



14th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your loved ones are still keeping well. Firstly, I would like to thank you for your overwhelming support during this unprecedented time. I know how hard this has been for everyone and I really appreciate all you have done in working with the school.

As I am sure you are aware, the government has asked all schools to fully re-open to all pupils in September. We have been busy making plans and now feel that we are ready for all children to return to the safe and happy Britannia School Community. As the headteacher, I have a duty of care to our staff, parents and children and it is this duty of care that is at the heart of any decisions that have been made. I am therefore writing to you to let you know about our current plans for re-opening on September 2nd to all pupils. **It is important to note that should the government reverse this decision or should the Local Authority advice change, then the school will remain open to key workers' children and vulnerable children only.**

The government have asked us to group the school into bubbles which will allow the track and trace system to operate should we get a positive Covid result at any point in school. So far, we have been very lucky and we have not had one positive test amongst staff and children (that we are aware of). At Britannia we will be having four bubbles:

- Bubble 1 **Reception pupils,**
- Bubble 2 **Year 1 and Year 2**
- Bubble 3 **Year 3 and Year 4**
- Bubble 4 **Year 5 and Year 6**

The rationale behind the idea of bubbles is to minimise contact with lots of individuals around school. As the children are in bubbles we would know which children and adults would need to isolate if we had a positive Covid Case in school. If a positive case were to arise within a bubble, the whole bubble would be sent home to isolate for 14 days. The rest of the household would not need to isolate unless a person within the house tested positive. School would provide work to be completed at home and would keep in regular contact. **Each year group will have a different start and end time and parents should make a note of these. It will be of upmost importance that people ensure that they arrive and collect at the correct time for your child's bubble to avoid increasing the risks of transmission to the school community.**

	Drop off	Collection
Year R	9.15 am	2.50pm
Year 1	8.55am	3.05pm
Year 2	8.55am	3.05pm
Year 3	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 4	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 5	9.05am	3.25pm
Year 6	9.05am	3.25pm



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If you have siblings in school, they should be dropped off at the main gate entrance at the earlier time. They should also be collected at the later time. We ask that only **one parent** brings their child to school and where possible this is through walking. Pupils and parents must wait **1m +** apart on the markings on the school drive until their start time. A member of staff will then open the gates and allow **pupils only** into the school yard. We ask that parents do not gather and make the drop off and collection of their children as quick as possible to ensure everyone's safety. If you have any concerns or queries about your child, we are asking you to either email the class teacher directly (details of email addresses can be found on the school website) or contact the school office via phone. Face to face meetings with staff in school will only take place where necessary and they will need to be arranged via appointment.

Extended School Provision

Our breakfast club will be open as usual. To minimise mixing, BEST club will be using the fire door at the back of the school hall as the entrance and exit. We ask that children come to the fire door and a member of staff will meet them. On entry into school, they will be guided to wash their hands and asked to sit with their bubble in the school hall. Each bubble will have its own tables, chairs and toys. We ask that parents bring their child to the door but do not enter the school building. Parents will be able to drive onto the school drive until 8.15 am and then after 4pm. During the first week, BEST club staff will be supporting parents with the new arrangements. Parents can support BEST club with their planning for September by notifying BEST club of any changes that families may need and if parents have any queries they should contact BEST club staff on 07592473143. Further information will also be provided from BEST club in the coming weeks.

For After School Club, the children will sit within their bubbles and only share resources with their bubble. Parents can ring the bell on the hall fire door and a member of staff will accompany your child to the meeting point. It is essential that only one person collects your child and that social distancing is maintained.

In the autumn term, we have not made any additional plans for after school activities. As and when we can do this, we will be in touch.

Infection Control

As detailed in previous letters there will be enhanced cleaning measures in place throughout the school day.

Staff will ensure that surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, are cleaned more regularly than normal.

All children and staff will wash or sanitise their hands on entering school, before break and lunch and before leaving school. Children will be taught if they cough or sneeze they must immediately wash their hands and teaching around good respiratory hygiene will be repeated in PSHE lessons within the first week. Each classroom will have hand sanitiser that the children will be able to use.

Each bubble will have their own designated toilet and toilets will be cleaned more regularly.

Uniform

In September, children will need to return in their full uniform, this includes sensible black school shoes and no boots or trainers. Watches are allowed to be worn in Key Stage two but children **must not** wear earrings for school. Staff will be unable to support children with taping up their earrings for PE sessions and will not be able to support children in putting their earrings back in. Hair accessories must be of normal size and girls should wear their hair tied up if possible.

During the first week in school, you will be informed which days your child will have PE lessons. On those days, your child must come to school in their School PE top, School jumper or cardigan, a pair of dark tracksuit bottoms or leggings and trainers. This is so that children do not have to get changed whilst in school and they will be prepared to have their outdoor PE lesson.



