



Blanford Mere Nursery and Primary School

Mimosa Walk, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 7EA

Headteacher: Mrs N.J. Miller Tel: 01384 818365 Email: info@blanford.dudley.sch.uk

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families remain well. We are really excited to be welcoming all children back to school whether they are returning to us or beginning life at Blanford Mere as a Nursery child. The government's plan is that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full time 'School attendance will be mandatory again from 8th March 2021, therefore the usual rules on school attendance will apply.'

Routines in school will be almost the same as the autumn term 2020 - there are some changes to timings and entrances/exits, to accommodate the increased number of children in Nursery. These are highlighted **in green** on the table below.

Our priority remains the safety and wellbeing of children and their families, as well as that of the staff and their families.

We know that many children will be excited at the prospect of returning to school, that they are looking forward to seeing their teachers and friends in the flesh - rather than via Teams or telephone calls. However, we have received updated guidance from the DfE that we need to comply with. To fulfil this guidance on health and safety, there are measures that we have to adhere to, so that everybody is safe.

We want to refresh all parents and carers minds, so that we can follow the guidance and re-open to all pupils safely. We will be reminding children of the routines and re-establishing boundaries, as well as helping children to adjust to the changes in school.

The full reopening on schools is the first step on the 'road map' out of lockdown. We hope that you will support us by **wearing a mask to drop/collect your child to school daily and only one adult** should bring/collect your child, please social distance from others and keep your child with you at all times please. Hopefully, with the vaccine rollout and preventative measures, we could have our freedom back on 21st June! So please support us fully by doing the following:

Government guidance

This is the set of actions schools must take.

They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' sections.

Please click on the link below for the full guidance.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Prevention:

Government guidance

This is the set of actions schools must take.

They are grouped into '**prevention**' and '**response to any infection**' sections.

Prevention: You must always:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances. **Primary school children should not wear masks in school.**
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and **more often than usual.**



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- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible. **Please do not wait around the entrances to chat with other families.**
- 7) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

In specific circumstances:

- 8) Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.
- 9) Promote and engage in **asymptomatic testing**, where available. If a child or a member of staff has any of the wider symptoms of Covid 19, they can still attend the setting, **but we should suggest to parents, that they should take their child to be tested.**

Loss of Appetite	Sore Throat
Extreme Tiredness	Sneezing
Headaches	*Diarrhoea (must be clear of symptoms for 48hrs before returning to school)
Joint Pain or Muscle Ache	**Vomiting (must be clear of symptoms for 48hrs before returning to school)
Nausea	Runny Nose or Congestion

- If the child has any of these wider symptoms (apart from diarrhoea* and vomiting**) they can carry on attending their education setting if they are well enough to do so and are not already self-isolating due to being a contact of a positive case.
- If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, **they should not get tested for wider symptoms.** However, they must self-isolate and seek a new test if they display any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms.

Response to any infection. You must always:

- 10) Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- 11) Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
- 12) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

This is how we are applying the guidance at Blanford Mere Primary:

Groupings

- Children will be grouped into classes.
- There will be no social distancing between children in school, but teachers and staff will be expected to social distance from children, parents and each other as far as possible;
- EYFS children will not social distance in classrooms with their year group peers
- Children will sit in rows (**from Year 1 upwards**) with all children facing the board. Children will be expected to keep the same seat in the classroom and will not move around as normal (except in KS2 where groups for Spellings and Maths will still operate);
- Where possible, pupils will remain in their classes and not mix with other classes, however, because of the constraints of our school population and school site, there may be some mixing, e.g. at playtimes/lunchtimes, but this will be in phase groups



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- Assemblies will be closed (i.e. no parents invited) and will be held in classrooms. There will be no whole school assemblies;
- Lunch sittings will be held in the hall;
- Toilet times will be supervised and children will not be allowed to leave the classroom unless accompanied by an adult
- We cannot guarantee that children will not come across a child from another 'class' for visits to the toilet etc. *The guidance says that passing briefly in the corridor or playground is low risk.*
- Children will be taking part in P.E. mainly outdoors, however if the weather is poor this will be indoors.

Lunch arrangements

- Meals continue to be free of charge for all children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 as well as any child who is eligible for benefit-related free school meals. **We will still be asking parents to pre-order their child's meal, even though there is no charge.**
- We are limiting the number of belongings coming into and going out of school, therefore, children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 should take up their Universal Free School Meal. **Please do not send them with a packed lunch.**
- KS2 children will be allowed to bring lunchboxes to school again, or order a meal online through the School Grid system.
- The dining hall will be used for phase groups to eat their lunch, and will be cleaned in between sittings.

