure and break times. Children and staff will each be provided with a healthy packed lunch every day and they will eat this within their special bubble group. Children, staff and bubbles will not be allowed to mix. The guiding principle behind this is to ensure that children and staff are only exposed to the same small controlled group of individuals every day, thus keeping them all as safe as possible. In the unlikely event that anybody becomes unwell with COVID symptoms within a bubble and tests positive then it can be shut down and controlled very easily.

There will be slightly different arrangements and timing for each year group. We request that just one parent escorts a child to school and leaves the vicinity of the school as soon as children are handed over to our staff, where possible also leave siblings at home with another carer. The details for each year group is below;

Year Six: All year six children will be divided into 4 bubble groups of no more than 15 each being supported by the same adults. At the time of writing this letter I have assessed I only need 2 bubbles initially. Children should arrive at school at 8.30am and leave at 2.30pm each day. They will enter the school site through the big gates on York Way and be taken up their own set of stairs to



the top floor by staff. Parents should arrive at school on time in the mornings standing at the demarcated 2m intervals as indicated on the pavements outside, leaving your child at the gate and not entering the site. Children will line up in their bubble group lines as directed by staff. They will be the only bubble groups occupying the far end of the top floor, they have their breaks on the roof always as separate bubble groups. We will use separate classrooms on the top floor. They should attend school Monday – Thursday 8.30am until 2.30pm and Friday 8.30am until 1pm. All children will be provided with a packed lunch.

Year One: All year one children will be divided into a maximum of 3 bubble groups of 15 children in each being supported by the same two adults. They should arrive at school at 9.30am and leave at 3.15pm each day. They will enter the school site through the main school gate on Cliff Villas and be taken up their own set of stairs to the middle floor by staff. We are permitting parents to enter the site with their children but you must observe social distancing and allow your children to stand in line in their bubble groups. They will be the only bubble groups occupying the middle floor, they have their breaks in the main playground always as separate bubble groups. We will use separate classrooms on the middle floor. They should attend school Monday – Thursday 9.30am until 3.15pm and Friday 9.30am until 12.30pm. Your child will be provided a packed lunch. Please provide a set of named spare clothes for your child to be kept at school in the bubble classroom.

Reception Year: All reception children will be divided into a maximum of 4 bubble groups of 15 children in each being supported by the same two adults. They should arrive at school at 9am and leave at 3pm each day. They will enter the school site through the Nursery entrance on Cliff Villas and be taken into school through the Early Years Playground. Parents should arrive at school on time in the mornings standing at the demarcated 2m intervals as indicated on the pavements outside, leaving your child at the gate and not entering the site. Children will line up in their bubble group lines as directed by staff. They will be the only bubble groups occupying the bottom floor, using Reception, Nursery and the lower hall as their teaching spaces. They will have their breaks in the Early Years playground always as separate bubble groups. They should attend school Monday – Thursday 9am until 3pm and 9am -12.30pm on Fridays. Your child will be provided with a healthy packed lunch. Please provide a set of named spare clothes for your child to be kept at school in the bubble classroom.

It is vitally important that parents stick to the drop off and pick up times as identified to reduce the mixing of children and adults.

As you know we are not yet directed to allow other year groups to attend but I suspect if the infection rate remains low then the Government may instruct us that other year groups should be introduced later in the term. At that stage it may be that we have to reduce the amount of time we allow each year group to attend because space and staffing will quickly become an issue. I will of course let you know if the plan has to change as more children and staff join us.

If you decide at a later date that you would like your child to return to school, you will need to inform us by the Thursday of the week before, by 12 noon, so that we can ensure we have appropriate staffing and resources prepared.

As I am sure you can imagine, the logistics involved in reopening the school whilst ensuring risks to the whole community's health are minimised, are complex. In order for us to finalise our planning and make sure we have sufficient staff onsite, if you **are** intending to send your child back to school you must make contact with us via telephone or email to admin@brecknock.camden.sch.uk **by Thursday 28th May, 12 noon.**

We will of course need to know the reasons for non- attendance at school.

Thanks for all your continued support, take care



Cal Shaw
Headteacher