

GREAT BRADFORDS JUNIOR SCHOOL
Marlborough Road
Braintree
CM7 9LW

Headteacher: Mr Justin Wrench

Tel: (01376) 326739

E Mail: admin@gbjs.co.uk

13th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am really pleased to be able to say that we will be welcoming back all pupils in September. The Government has confirmed that attendance is compulsory. Therefore, any absence must be supported by medical evidence or penalty notices will be issued. The Government's guidelines can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schoolsduring-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

We are completing risk assessments and I want to now share with you some of our plans for September. Our overriding aim is to provide a high standard of education for the children whilst also ensuring that we minimise the risk from Coronavirus and so ensure the safety of our staff, the children and you at home. Our full policy can be found on the school's website.

What will happen to ensure the school is a safe place to be?

- A thorough operating plan based on our risk assessments will be implemented, led by the guidance from the Department for Education and Essex County Council, covering all aspects of school life.
- Social distancing following Government guidelines will be applied.
- There will be enhanced hygiene requirements including regular hand washing. We will continue education for children around hygiene including 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it'.
- There will be increased cleaning of frequently used objects/equipment/furniture (e.g. door handles/tables/chairs).
- Organising groups or 'bubbles' of children are a central part of the Government's reopening guidance. Establishing small bubbles will help in the management of any cases of positive COVID-19 results within the provision and may prevent a whole setting having to isolate and close.

It is vital that the safety of staff and children are prioritised. Bubbles work as a protective measure to help reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 by keeping the same children and the same staff together. Each year group and classes within them will be kept in a 'bubble' that will consist of staff primarily allocated to a class and the children within that class. Throughout the working day, 'bubbles' will be kept separated from others. This includes during break and lunchtime and breakfast club and, but may mix during any interventions the children may be involved in.



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There will be no assemblies. Adults in the school will need to maintain a two-metre distance from other adults and children. Social distancing is not a requirement between the children who are in bubbles together. They may share equipment and work together on tasks.

- Children must not attend school if they feel unwell.

If they exhibit symptoms of coronavirus, there is an expectation that parent/carers will engage in the test and trace programme. Please see this link for further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

- Children who become unwell at school and exhibit symptoms of coronavirus will be sent home and asked to follow the Government's guidelines on testing and self-isolating.
- Where children or staff members test positive for COVID-19, a health protection team will provide instructions and guidance to the school as to what should happen next. (This may involve closing the relevant 'bubble' for a 14-day isolation period. Siblings of isolated pupils may also have to isolate for 14 days but not their corresponding 'bubble'.)
- Children will not be required to wear face masks in school. Should your child use a mask travelling to and from school, they will be asked to keep the mask in their school bag for the duration of the school day.

What will the return to school look like?

- The timings of the school day will change to prevent congestion and accommodate social distancing measures e.g. staggered start and end times.

Childminders

- If you will be using a childminder, you must let us know before September. The childminder will need to contact us by email to arrange a safe drop-off and collection process.

Measures for arriving at school

We have planned staggered starts and finish to the school day. Staggered start and end times should not reduce the amount of overall teaching time. **Parents must drop their children off at their allocated gate and not enter the site in the morning.** We have made an exception for the Year 3 cohort as they are new to the school.

8:35 – 8:45 Years 4 and 6

Year 4 children will enter the main gate, walk down the slope and enter via the school reception.



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Year 6 children will enter via the bike shed entrance. **6C** will enter their classroom door at the bottom of the slope. **6A** and **6D** will enter via the pupil entrance, onto the Helping Hand playground and enter the school directly into the Year 6 block.

For families that have children in both Year 4 and 6, the children can enter together via the main entrance and the Year 6 children can safely walk to their class from there. If you also have children in Year 3 and/or 5, you will be required to follow guidance for Year 3 and 5 children.

8:50 – 9:00 Years 3 and 5

For **Year 3** children and their parents we appreciate that starting a new school during these times may add extra difficulties. The children and parent will the site enter **via the bike shed entrance**. The children and parents will enter via the pupil entrance, walk through the Helping Hand playground and down onto the main playground where you will be greeted by your class teacher and/or support staff. You will be able to say goodbye to your child/ren properly without feeling rushed or pressured. However, all parents will need to leave the site soon after 9:00 via the same pupil entrance and up the same slope.

Year 5 children will enter the main gate and walk down the slope. **5S** will enter via the main reception. **5B** will turn right at the bottom of the slope and enter via the external doorway to their classroom and **5J** will continue along the pathway to the external doorway to their classroom next to the pupil entrance.

For families that have children in both Year 3 and 5, the children enter via the bike shed entrance and the Year 5 children can safely walk to their class from there.

Measures for leaving school

Leaving school is more complicated to ensure the safety of all children. We are concerned for the safety of parents and children and feel it is nearly impossible to keep one metre apart at the front of the school. For a child trying to locate a parent, could cause worry and panic in a large crowd. We also want this process to be as quick as possible and avoid unnecessary delays. If a child is being brought to school, we ask that only one parent accompany them. Parents should avoid congregating just outside school or at gates and must adhere to social distancing rules.