All children will need to purchase a **small Britannia school book bag** and these are available from Ann's in Bacup or Moses in Rochdale. They are priced at approximately £5. We cannot have backpacks in school due to the current guidelines. If your child arrives in September with a backpack we will ask the adult that is with them to take it home with them. The book bag will allow children to bring into school their school reading book and a piece of fruit. We will then store the book bags in a box so that they can be easily accessed. It is of utmost importance that we limit the amount of items that are brought in from home.

In addition to this, we are also asking all children from Year 2 to Year 6 to bring to school their own pencil case. Children are not able to share stationary at the moment so it is important that they have their own equipment. Inside the pencil case they will need to have 2 pencils, a sharpener, a rubber and a set of pencil crayons. Please make sure the pencil case is small enough to fit in a school tray. Please do not include unnecessary items, such as gel pens. This pencil case will stay in school for the whole term. If anyone has any problems in providing this equipment, please do not hesitate to contact school and further support will be provided.

Food and drink

The school kitchen will be open as normal from September, all children in Key Stage One will continue to be provided with a free school meal. The EYFS and KS1 bubble will have their lunchtime at 11.30-12.30pm and the junior classes from 12.30-1.30pm. Children will eat their lunch in the hall in designated areas and these will be cleaned between each bubble. Children can bring their healthy packed lunch in a small, sensible lunch bag, this needs to be easily stored on a shelf in a classroom.

At break times children will still have access to toast or they may wish to bring a piece of fruit in from home. We will be asking for parents to pay for toast for their child in advance half-termly and using parent pay. This will reduce the need for staff to be handling money in school.

Children must bring a water bottle into school and this will be kept on their desk and sent home with your child each night for cleaning. Due to the risk of transmission of infection, water fountains will not be available.

Curriculum

Our curriculum plans for September will be a little different and it may take us a little longer to transition back into school life. However, I want to be completely transparent with all the families about our curriculum plans in September. Following the Covid pandemic, children will have missed out on 4 months of schooling and varying amounts of work will have been completed. As a result of this, we will need to create a recovery curriculum which is structured and adaptable. During the first half term, there will be a focus on basic skills of reading, writing and maths. We will also be mindful of our school values and we will be re-establishing our high expectations for behaviour and learning. We want what is best for our pupils and we are committed to providing excellent learning opportunities, promoting achievement and nurturing social and emotional well-being. We value our school community as a place where every child matters and every moment counts.

On the return to school, in September, we will reignite the flame for learning by inspiring children to learn through an engaging literacy unit. This unit will cover learning from the previous year and will build key skills over 7 weeks. Each child will have a book to take home over the six week break to read and talk about with their families before returning to school. They will know what they are learning about before they return so we hope this will allow all children to make a link back to school and feel less anxious about the return.

As a staff, we will journey with each child through the process of re-engagement. For this reason, we will give children 6 weeks to settle back into school before completing any sort of formal testing. Our teachers will adapt and create lessons that are tailored to each child's individual needs and I have complete faith in the school community that we can all work together to close any gaps and overcome any obstacle.



We will extend our maths lessons from five per week to seven. The children will continue to follow the Maths No Problem scheme suitable for their year group but the teachers will enhance the learning with pre-teach lessons which build on the skills from the previous year and weekly arithmetic sessions.

Phonics and spelling will be taught daily in each class and handwriting will be taught regularly to reinforce these skills. It will be important for all children to be reading daily at home for at least fifteen minutes and this is something you would be able to support us with.

Throughout this difficult lockdown period, we are fully aware that children may have suffered from anxiety and stressful situations for a number of different reasons. With this in mind, we are increasing the number of PSHE lessons taught each week and our virtual assemblies will have a PSHE focus. There will be a focus on relationships teaching to support children in re-establishing positive relationships in school. Children will continue to have at least two hours of PE each week, as we believe that a healthy body leads to a healthy mind. The Sports coaches from Rossendale will be returning to school teaching in a socially distanced way - I know the children will be very excited to see them. In addition to this, we will also be having a weekly creative session for the children and a science recap session. Every 2 weeks, we will also have a curriculum themed day during which the children will be immersed in a subject for a whole day.

With these changes being made to the timetable it will mean some subjects will not be taught as regularly as they normally are. After the first half term, we will re-evaluate and plan a new timetable and address gaps in other curriculum areas.

To ensure the children cover the science for this term we have bought each child a work book which will need to be completed as homework and returned to school each week. The children will be encouraged to continue with Times Tables Rock Stars, home reading, Numbots, Mathletics and they will remain able to share in discussions with their teachers using School Spider. Children will need to be aware of their passwords for these programmes and these will be placed in the front of their reading records.

We have prepared for the event of a second lockdown by purchasing each child specific reading and maths workbooks, specific to their age. The decision we have made to do this has come through discussions with our school population around the difficulties some families have had around home learning. During a period of isolation or further lockdown, we will also continue to provide online learning activities and staff will keep in touch via phone calls and emails. Our Computing Team are also looking at how the school can invest in remote learning further. The school will also draw upon the live teaching videos on the Oak Academy Website. A specific **Remote Learning** webpage will be set up for each year group which will contain relevant information for parents.

