



Bapchild & Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School

Headteacher: Mr C Kelly

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Bapchild
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20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you and your family are keeping well – all our staff send you our very best wishes.

In response to the government's announcement that our school must prepare to partially reopen to our Years R, 1 and 6 pupils from 1st June, we have spent a long time looking at current guidance and considering how we may be able fulfil their requirements for our youngest and oldest pupils whilst keeping both children and staff safe.

Thank you to all our parents that have replied to our survey and whilst I recognise there was limited information e.g. safety measures etc, it was necessary to ascertain the number of children that may return. This allows us to plan more accurately and use different models for different numbers of children who may return.

Ultimately, I wish for the children to return to the classrooms that they are familiar with, with teaching staff that they have a relationship with and that they feel safe and secure. We also are mindful that we need to ensure we protect staff members and therefore we are able to staff the school in smaller teams and not every day.

Currently we are expecting about 40% of our children to return to school across all three year groups. This does vary in each year group and we are planning two models based on these numbers. These models allow us to ensure that group numbers do not exceed 15 children per teaching room. Model A will be used if year groups remain below 15, moving to Model B if we exceed the 15 per teaching group.

We aim to return on Model A.

Model A

If the number of children returning remains **below 15** per teaching group children will return for full days Monday to Friday. This is because we can staff the school in 'teaching teams' which limits the number of adults/children in contact with each other. Children will be taught in the same room and have lunch outside (ideally) or school meals in the hall but will not mix with other children/adults from other groups.

Model B

If the number of children returning goes **above 15** per teaching group children will return on a rota basis. Children will be organised into two groups with one coming in one day and then the other coming in another. The school will staff the school in 'teaching teams' which limits the number of adults/children in contact with each other. Children will be taught in the same room and have lunch outside (ideally) or school meals in the hall but will not mix with other children/adults.

Risk assessments

The school has worked on risk assessments and has published these on the website. There are currently five risk assessments produced for each area as each group has its own dynamics:

- Overall School risk assessment
- Reception class risk assessment
- Year 1 risk assessment
- Year 6 risk assessment
- Key Worker and Vulnerable children risk assessment

These will be updated and reviewed regularly but we wanted parents to feel reassured that comprehensive risk assessments had been undertaken.

Social distancing

The government recognises that primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff. However, when inside children in Year 6 will sit at their own individual desk in the class spaced 2m apart but in Years R and 1 this may be more flexible considering the age of the children. Staff will be proactive in trying to encourage social distancing but this will be challenging.

Good Hygiene Practices & Cleaning

The school follows the DfE COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance. The school has been actively procuring additional cleaning items. 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.

Staggered timings

The school will be operating staggered opening and closing times along with staggered breaks and lunchtimes. Currently the plan is:

- 8.45 am – 3.00 pm – Year 6, Key Worker and Vulnerable Children
- 9.00 am – 2.30 pm – Reception
- 9.15 am – 2.45 pm – Year 1

Drop-off and pick-up

It is essential that parents socially distance at drop-off and pick-up by standing at least 2m apart with all children being welcome on the KS2 playground. We will be operating staggered drop-off and pick-up times and display posters etc. We will be operating **one parent** drop-off and pick-up and the parent **must 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.



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Breaktime/Lunchtime

Children will have access to the field and playgrounds to play in but will be limited to the children in their groups. Again staggered break and lunchtimes will be operated.

School Dinners

We are working with Contract Dining Company to provide hot school dinners. Uptake is currently low and it may not be possible to provide lunches and we will update you accordingly.

Curriculum & Learning

Our first consideration will be the pupils' mental health and wellbeing. We will work hard to identify any pupil who may need additional support so that they are ready to learn. To support wellbeing, activities for children aim to be from a range of subjects, creative and fun, with learning taking place outside if suitable to the task.

Breakfast/After-school Clubs

The school is not planning to provide breakfast club or after-school clubs. This is to limit potential contact between groups.

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.

There is a clear procedure for the school to follow if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in the setting.

Attendance

If you choose not to send your child to school, the government has instructed schools that parents will **not** be fined for non-attendance at this time and schools will not be held to account for attendance levels.

School Uniform

We feel that children should return to school wearing school uniform as this is normal for them but fully understand that they may have grown out of some clothing. Please do not specially buy any new clothing/school shoes but send them in something similarly appropriate. You will be notified of days when the children will be having PE and they will be able to come into school in sports kit.

Further guidance

There is a huge amount of guidance from the Department for Education/KCC regarding re-opening. If you wish to see further guidance please refer to www.gov.uk or the current planning documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Returning

If following this letter you have **changed your mind** about wanting your child to return or now not return, we would ask you to update us using the form below. **Please only update if there is a change:**

<https://forms.gle/xUtNUzhNHtk8dwAN7>

Once we have an idea of how many children intend to return to school from 1st June we will inform you of which model we will be using. Currently this will be **Model A**.

We will continue to keep you informed as we are clearer about numbers and when the government releases more information for schools and would like to sincerely thank you for all your support in this difficult time.

With warm wishes to you and your family

C Kelly

Mr C Kelly
Headteacher