Arriving at and leaving school

- There will be strict arrangements for entry to school to allow for social distancing
- There will be no entry to the site for parents/carers, including the Nursery/Reception parents
- Parents will be expected to leave pupils at the perimeter gates where staff will be stationed, except for parents of Nursery who should bring their child to the Nursery entrance; **Year 2B** children should be brought to the link corridor (next to Nursery entrance) and collected from there, socially distanced
- **Year 2P children will use the KS1 entrance at the designated times**
- We will have staggered arrival and collection times for each class throughout school to avoid crowding - **please try to arrive at your allocated time - not too early or late**
- Different classes will be given a specific time to arrive or be collected - these times will need to be adhered to for the plan to work - **Please see the new plan below.**
- The guidance advises that **one adult** only should accompany children to allow for social distancing



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Timings will be as follows, with all pupils expected to attend Nursery and school from Monday 8th March 2021

Green = change of timings or gates

If you have children who are being at the same time but at different gates - please collect the youngest child first.

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Gate</u>	<u>Arrival time</u>	<u>Collection time</u>
Nursery	Nursery Door	8.30am (AM) 12.10pm (PM)	11.25am Am only 3.05pm
Reception Miss Cleeton	Reception gate (Earlswood Road)	8.50am	3.15pm
Reception Miss Jordan	Reception gate (Earlswood Road)	8.55am	3.20pm
Year 1 Mr Wade	KS1 gate	8.50am	3.15pm
Year 1 Mrs Cartwright	KS1 gate	8.55am	3.20pm
Year 2 Miss Postings	KS1 gate	8.45am	3.10pm
Year 2 Miss Barclay	Link corridor (next to Nursery entrance)	8.55am	3.20pm
Year 3/4 Mrs Cameron	KS2 gate	8.45am	3.10pm
Year 3/4 Mrs Oliver	KS2 gate	8.50am	3.15pm
Year 3/4 Miss Dorricott	KS2 gate	8.55am	3.20pm
Year 5/6 Mr Baker	After School Club gate (middle gate)	8.45am	3.10pm
Year 5/6 Mr Raybould	After School Club gate (middle gate)	8.50am	3.15pm

What should my child bring to school?

- All pupils will be expected to wear uniform. **School shoes must be worn - not trainers.** We advise all pupils to bring a jumper/cardigan, regardless of the weather, as rooms will be ventilated at all times.
- **Please send your child equipped to school for the day - we are trying to minimise the number of visits to the office when parents forget water bottles, bags etc.**
- Children should only bring a **filled water** bottle (not squash - see healthy tuck policy on the website). This needs to be named please so that children can easily recognise their own bottle and do not touch or drink out of bottles belonging to other children.
- A personal stationery pack in a pencil case will be provided for every child. Please **do NOT** send your child with pencil cases and stationery;
- Bags are allowed again, but as a school we would strongly advise **KS2 pupils NOT to bring large backpacks.** There is **insufficient room in cloakrooms** to store bags, and this is often the thing pupils moan about most. Children need a small bag to carry items to and from school, so a drawstring bag like a P.E. bag would be much more suitable; **Reception and KS1 should only bring their red book bag to school**
- **It will be vital for the children to bring their P.E. bags into school on Monday 8th 2021 - PE will begin straight away**



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- **Year 6 children should not bring mobile phones to school (this will be reviewed at Easter)**
- Children should bring a small clear labelled 'sandwich bag' with their own labelled pack of tissues, small hand gel/sanitiser for their own use. Children in KS2 should also bring a piece of fruit for break - there will be **no tuck** on sale. (No crisps or chocolate please.)
- Children should not bring any money to school, as all lunches will be paid for online. There is nothing to purchase in school.
- If it is your child's birthday they can come to school in their own clothes - however, we are still in a pandemic and schools reopening is the first step out of lockdown, **therefore we will not be allowing children to bring in sweets to share with their friends, this will be reviewed regularly.**
- Please do not send in items from home with your child to share at school, we can provide the resources that they need to learn.
- **If you wish to purchase uniform from the office please go the school website, click on the 'pink' uniform pencil, email the completed form to info@blanford.dudley.sch.uk and the office will notify you when it is ready to collect and pay.**

Health and Hygiene

- Health and hygiene will be a priority and a large amount of time will be taken with hygiene and safe use of the facilities. Children will wash hands or use their hand sanitiser frequently - as they arrive at school, after breaks, before and after lunch and at other regular intervals.
- There is an increased emphasis on cleaning and hygiene in the classroom and throughout the whole school. The classroom will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of every day too.
- Equipment and resources are integral to education in schools. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the classroom; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces.
- Resources that are shared between classes, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between classes,
- Pupils and teachers can take books and other shared resources home, although unnecessary sharing should be avoided, especially where this does not contribute to pupil education and development.
- Similar rules on hand cleaning, cleaning of the resources and rotation should apply to these resources.
- For health and safety reasons, children will not be able to play games that involve touch.
- Schools have been asked to encourage parents, staff and pupils to walk or cycle to school if at all possible.
- **Children will not be allowed to wear masks or gloves in school.** If parents want their child to come/go in masks, they must remove it before the child enters school and the parent must keep the mask for them.

