

Thursday 9th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Following my correspondence last week and updated guidance, I am now able to share your child’s planned full time return to school in September 2020.

As you are aware, we need to be mindful that there may be many changes in advice and guidance by September and we once again ask you to be patient with the policies and procedures we have put in place to minimise the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) as much as possible for all children, staff and families across school.

The guidance we have followed can be found at the Gov.uk website – **Guidance for full opening – schools**

The government have stated that returning to school is vital for children’s education and their well being. They have said time out of school is detrimental for children’s cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. Attendance is therefore mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules in school attendance will apply;

* Parents’ duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school and they are of compulsory school age
* Schools’ responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
* The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities’ code of conduct

If any family is anxious about the return to school, please contact school so that we can discuss your concerns and provide reassurance of the measures we are putting in place to reduce the risk at school.

The government are encouraging, where possible, children and families to walk, cycle or drive to school rather than using public transport. If you do use public transport, you are encouraged to wear a face covering or face mask. Please note children and school staff are not permitted to wear face coverings in school and must be removed on entry to the school site. Please be mindful of parking to ensure social distancing.

From September, children will remain in class bubbles and social distancing encouraged as much as possible. We have had to review entry and exit points and times of the school day so that they are staggered to minimise mixing of groups. We understand that this may be difficult for families who have more than one child who finish at different times. Please be understanding in the few first weeks as we will be reviewing our plans when they are implemented and refined, where necessary. Please find start and finish times and entry and exit locations at the end of this letter. Please, where possible, have only one adult collecting your child. This is to minimise the number of people around the school site and remember to enforce social distancing and leave the site as soon as your child has been collected. Parent/carers of children exiting the main school gate must remain outside the gate itself. Parent/carers collecting children from Reception please follow the one way system and enter the site from Reception gate and exit using the nursery gate. All children will stand in a line with their teacher and be handed to the adult collecting them. As you are aware, safeguarding of children is our priority. Collection of children will take longer at the beginning of the term as teachers become familiar with new families and who will be collecting their child. We again ask for you to be patient with us as new systems and processes are implemented across the school.

School meals will be provided for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Those children eligible for a free school meal will be provided with one. Unfortunately children will not be able to eat lunch in the dining hall located in the Key Stage 1 building. Children will enjoy their packed lunches in the classroom or in their allocated outside area if weather permits. All children will have an allocated outside area for lunchtimes and playtimes and specific time to ensure there is no mixing of groups. Children in Years 3,4,5 and 6 can still purchase a school meal that will consist of paninis, pizza fingers, sausage rolls and a variety of sandwiches. There will be a selection of desserts available. The menu will be reviewed regularly. A school meal will cost £2.30 from September and can be paid for online. Please ensure that packed lunches are healthy and do not contain chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks.

We will for essential childcare be running a breakfast club from the start of the term for those parent/carers who have no other option. **All places will have to be pre booked and no child can turn up on the day**. The price will remain at £2.50 and run from 7.45am. All children who use this facility must be on the site prior to 8.20am before any other groups arrive.

We will not be running any after school clubs in the first instance. From Wednesday 3rd September, we will run essential childcare support for families until 4.15pm. **All places will have to be pre booked and no child can turn up on the day.** The cost will be £2.50 each day.

If you have no other option and would like your child to access our breakfast club or after school child care, you must book and pay for a place prior to the new term. All payments can be made through Sunderland City Council website, click ‘online payments’. If you need a place prior to September, please contact Mrs Reynolds or e mail the school.

A reminder; if your child is in Year 5 or 6 next year and you wish for them to walk home unaccompanied from the first day of term, you will need to complete the relevant form. If you wish to collect your child in Years 5 and 6 further away from the school site e.g. Blackfell shops, please complete the form and inform the office. The form is available on our school website or please contact the school office.

**Children must return to school in September wearing their school uniform.**

Children can bring a school bag with them but no pencil cases, toys etc as children will be issued with their own stationery. Books and homework can be sent between home and school to support learning but please do not send any non essential items to school. If you have any of our school reading books at home, please can you send them back to school. Children are not permitted to bring a mobile phone to school unless parent/carers have signed a form to indicate that their child will be walking home alone.

As stated in our school prospectus, children are not permitted to wearjewellery, only watches are allowed to be worn by the children. If children are getting their ears pierced during the summer break, please can I ask that it is at the beginning of the holiday as earrings need to be removed for school to comply with our Health and Safety policy.

Our **school website** is a wealth of information of everyone. If you need to contact school over the summer holidays, please email blackfell.primary@schools.sunderland.gov.uk. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to respond to you but all staff will be in school for training on Tuesday 1st September 2020. The school office can only be accessed by telephone or e mail as parents/carers are not permitted to enter the school building without an appointment.

We would all like to send you our very best wishes for a happy, healthy summer and we look forward to welcoming all of the children back to school in September. Thank you all so much for your kind messages and support for all of our staff who have worked tirelessly since our school closed to pupils on 20th March 2020.

I will be sending a final letter to you all at the end of term.

Please contact school if you require any further information; we are always here to help and support everyone.

Yours sincerely

Julia Watkins

Headteacher

**Blackfell Primary School September 2020**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Start time and entry point** | **Exit time and location** |
| Nursery | 8.45amNursery door | 11.45amNursery door(enter site at nursery gate from 11.40am) |
| Reception  | 8.45amReception class door | Week 1 12.30pmFrom week 2 3.10pmReception class door(enter site one way system Rec gate exit nursery gate) |
| Year 1 | 8.40amKS1 stairsYear 1 classroom | 3pmKS1 stairs |
| Year 2 | 8.45amKS1 stairsYear 2 classroom | 3.05pmKS1 stairs |
| Year 3 | 8.50amKS2 playgroundYear 3/4 doorYear 3 classroom | 3.10pmMain gate |
| Year 4 | 8.55amKS2 playgroundYear 3/4 doorYear 4 classroom | 3.15pmMain gate |
| Year 5 | 9amKS2 playgroundYear 5 fire door | 3.20pmMain gate |
| Year 6 | 9.05 amKS2 playground Year 5/6 doorYear 6 classroom | 3.25 pmMain gate |

Please note that there will staff around the school site to support the children with the new routine entering and leaving school. The gates to the school will close at 9.10am. Please make every effort to be punctual for the school day and on time to collect your child. If you are going to be late for collection, contact the school office. Any child that is late in the morning must be brought into school by a parent/carer entering school using the main entrance only. Please ring the bell and wait with your child in the entrance until a member of staff records their attendance.