

# Belton C of E Primary School

Achieving the Best Together

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26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **FULL RE-OPENING UPDATE 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

We are extremely pleased to confirm that now we have received the Government's latest guidance on school reopening we are looking forward to welcoming ALL of our children back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

We have been so proud of the way in which our children, both those in school and those who have remained at home, have coped with this period of immense uncertainty; they are again a credit to you all.

I have worked carefully through the updated DfE guidance for the reopening of school to all children from 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**The DfE are clear about the measures that must be put in place to create safer environments and in ensuring schools are fully prepared, equipped and inducted.**

Just like before the current lockdown, schools must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. Schools should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessments and draw up plans for the return to school that address the risks identified using the system of controls set out below. **The guidance states:**

### **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.
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 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.
- 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.

### **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

**When an individual develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or has a positive test, pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:**

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test

**They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:**

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

You must follow this process and ensure everyone onsite or visiting is aware of it. Anyone told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their public health protection team has a legal obligation to self-isolate, but you may leave home to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm. More information can be found on *NHS Test and Trace: how it works*.

**If anyone in your school develops a new and continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you:**

- must send them home to begin isolation - **the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days**
- advise them to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection
- advise them to arrange to have a test as soon as possible to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19)

Other members of their household (including any siblings and members of their support or childcare bubble if they have one) should self-isolate.

Their isolation period includes the day symptoms started for the first person in their household, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, and the next 10 full days.

If a member of the household starts to display symptoms while self-isolating they will need to restart the 10-day isolation period and book a test.

If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms

As always, government guidance can change quickly so we will communicate any changes as soon as we are able to do so.

## **Full guidance**

[Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Just like before the current lockdown there will be class bubbles.

### **Bubbles**

The children will stay in their class bubbles as much as possible. Each bubble will have their own set of toilets. The children do not need to social distance from each other however ideally, adults should maintain 2 metre distance from each other, and from children. We know that this is not always possible, particularly when working with younger children, but if adults can do this when circumstances allow, that will help. In particular, they should avoid close face to face contact and minimise time spent within 1 metre of anyone. Similarly, it will not be possible when working with many pupils who have complex needs or who need close contact care. These pupils' educational and care support should be provided as normal. Staff are allowed to cross bubbles but children should not.

### **Attendance**

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8th March. The usual rules on school attendance apply.

### **Face Coverings**

All visitors, parents/guardians, over 12s, unless medically exempt must continue to wear a face covering on school grounds. As we have been doing, staff will wear a covering in corridors and communal areas. Children at primary school are not expected to wear a face covering in school.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club will run. However, we will not be able to accept walk ins. Please contact the school office by email or via WEDUC by the Friday of the week before to book a place. The numbers will be limited, just like before on a first come first served basis.

### **Contacting teachers**

**From 8<sup>th</sup> March please remember all communication with teachers needs to be through the office email or Weduc for it to be passed on to them. Please don't use the class email address.**

### **After school clubs**

After school clubs will run with Mr Pearce (Monday) and a sports coach from Mr Vasey's team Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They will continue to run as a one 'bubble' class per evening. Tigers will also be included this time. There will be a form on WEDUC for you to fill in.

Monday - Owls

Tuesday - **TIGERS**

Wednesday - Sea Otters

Thursday - Lions

**Staggered start and end to the day.**

Please note this does not affect teaching time, which remains the same.

**In line with the government guidance** in order to limit the number of people on site only one parent/carer to enter school site at pick up and drop off. Younger siblings who do not attend school may accompany a parent ONLY if there is no other option but to bring them with you.

The one way system in and out of school will remain. Enter via the small gate and exit via the car park gate. Signs will show you where to go. Children will line up on the playground and staff will come and collect them. There will be hand washing stations set up outside to help the children to wash their hands before coming into school.

	Tigers	Owls	Lions	Sea Otters
Arrival time	8.45am	8.45am	8.35am	8.25am
Home time	3.10pm	3.10pm	3.00pm	2.50pm
<p>Parents to <b>socially distance</b> whilst waiting and walking out.</p> <p><b>We ask you to arrive and leave promptly</b></p> <p>If you need a permission slip for those children in year 5 and 6 to walk home please email the office. All those completed before this lockdown do not need to be filled in again.</p>				

I understand that you may have a little wait if you have more than one child. I am sorry but staggered starts and ends to the day is a safety measure set out in the government guidance. You can either wait on the playground socially distanced, go and come back or if the child is in the appropriate year they can walk home unaccompanied. I have looked at different ways of doing this but all flag up different issues and this is the one I feel is best for our school.

Please be aware information suggests that the transmission of the virus is likely to be during drop off and pick up times between adults. Please stand socially distanced and limit contact between each other.

If you need to talk to the class teacher this must be done via office email. Please don't approach them at drop off and pick up.

## **Uniform**

Wearing uniform will return as normal. However, the children will require wet weather clothes - they will be going outside for PE unless the weather is really, really awful so they do need to be equipped.

**Please bring PE Kit in from the 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

Book bags and drawstring PE bags only please. Rucksacks simply take up too much space and the guidance says that the children should only bring into school essential items so there is no need for such a big bag. We want book bags to be able to be kept in the children's trays. The children may bring packed lunch boxes, preferably ones that are easy to wipe down.

No pencil cases will be required; we will give the children a plastic wallet with all they need.

## **Dinners**

There will hot dinners and the 2 choice menu will resume. Children will eat in their classrooms, apart from Tigers who will eat in the hall. I will review this at Easter

## **Singing/music**

Assemblies/ Collective worship will happen in the class bubbles.

The guitar lessons with George and ukulele class lessons with Mrs Farrell will continue as normal.

## **Group activities**

Activities which require parents to come into school or a large audience e.g. special assemblies, production etc. are highly unlikely to happen in their usual format, but just like at Christmas we will try to do it all in a different way.

## **PE**

PE will take place outside whatever the weather (unless it is truly dreadful). The children will need their complete outdoor kit on PE days.

## **Extra cleaning**

Extra cleaning will continue to take place over lunchtimes of key points e.g. toilets, door handles etc

## **Curriculum and catch up on the return to school**

Once we are all back in school our first concern will be to ensure the children transition back into school well and we will be putting lots of wellbeing and PHSE activities throughout the day. We will also be putting in little quizzes and mini assessments during sessions to be really clear about where the children are at. We will be following the full curriculum as normal and we will be writing more across the curriculum as we feel this will be an area the children may need to focus on.

## **Curriculum Guidance**

We will follow the guidance which states:

You may consider focusing more on the prime areas of learning in the EYFS, including communication and language, personal, social and emotional development, and physical development, if you think this would support your children following time out due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

For pupils in Reception, teachers should also assess and address gaps in language, early reading and mathematics, particularly ensuring children's acquisition of phonic knowledge and extending their vocabulary.

For Reception, consider how all groups of children can be given equal opportunities for outdoor education.

For pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2, you are expected to prioritise identifying gaps and re-establishing 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. You should ensure your curriculum offer remains broad, so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year.

## **Remote learning**

If your child is required to self-isolate or there is a bubble closure etc. remote learning via Google classroom will resume.

If you borrowed a chromebook/laptop during lockdown, please return it on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. If you need to isolate or a class bubble closes you will be more than welcome to loan one again.

If you have any more questions, please do let me know - I am bound to have missed something!

We all cannot wait to begin this journey back to some kind of normality (we hope!). Well done and thank you to you all for being an amazing school community!

Kind Regards

Miss Scott