Breakfast Club (BC) and After School Childcare (ASC) clubs

Breakfast Club and after school childcare clubs will recommence on Monday 8th March 2021 for all children who already use this facility. There is limited availability, **if you would like to request a new place** for your child please email the info@blanford.dudley.sch.uk and mark the subject as Breakfast Club or After School club, add your child's name, days/times required, your name/phone number and email address and Mrs Barlow or Miss Foxall will contact you. The guidance that we have outlined above will be followed and applied in these clubs.

After school sports clubs

Initially, we not operate any after school extra-curricular clubs. This will be reviewed in line with the guidance we receive.





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Curriculum

Pupil wellbeing and support

- Pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. We will have a greater emphasis initially on:
 - supporting the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement
 - addressing and equipping pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19)
 - supporting pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing
- It is important to contextualise these feelings as normal responses to an abnormal situation. Some children may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of more severe anxiety or depression. Others will not be experiencing any challenges and will be keen and ready to return to school.

The wider curriculum

- For children in nursery settings, teachers will focus on the prime areas of learning, including: communication and language, personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and physical development. For pupils in Reception, teachers will also assess and address gaps in language, early reading and mathematics, particularly ensuring children's acquisition of phonic knowledge and extending their vocabulary. For nursery settings and Reception, we will consider how all groups of children can be given equal opportunities for outdoor learning.
- For pupils in key stages 1 and 2, school leaders will prioritise identifying gaps and re-establish good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics), identifying opportunities across the curriculum so they read widely, and developing their knowledge and vocabulary. The guidance states that the curriculum should remain broad, so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year, including sciences, humanities, the arts, physical education/sport, religious education and relationships and health education.

How can parents help?

We want to make the full reopening of school as safe as possible and to make the school day a positive experience for the children. We would really appreciate your help in the following ways:

- By making sure that you have read and noted the guidance in this letter. We know that there is a lot to take in but we are trying our best to follow the guidance and keep our children and staff as safe as we possibly can.
- Following our altered routines and **observing social distancing** when dropping off/collecting your child - we're sure that you are experts at this by now! We will indicate the areas for parents to wait but would appreciate you keeping your child with you whilst waiting for the doors to open.
- Making sure that children only bring into school the items that we have asked for and nothing else.
- It would be helpful if you could leave the waiting area as soon as your child has gone into school or been collected so that we avoid having too many adults in one area.
- **There will be staggered arrival and collection times from the same entrances, however, this will only work if parents leave the areas swiftly. This is for everyone's safety.**
- The government guidance states that schools should remind parents that '*gathering at the school gate and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed*'.
- Unfortunately, parents will not have the usual daily contact or conversation with teachers that they used to have before lockdown. Contact will need to continue to be via telephone or via your child's planner



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- By limiting the number of adults who accompany children to school. Only one adult should drop off/collect their child.
- **By collecting your child as quickly as possible if your child shows any signs of infection.**
- By being flexible. We have created the best plan that we can to provide you with a full picture of what school will look like. This may have to change to ensure the safety and welfare of children and staff.
- Send your child to school every day unless they have any of the three main symptoms of Covid - then inform the school immediately please, keep your child at home and book a test
- Take your child for a test if they have any of the wider symptoms of Covid, however they can still attend school

Contingency planning for outbreaks

Process in the event of local outbreaks

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice. We will provide more information on this process in due course.

Contingency plans for outbreaks

We have remote education plans in place. These should meet the same expectations as those for any pupils who cannot yet attend school at all due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

- A child who has a member of their household, who has tested positive for Covid-19 and are not permitted to attend school because they have been in close contact and have been advised to self-isolate;
- A child's whole bubble or identified pupils who is not permitted to attend school because they, or another member of their bubble, have tested positive for Covid-19.
- A child unable to attend school due to a local or national lockdown.

Remote learning will be shared with families when they are absent due to the Covid related reasons above. Remote learning will not be available to those who are ill with a non-Covid related illness and would not normally attend school, or to those children whose parents choose to keep them at home when they have not been advised to do so. This is because children need to be in school and, in line with Government guidance, the school will strongly promote face-to-face contact through school attendance.

Work will NOT be set on the first day of isolation to allow staff time to prepare. Work will be sent from the second day onwards. Staff will prepare work the day before it is set and will ensure that it is published the following morning. Please follow the same expectations for setting learning as you have done the past 8 weeks and provide feedback via TEAMS.

Although, we will do our very best to keep your children safe - we cannot guarantee social distancing.

We have tried our very best to eliminate risk and will be publishing an updated Risk Assessment on the website prior to reopening in March 2021. We have followed the government guidance that has been published and shared this with staff. However, our plans will only work if everyone - staff, children and parents - follows the plans that have been created and adhere to the most recent government advice.



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We hope that you will take time to re-read and digest this information that we have provided. We know that you will support us with our plan to fully reopen school again to all pupils.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to welcoming everybody back to school on Monday 8th March 2021.

Best wishes,

Mrs N Miller and Miss A Stanton

Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher



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