



## Bapchild & Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mr C Kelly

School Lane  
Bapchild  
Kent ME9 9NL

email: [office@bapchild.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@bapchild.kent.sch.uk)

Tel: 01795 424143

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents

As spring seems to be peaking through with buds on the tree and a little more sunshine, we have more to hope for after those dark winter months. It is also great that school will begin to reopen more widely from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and this gives us much hope for a great spring and summer ahead.

We are all very excited that we will be welcoming back all our children and hopefully get back to something that feels a little like a normal school. Clearly there are control measures that we are taking to reduce and mitigate risk and we will be carefully following the latest Government guidance (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021). Although we will be looking at minimising disruption to children and families there are routines put in place to ensure a safe return to school. My letter outlines some of these whilst updated risk assessments also give further details.

### March return

All Year R to 6 children will return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Nursery children will continue to attend and we encourage all children to return if parents have chosen previously not to send their child/ren in.

### Class groups

Class sizes will increase to a year group size of either 30 or 31 and they will remain within this 'bubble' throughout the day. Contact between bubbles will be very limited and where children go out for specific interventions and may mix with another 'bubble child', strict social distancing arrangements will be followed.

### Staggered start and end times

To ensure that parents and children can socially distance on the playground we will be operating a staggered start and end time. This worked well before as parents and children have followed the rules very well. To ensure everyone feels comfortable, it is essential that parents socially distance at drop-off and pick-up by standing at least 2m apart with all children being welcome into their pick-up areas. We will be operating **one parent** drop-off and pick-up and the parents **should accompany their child**. Brothers and sisters should avoid coming on site but where this is not possible they must remain with the parent.

It will not be possible to speak to the Class Teacher on collection or drop-off. Messages should be emailed to the office.

We also must ensure that children receive the statutory number of teaching and learning hours. This means to be able to accommodate all year groups coming into school or leaving, some of our older children will also be doing slightly longer days, whilst our younger children will be doing slightly shorter days but this is because we may be lengthening or shortening breaks or lunchtimes to ensure children do not miss valuable teaching time.



### **Year Groups (2020/21)**

Nursery – Drop-off between 8.45 am and 9.00 am with pick-up between 11.45 am and 12.00 noon for morning sessions. Drop-off between 12.00 noon – 12.15 pm and pick-up between 2.45 pm and 3.00 pm for afternoon sessions.

Reception – 8.55 am - 3.15 pm – entry and exit through Year R door.

Year 1 – 9.00 am - 3.00 pm - Line up on KS2 playground and collected by class teacher.

Year 2 – 9.00 am - 3.00 pm - Entry and exit through KS1 playground.

Year 3 – 8.45 am - 3.30 pm - Line up on KS2 playground and collected by class teacher.

Year 4 – 8.45 am - 3.30 pm - Line up on KS2 playground and collected by class teacher.

Year 5 – 8.30 am - 3.15 pm - Line up on KS2 playground and collected by class teacher.

Year 6 – 8.30 am - 3.15 pm - Line up on KS2 playground and collected by class teacher.

We will be operating a one-way system with access only through the main pedestrian gate and exit through the vehicle gates. This is to avoid clogging up and bottlenecks. The top gate to Ashted Drive will remain closed until restrictions are lifted.

### **Staff**

Staff will predominantly be based in class bubbles but the guidance does allow for staff to move between bubbles. This may be to offer interventions or for specialist music/sport provision to be given.

Staff will be assigned to one or two bubbles to reduce contact, however for first aid and other situations staff can move freely around the school. It is the children that will have reduced contact with other year groups.

### **Office**

School dinner money or other letters/notes should be given to your child to pass to their class teacher. You may pay online and please ask the office for the school's bank account details. There will be limited access to the office due to the size and capacity of the office. Any important messages should be emailed. The school may have to limit meetings as these will be by appointment only in an area that allows for effective social distancing.

### **School Dinners**

The school has worked with Contract Dining and they will provide a hot meal to our children. Social distancing arrangements will be in operation such as minimising bubble contact. Lunchtimes will also change to accommodate the additional sittings. Lunchtime supervisors will be limited to working across a double bubble.

Year R – 11.35 am – 12.35 pm

Years 1 & 2 – 12.00 noon - 1.00 pm

Years 3 & 4 – 12.30 pm – 13.30 pm

Years 5 & 6 – 12.20 pm – 13.20 pm

### **Breaktimes**

Children will have staggered breaks on one of the playgrounds/field but be limited to their year group bubble.

Year R – In class break

Years 1 & 2 – 10.15 am – 10.30 am

Years 3 & 4 – 10.30 am – 10.45 am

Years 5 & 6 – 10.45 am – 11.00 am



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### **Breakfast Clubs**

We will aim to run breakfast clubs but must attempt to reduce contact between bubbles. Therefore Breakfast Club will be in their classroom between 8.00 am to the start of the day for that year group. The Breakfast Club will be staffed by the class TA and the children provided with pre-packed breakfasts e.g. individually wrapped croissants or mini cereal boxes. The same fee of £3.00 per child will continue.

