



Portesham C of E VA Primary School

September returning for all children- Our Interim Plan

Dear Parent/Carer

As I'm sure you are aware, the Government has asked that, with the relaxing of some lockdown restrictions, we put plans in place to enable all children to return to school in September.

We will be splitting the school into two 'bubbles'; one bubble will be made up of EYFS and Class 1, the other will be Classes 2 and 3. Your child's bubble will become their group within school. The two classes within each bubble will operate separately for most learning activities. They will have lessons, assemblies, break times and lunch within their bubble - they will not socialise with children from other bubbles. They will essentially operate 'independently', with their own area, for the whole week, with the same adults, as much as possible, until additional restrictions are formally lifted or updated guidance is issued.

School start and finish times, and arrivals and departures will be strictly staggered so as to avoid too many people trying to access the site at any one time. All children will hand sanitise before entering the classroom. Hand washing/sanitising will happen as a minimum 6 times a day. Children will then hand sanitise on the way out of school. In order to ensure that the children's learning time is not reduced, we will be taking a flexible approach to lunch times and play times depending on the weather. Your child's learning time will not be reduced as a result of staggered starts and finish times.

As parents, you will also need to play your part. It will be vital that you adhere to all 1m+ social distancing/reduced contact measures outside of school to give us confidence that the children are being kept safe in that capacity.

Once at school:

- **be aware that if your child needs to be accompanied to the school site, only one parent should attend**
- **keep robustly to the allocated drop off and collection times and the process for doing so, including protocols for minimising adult to adult contact (for example, making sure you socially distance from other families whilst waiting on the school site)**
- **be clear that you cannot gather closely at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless you have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely)**
- **wash/change uniform more regularly:**

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In order to avoid too much 'footfall' through the site at any one time we are being advised to use staggered arrival and departures from the school site. At many schools this will be managed by giving different year groups allocated times for arriving at and leaving school. This will be a challenge for families who have children in more than one year group, with that in mind we will be allocating families whose children do not use the school buses to either Group A or Group B. Arrival and departures will then be staggered:

Timings	Children who travel to and from school by bus.	Families in Group A	Families in group B	Busy Bees
Arrive at school	8.45am	8.50am	9.00am	Please speak to Mrs Burke about requirements.
Leave school	3.00pm	2.40pm	2.50pm	

Keeping the class 'bubbles' protected will be vital, so, with this in mind:

- **We will be offering Breakfast and Playclub** on a pre- booked basis only (bookings will need to be made a week in advance), we will not be able to accommodate ad hoc bookings at this time.
- We will not be having a daily whole school assembly, instead bubbles will celebrate Collective Worship in class.
- We are not planning any trips out of school for the Autumn Term.
- Parents will not be able to access the school site until guidance changes – this means that there will not be traditional face-to-face Parent Teacher Meetings.
- We will be offering hot lunches. Each bubble will have a sitting in the hall separate from the other bubble, with cleaning taking place between sessions. This will feel very similar to the 'old normal'!
- At this point in time we are not planning for the usual major whole school events that happen during the Autumn Term – Harvest Festival, Nativity and Carol Service, Christmas Play, Christmas Fair, Community Christmas Lunch. We will of course be looking for creative ways to celebrate and will make plans in accordance with guidance at the time.

Uniform.

At some point in the future we will be returning to our full statutory uniform. We think that getting back to a more normal uniform expectation will help children transition back into school. However, we will making as much use of outdoor space as we can, as we will not be able to offer indoor PE sessions. Therefore, from September, the uniform expectation for all children will be:

- A school jumper or cardigan with logo, or plain school green alternative.
- A white polo shirt
- Plain black jogging bottoms or leggings – no logos, stripes, glitter effects or patterns please.
- Trainers to wear when arriving to and leaving school, suitable for wearing out on the school field.

Children will need a pair of plain black plimsolls, either slip-on or with Velcro, that they will keep at school and that will be worn inside the building if their trainers get muddy outside. I know that these are not necessarily going to be universally popular with children (particularly those who maybe more fashion conscious) – however, they are cheap, soft and are available in all sizes up to adult size 8. They can be bought from Asda locally, or ordered online, from Amazon for example. They are also easy to label by writing the child's name inside them with a permanent pen. Every child must have a pair. Until we return to something more like the 'old normal' this will be part of the uniform expectation.

Teacher's PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment Time)

PPA cover for classes would not ordinarily be covered by TAs, although it is acceptable in exceptional circumstances. You may have seen prior to lockdown that nationally some schools have been closing at lunchtime on a Friday so that all teaching staff can take their PPA during Friday afternoon. We will be offering a combination of the two provisions in September.

On Wednesday afternoon, each class will be led by the TA who works with that class during the week. This will be overseen by the class teacher, the TA will not be 'teaching' the class.

I hope that this compromise will help families who would find it hard if the school closed at lunchtime on Fridays, whilst ensuring that teachers get the professional time in school that they are very much entitled to.

Staffing.

We have made several new appointments ready for September.

Miss Hedges will be joining us to teach the Reception Class.

Miss Hutton will be joining us to teach Years 1 and 2 in Class 1

Mrs Griffiths will be joining us as SENDCo and Inclusion Lead. This is a joint appointment with Chickerell Primary Academy.

They have each prepared a brief introduction, which is included with this letter – we look forward to you having the opportunity to meet them in person at some point.

Mrs Brignell and Miss Whisker will be the KS2 team, teaching Class 2 and Class 3 respectively.

We are really looking forward to having all the children back in school. It will still feel a bit different but everybody will be working hard to establish routines that will keep us all as safe as possible and allow us to really crack on with the vital learning that we have all been craving! The staff team will be planning a timetable and curriculum structure designed to secure accelerated progress in key areas of learning. We will let you know more about how you can support your children effectively at home in September.

Rest assured too that whenever new Government guidance is given, we will review this interim plan and make any necessary changes.

School will reopen to all year groups, fulltime, from Wednesday September 9th 2020. A 'Welcome Back Pack' will be sent out to you before that date, explaining the arrival and departure arrangements in more detail, a lunch menu and booking form, a booking form for Breakfast Club and Playclub, how the ' Bubbles' will work and updating you on our Risk Assessment for operating.

Wishing you a safe, sunny and fun Summer.

Kind regards



Mrs V Prior
Headteacher