Exit times:



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- **14:55 – 15:05 Year 4 and 6**
- **15:10 – 15:20 Year 3 and 5**

From the start of the pick-up windows parents or trusted adults will enter via the entrance near the bike shed, enter onto the playground where the children will be waiting with their teacher and support staff. As the children see the person collecting them, they can meet them. Together you will continue through a one-way system and exit the school site safely with their child.

Children who walk home alone will leave via the main reception at the earliest leaving time. This is 14:55 for Year 4 and 6 and 15:10 for Year 5 for their year group's allocated time slot. We expect Year 3 children to be collected and recommend they do not walk home alone.

Signage and markings will be in place for the drop off and collection points to ensure social distancing takes place and a member of staff will be on hand to explain procedures initially. Due to the complexity of children arriving at school within allotted time frames, it is essential that you drop off your children within the drop off times allocated. Should children arrive late they will have to enter the school via the school office where they will be recorded as late. Please be aware that children arriving late multiple times can result in a penalty notice being issued. Furthermore, children should be collected promptly.

Parents will not be allowed on the school site other than as outlined. The office will not be open. If you need to contact the office, you will need to either email or telephone.

- Classroom layouts have been changed to enable social distancing and to limit children's contact with surfaces around them.
- Movement around the school and playground will be limited and will follow a one-way system.
- Breaks will be staggered and lunchtime will be structured so that social distancing is adhered to.
- Hot school dinners will continue (cost £2.00 payable online and booked, even for Free School Meals, in advance only) and for those who were in receipt, the free school meals voucher scheme will stop. However, if your child is moving up to Year 3 or your circumstances have changed and you feel your child may be entitled to free school meals, please make an application immediately using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>
- Children will eat their lunch in their 'classroom' or if the weather permits outside. The menu may well vary to assist with the logistics of delivering food to classrooms.
- School uniform will be required. They will arrive dressed in their PE kit on days PE is taught. This timetable will be published in September.



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- Equipment from home should be minimal. We will provide further details in a separate email. Please do not give your child any toys or other items that are not essential for their learning.
- Breakfast club will be provided subject to social distancing guidelines. It will start at 7:30am. It will operate slightly differently to before due to the class bubbles.
- Booking and payment must be in advance. As with school dinners, no cash payments will be possible. Booking details will follow.
- Children will enter the main school gate entrance and then the reception entrance.
- Parents will not be able to enter the school premises.
- For parents who do need to communicate with the school, contact can be made via phone or email.
- Children will enter the hall and sit at their year group bubble's table which will be socially distanced from other bubbles' tables.
- Children will be served breakfast and will be required to stay sat at their allocated tables.
- Children will be given activities on these tables that they can share with other children within their 'bubble'.

Please note: Children will be expected to behave appropriately and respect social distancing rules at all times. Should they choose not to, then the school reserves the right to exclude a child for the health and safety of its staff and other pupils.

What will the curriculum look like?

- The Government have advised schools that the curriculum should be both focused on English and Mathematics as these are the key subjects that impact upon the life chances of children. However, a broad and varied curriculum must also still be delivered and we are excited to be launching our new project-based curriculum.
- Some subjects such as Music and Physical Education will be adapted to mitigate the risk of infection.
- Once the school is up and running, and most likely after October half term, we intend to offer after school clubs although these will not include contact sports initially.



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What do I need to do now?

Try not to worry. Social distancing in schools with young children is difficult. We will of course follow government guidelines and have done all we feasibly can to reduce the risks so far as we are able to. We ask that if your child is returning to school that you start to go over the rules of social distancing with them.

Over the summer holidays we encourage regular reading with your child, and practising age-related key building blocks such as letter formation, times tables and so on. Please also do what you can to prepare your child for return to school. Returning after the summer break and the change that is involved can be a source of anxiety in normal circumstances. With some children having experienced a significant time away from school, and the anxiety that Coronavirus has brought generally, then any work you can do that will aid their wellbeing would be appreciated.

Future Communications

It is possible that there will be changes to these plans if Government guidelines change, if there are deteriorating wider health issues or if local factors impact upon the decisions made to date. If any updates are needed, these will be posted on the school website or emailed to you, so please do periodically check these to see if any changes have been needed.

Lastly, I would like to thank all families for their continued patience and understanding. Working in partnership, I am sure we can catch up for any lost time. I would like to assure all our families that Great Bradfords Junior School will be available to provide support if needed and contact can be made using the following email: admin@gbjs.co.uk

Everyone at GBJs wishes you a safe, fun-filled summer and we all look forward to seeing you in September, where we will be ready to greet the children and support them throughout the new way of school life. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at admin@gbjs.co.uk



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Headteacher



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