



2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

September Opening Arrangements

Firstly, I hope you are all enjoying a safe and relaxing summer holiday, and have found safe opportunities to be 'out and about' enjoying our lovely County and beyond.

I felt I should write to you all prior to the new term starting in order to introduce myself as the new Head Teacher, but more importantly to outline the measures that are in place to ensure your children enjoy a safe return to school. Those of you whose children were in school during June and July will be familiar with these measures and I ask that you help support those families for whom this will be new information and new procedures.

Throughout the lockdown period and going into the new school term, the school has and will continue to follow the Government's guidance in order to plan as safe an education as is possible, in our small primary school setting.

Please note that the guidance we are following changes and evolves frequently. We will, most likely, need to make alterations to our procedures as time moves on. Where these changes affect you or your children, we will inform you of these changes as soon as possible.

Outline of measures in place

Each class will be considered as a separate 'bubble'. These bubbles will have consistent staffing and resourcing to reduce transmission potential between bubbles. Access in and out of these bubbles for the children will be through their external class doors. To ensure the validity of these bubbles, there will be no collective gatherings such as assemblies. These will be conducted securely online for children to watch in class or within their classroom by the bubble staff.

Arrivals and departures will be staggered, and your arrival time slot has been shared with you (if you require a reminder of these times, please contact Jenny). This aims to reduce the number of people on the school site at any one time. We ask that parents keep strictly to these times ensuring they do not overlap others and remain by their vehicle or if walking, in a socially distanced space in the playground - your child will make their way to their classroom door. Please leave the school site safely and promptly as staggered times are only 5-10 minutes apart. New Reception parents can take their child to their classroom door, but must not enter the building and must maintain social distancing at all times.

On arrival, children will go straight to their external classroom doors and enter. Internal doors and windows of these rooms will remain open to increase natural ventilation and allow access to toilets etc, without the need to use door handles. The only time a child will need to leave their classroom will be to access the toilets and at break times to go outside. Each bubble will have their own allocated toilet facilities, separate from those of other bubbles.

Good hand hygiene will be promoted and taught; with children washing their hands regularly during the day. Hand sanitiser will only be used when hand washing isn't available or practical. During times of transition (e.g. going to and from toilets, before/after lunch and breaks), the children will be required to wash their hands thoroughly before and afterwards.

Frequent outdoor learning opportunities will be sought whenever possible. Any shared school-wide resources will be cleaned thoroughly between bubbles, e.g. PE equipment.

Lunch and break-times will be staggered to ensure reduced numbers of people in the playgrounds and moving about the school site at any one time. All lunches will be packed lunches and will be eaten in their own classroom. Chartwells will be providing packed lunches only, which can be ordered as before. A copy of this menu is available on the school website but they have offered flexibility with fillings should there be something your child doesn't like on a particular day. On return to school next week, we will be on Week 1 of the menu. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to receive universal free school meals. Children can bring in their own packed lunch boxes and drinks bottle. Whenever the weather permits, breaks will be outside and in the event of a wet break, the children will remain in their classrooms with their bubble staff. Children in Blue Class will keep their belongings in their bag on the back of their chair until it is needed (drinks can be placed on their table provided they have a lid and do not leak). Yellow and Red Class children will place their belongings in the allocated places as they are used to doing.

It is important that no additional personal belongings are brought into school: no pencil cases, toys, cards, jewellery etc.

Government guidance stipulates that within a bubble, social distancing is not expected and that children can sit side by side. Therefore, the classes will be set up for this and resources provided for each child. Teachers will be maintaining a distance between them and the children as much as is possible in their bubble setting. In the case of Early Years, all used resources will be cleaned thoroughly each day.

The school has enhanced cleaning procedures in place. The staff of each bubble will clean tables and other frequent contact points regularly throughout the day. Our cleaners, Berni and Karen, have done a fantastic job sanitising everything throughout school and will continue to do so at the end of each school day.

If a child requires any close proximity care such as first aid, teachers will minimise face to face contact time and will wear suitable PPE.

In the case of a child or staff member showing symptoms of Coronavirus, Trust protocols will be applied. The individual will be required to leave the premises as soon as possible. In the case of this being a child they will be isolated from their bubble with an adult in PPE, until a parent arrives. A test will be required as soon as possible to determine whether the symptoms are related to the virus. Only once a negative test is returned can a child or staff member return to school.