By now you should have received the notification to complete a school questionnaire regarding your child throughout the past weeks. This will provide us with valuable insight into your child's learning experiences over the Covid pandemic and it will also give you the opportunity to inform us of your child's successes over the period and things you may be concerned about. If there is any further information you wish us to be aware of, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or telephone conversation.

As always children will continue to be rewarded for their efforts and success celebrated. With the support of our families, I know our children and teachers will work hard together to close any gaps in learning and help each child to make progress.

The information below will hopefully provide some clarity around how you may need to respond over the Covid period.

What to do if your child or a member of your family is unwell

As you will be aware the guidance from the NHS states that should your child show symptoms such as a high temperature or a new continuous cough or a loss of taste or smell they should not attend school. When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus in school, they will be sent home and advised to take a test and self-isolate for 7 days. Upon the receipt of a positive test result, their bubble members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and are strongly encouraged to get tested in this scenario. We are hoping that in the Autumn term we will have home testing kits available in school.

What we will do if someone in school contracts Covid 19

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their school bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

School Trips and Whole School Gatherings

During the autumn term, I do not anticipate any whole school gatherings, visitors into school or trips out. This will mean no sporting events where children leave the site although virtual sports competitions may be held. The staff will only be attending courses online. The main aim of the autumn term is to ensure that everyone is safe in school and manage the wellbeing of the children and staff. We will eventually return to normal (whatever that may be?) but it will take time and I will not take unnecessary risks. Where lives are at stake there is no such thing as being too cautious.

Transition for our New Reception Children

Our new reception children and families will begin their transition to Britannia on the 2nd September in shorter half days and they will begin full days on 7th September 2020. They will be able to visit school on the 21st July to have a socially distanced look around the classroom and the staff and children have been getting to know each other via zoom calls throughout this half term. Further details have been sent via a separate letter to our Reception families with more details. I am sure that you will join us in welcoming the children and families to Britannia and that you will join us in providing them with any support they may need.

Class Teachers For September 2020

Year Group	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
R	Mrs Isherwood	Mrs Bromley
1	Miss Birch	Miss Long & Mrs Greenwood
2	Mrs Hannan	Mrs Taylor
3	Miss Rothwell	Miss Halstead
4	Mr Toddington	Miss Moores & Miss Caulcutt
5	Miss Holmes	Miss Nestor & Mrs Broadbelt
6H	Miss Connolly	Mrs Lord
6B	Mrs Nuttall	Mrs Lord

I would like to welcome Mrs Hannan to our school community teaching Year 2 this academic year and I know that she is really looking forward to meeting her new class at the picnic. I would also like to congratulate Mrs Seamans on her pregnancy news. I know that her time in school in September will be a great additional support to the children and staff in Year 2. This academic year we are also saying a fond farewell to Mrs Hart, who is leaving us to pursue her academic studies. We would like to thank her for her dedication and commitment to the school over the years and we hope that she will keep in touch.



I would like to say a huge thank you to all staff for their hard work during this period. They have consistently gone above and beyond and I know you will join me in wishing them a restful holiday and the opportunity to spend some much needed time with their own families over the summer period.

Don't forget these key points

- **Children will all return to school on Wednesday 2nd September 2020.**
- **Make a note of your start and end times.**
- **These will remain staggered until further notice. Only one adult should bring their child to school.**
- **Full uniform must be worn**
- **PE kit should be worn on PE days – School PE top, school cardigan or jumper and dark leggings or jogging bottoms. Children can wear trainers on these days.**
- **Lunch will be served in the hall as normal.**
- **Children can bring a small school lunch bag.**
- **Children must bring a water bottle which will be sent home at the end of every day to clean.**
- **Children must bring a school reading folder with their book in each day. Backpacks are not allowed in school.**
- **All children from Year 2 to Year 6 must bring a small pencil case to school, containing 2 pencils, a rubber, a sharpener and a set of pencil crayons.**

A Final Note

I cannot state how proud I have been of our school community over the past months and I feel confident that I can count on the schools close knit community to support the school and each other. I know that you will be mindful that some of the children who will be returning to the school environment will be vulnerable themselves and it will have taken a great deal of courage and belief in the school community for them to return. Children at the school may also have parents or members of their families that are vulnerable. We also have staff members who are more vulnerable and members of staff families who are vulnerable. There will be many members of the school community who feel nervous and we will work together to support you all in returning your children to school. Rest assured, those children who have returned to school have adapted well and have enjoyed being back in the school environment. These rules and adaptations to school life are for the safety of the school community to protect and care for each other. This is one of the fundamental Britannia Bee rules that we work together to teach our children. There may be challenges ahead at times but please be patient with us as we all adapt to new routines in September. We cannot wait to see all the children and welcome our new families into the Britannia fold. On behalf of all the staff at Britannia, we wish you a lovely restful summer. Please take care and keep safe and I look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces in September.

School will be open week commencing 24th August should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

N Longstaff