Please register your child using the link below with the dates you want this childcare. This will be for Term 4 (March – April) unless otherwise notified. If you do not register we may not be able to provide your child with a place.

<https://forms.gle/9dtDygNAscwbwt29>

### **Clubs**

Clubs will be suspended for this term to ensure that year groups do not mix. We will aim to open up clubs in Term 6 once further restrictions begin to be lifted.

### **Worship**

It will not be possible to hold whole school worships altogether but we will provide this opportunity virtually and hold daily class worships.

### **Recovery Curriculum**

The school has identified key areas of the curriculum that will initially need greater focus. These include additional phonics, reading etc and will be taught in discreet subjects and across the curriculum. The school will provide a broad and balanced curriculum whilst also giving the children time to practice skills to help them catch up.

### **Class Layout/Organisation**

Classrooms may feel slightly different with desks in rows facing the same way. Children will be able to sit next to each other but not facing. It may be that furniture has to be removed from the classroom to enable this but classrooms will still be bright and welcoming environments.

### **Risk assessments**

The school will be updating risk assessment and will publish these accordingly on the website.

### **Other calendar dates**

We will be revising the school calendar for the rest of the academic year between March and July. We will always endeavour to send out letters and updates but it is important for parents/carers to keep up-to-date by checking the website and letter section on the website.



### **Good Hygiene Practices & Cleaning**

The school follows the DfE COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance. Staff and children will be encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly more frequently than usual and use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser. They will wash hands on arrival at school, throughout the day, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing. They will also be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose, but this cannot be guaranteed. We will also promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach when children cough or sneeze. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned regularly. Learning spaces will be well ventilated by leaving doors and windows open where possible. Children will be discouraged from sharing stationery and other equipment where possible. If play equipment/toys are used they will be cleaned if needed or cycled out of the classroom. PPE will be available to staff members to use, for example if first aid is needed or a suspected outbreak, but will not be regularly worn. The school will continue to provide enhanced cleaning including using the fogging machine.

### **Avoiding Contact with Anyone with Symptoms**

No one with symptoms should attend school for any reason. Children, parents, carers and any visitors to the school will be told not to enter the school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus.

Staff and children should not attend school if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household.

The government does not recommend adults or children wearing face coverings or face masks in schools, nor does it recommend taking pupils' temperatures at the start of the school day.

There is a clear procedure for staff to follow if a child becomes unwell with symptoms at school, including sending the child home and isolating whilst waiting for collection.

Some parents have refused previously to collect their child/ren or get them tested if they have symptoms. This is not acceptable to the rest of the school community as quick collection and testing could reduce the risk of spreading.

### **Attendance**

The government has instructed schools and parents that children must attend school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. We are aware that some parents and children will be nervous about returning and ask you to discuss this with us. Any concerns can be sent directly to me.

### **School Uniform**

Children should return to school wearing school uniform as this is normal.

### **PE Kits**

PE will be on the following days and they will be expected to come into school in sports kit with the exception of Reception who will get changed in school.

- Year 1 – Monday and Wednesday
- Year 2 – Tuesday and Friday
- Year 3 – Monday and Wednesday
- Year 4 – Tuesday and Thursday
- Year 5 – Monday and Wednesday
- Year 6 – Monday and Thursday

### **Personal Equipment, Bags and Books**

Please avoid sending school bags/book bags into school along with pencil cases or toys from home. Key Stage 2 children can bring in their reading book from home but it will remain in their personal desk space. They will have the opportunity to change their books in allocated library times. No other books or items should be brought in. Key Stage 1 children will already have a day to bring in their school book. This will be the only day for them to change books and will be their reading day. KS2



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children should bring in wellington boots or old shoes so that they can go on the field at playtimes and lunchtimes.

### Transition

Some of our children have been invited to return to school for an afternoon this week. However, please find attached a lovely social story, produced by the Specialist Teaching Service, for you to talk through with your child if you think it would be useful.

### Finally

We hope that as we move from spring to summer terms national restrictions begin to ease. We want the children to return and enjoy their learning, have the opportunity to play and interact together and do many things that would normally be normal such as summer productions, sports days, trips. We will plan these but with the caveat that they may need to be altered because of national restrictions or capacity to do them safely.

We would like to thank you all again for your support and for enabling online learning to work so well and generally smoothly. We do not underestimate the sacrifices and juggling that you have had to do and appreciate this.

If you do have further questions, please contact us and we will do all that we can to assist you.

Yours sincerely

*C Kelly*

Mr C Kelly  
Headteacher