In the event of a positive test result, the school will seek advice from Public Health England, The National Institute for Health Protection and work collaboratively with the Trust Executive Leadership. It is possible that the bubble may close immediately, and the affected children will be expected to access online learning opportunities which will be provided through the school website and online platforms. Information about this will be shared at the time of such an event.

We are entering a time of winter coughs and colds and I am sure you appreciate that we need to be vigilant and careful regarding symptoms. If you have any concerns about your child's health before school, we request that you seek medical advice and communicate this with us as soon as possible.

There are currently no Government requirements for adults in a primary setting to use face masks due to the smaller bubble sizes we will have compared to our secondary colleagues. However, there will be no congregating of adults in communal areas where social distancing cannot be applied, e.g. 2 adults at a time in the staffroom. Whenever staff need to move through the building, social distancing will be maintained, and hands will be cleaned on re-entry to the classroom.

The school office area will also be considered as a bubble. If you arrive for a scheduled meeting, please follow the guidance regarding hand cleaning and social distancing. Following Trust guidance, you will be required to bring a face covering, due to the small office room sizes and to protect the school bubble. Whenever possible, meetings may also be conducted outdoors and at 2m distances.

Breakfast Club

Having received recent interest in a breakfast club this term, we are currently looking at staffing this and providing this provision in a safe and manageable manner. We will update you on this in the next few days. If you haven't already shown interest in this provision, please do so as soon as possible so that we know the numbers of children we will be providing for.

Red Class

As we will not require the hall for assemblies and lunchtimes, and due to the change in class structures this term, Red class will utilise the hall space. This will be set up as a teaching and learning space for the Reception children. The required resources and furniture will be set out in the hall to provide the same educational experience for the children and offer direct access to the outdoor space. Red Class itself will be a more 'formal' setting which will meet the needs of the Year 1 and 2 children more appropriately. Initially, the Year 1 children may access the hall space too, until such a time that they are able to access more formal structured learning. This also supports distancing for our youngest children.

Key points for parents and children returning to school.

- Please adhere to your drop off and collection times.
- Children will need to bring in a **named** coat, a **named** water bottle, **named** sun cream (when required) and own **named** tissues. Children can bring in a **named** packed lunch box that they can open themselves, if having 'home packed lunch'.
- Initially, no book bags should be brought into school unless this is the only bag that your child uses. Please could all reading books be returned to school for cleaning and quarantine before being reused?
- Unfortunately, no other items can be brought into school until further notice. Show and Tell in Red Class can happen digitally, e.g. photos and videos to share with the class can be sent to us electronically.
- PE will be on an allocated afternoon (Red Class: Wednesday; Yellow Class: Friday; Blue Class: Monday). On these days, children should wear PE kit to school under a school jumper/cardigan/coat etc. Navy tracksuit bottoms are also permitted. The reason for this is that we cannot offer suitable, safe changing opportunities.
- Any communication must be via phone calls or online communication. There will be little opportunity to chat to the class teacher at the beginning and end of the day as they will have children already in class.
- To ensure viral security of each bubble, we ask that you continue to follow government guidance for the general public when out and about.
https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?qclid=Cj0KCQjw1qL6BRCmARIsADV9JtbPJpnuM8Cd1P-PRdb3e-os_FnXFrYyseqApCoZy9VrWwK3jcnj5kgaAjssEALw_wcB

We are entering a new period of education which will bring about many uncertainties for all. Everyone has had different experiences of the past few months and this will show in how we present ourselves and how we behave and communicate. I ask that we show increased tolerance and acceptance of other people and offer support to each other if concerns and worries present themselves. Please let us know any additional information about how your family have coped during lockdown. This may help us support your child better on their return and in the coming days and weeks.

As always communication is vitally important, now even more so. We will always do our best to address your concerns or worries, so please do communicate with us as soon as anything arises.

Finally, despite the ongoing situation we are all living through, I am delighted to be taking on the position as Head Teacher of this lovely school. During my understandably very limited visits last term, it became clear to me that this is a school which holds the children and families very much at the centre of its work. Breage is a school full of wonderful potential and I look forward to working with you all and alongside our staff, to provide safe and exciting learning opportunities for your children. I will be on the gate each morning and afternoon, and I look forward to saying a socially distant 'Hello", to you all.

I hope you all stay safe and well,

Mr Dan Hadley
Head Teacher