

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As another busy week draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you once again, for your continued support and complete dedication with your child's remote learning. Staff have yet again been inundated with completed tasks, photos and positive comments, which is a real testament to the hard work of everyone in our school family.

Further to the announcement from the Prime Minister and the guidance set out in the supporting documents we have now had time to read and digest, I am writing to you to outline our plans for the full return of pupils to school on 8 March 2021.

It is important for us to understand why the Government has made a 'big move' to invite *all* pupils back to schools and colleges, rather than a more staggered or gradual approach. Senior officials have confirmed that this follows the medical and scientific advice which is to collect the data on the big step to inform the next step. It is much harder to assess the impact of decisions if they are incremental. As we all know, the reopening of education settings to all is being prioritised due to the significant impact caused by being out of school to the mental and physical health and wellbeing of children and young people.

In line with the 'roadmap' outlined by the Prime Minister, we do believe that the guidance we have received will change as the impact of each step is analysed and restrictions are lifted, but for now there are no significant changes to how we were working in September. However, as a school, we have thoroughly reviewed our procedures and have made some slight 'tweaks' to mirror the current context and keep everyone as safe as possible.

ATTENDANCE

School attendance will be mandatory again for all pupils from 8 March and the usual rules on school attendance will still apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

BUBBLES

Children will continue to be taught in their own classes as normal and each class will be its own bubble. This means that contact between the classes will be kept to a minimum to reduce the risk of transmission. We will also limit the number of contacts that the children have with adults, keeping the same staff within that bubble where possible. Classroom adaptations will continue to support distancing where possible, which includes seating pupils side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on.

START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

In line with social distancing measures, the school day will continue to be staggered for all pupils. This is to minimise the contact with other households and to avoid large groups congregating at the school gates. We ask that these timings are strictly adhered to and children are dropped off and collected by only *one* parent. Unfortunately, as has been the case since September, we have to limit the number of visitors on site, so we will not be able to allow parents in beyond the gate. A member of staff will be present at both gates at the beginning and end of the day to greet and dismiss the children, pointing them in the right direction where necessary. Please could we ask that you arrive promptly at the designated times below, using the one-way system as indicated to enter and exit and that you wear a face mask when collecting and dropping off.

Please note that **Nursery** WILL continue to finish their session at 11.45am as usual.



START

8.45am: Children with surnames A – I (for siblings, key stage 2 pupils to be dropped off at the junior gate first, then key stage 1 at the infant gate, then EYFS children at the car park gate)

8.50am: Children with surnames J – R (for siblings, key stage 2 pupils to be dropped off at the junior gate first, then key stage 1 at the infant gate, then EYFS children at the car park gate)

8.55am: Children with surnames S – Z (for siblings, key stage 2 pupils to be dropped off at the junior gate first, then key stage 1 at the infant gate, then EYFS children at the car park gate)

FINISH

3.20pm: Children with surnames A – I (for siblings, EYFS children to be picked up at the car park gate first, then key stage 1 pupils to be picked up at the infant gate, then key stage 2 at the junior gate)

3.25pm: Children with surnames J – R (for siblings, EYFS children to be picked up at the car park gate first, then key stage 1 pupils to be picked up at the infant gate, then key stage 2 at the junior gate)

3.30pm: Children with surnames S – Z (for siblings, EYFS children to be picked up at the car park gate first, then key stage 1 pupils to be picked up at the infant gate, then key stage 2 at the junior gate)

SHOBNALL STARS – BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Breakfast Club will resume from 7:30am on Monday 8 March and After School Club from 3.30pm – 6.00pm on the same day. **We do need to advise parents that this facility should only be used if it is reasonably necessary to support you to work.**

Prices (to be paid via ParentPay) and further information can be found via the leaflet on the 'COVID-19 Info' page on our school website. As we need to ensure that the children eat and undertake activities in an area with children from their class bubble, **we must ask that sessions are booked a week in advance** so that this can be catered for in line with our protective measures. We will not be able to offer ad hoc sessions at this time. If, because of your job role, you rely on ad hoc, please could we ask that you book in a week advance and cancel, rather than try to book on the day. This will help Shobnall Stars enormously with planning and will have no charge attached.

Bookings can now be taken for the first week back via email: shb-wraparound@shb.jtmat.co.uk. Many thanks for your support with this.

LUNCH

Hot meals are available for all pupils. A menu will be added to the school newsletter each week. Lunch will be eaten in classrooms and served in a takeaway 'hot box'. Alternatively, children can bring in sandwiches from home. Lunch boxes are permitted but must be kept with the children in their bubble and not shared with anyone else. Food will be prepared by our catering team in accordance with government guidelines.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment and resources are integral to education in schools. All equipment will be provided for the children but Year 6 will need to return to school with a well-stocked pencil case, including; sharpener, rubber and an HB pencil. Should you wish to provide pencil crayons, felt pens and ruler then do please feel free to do so. These items must remain in school at all times in order to prevent sharing and contamination. It is recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials, such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books and stationery. School bags are allowed. Guidance states that pupils can take reading and library books home. Please be aware that the school will ensure that when each book is returned, these will be placed on a rota system to ensure that they do not transfer in to a new home within 72 hours. However, good practice would expect that any book read, hands should be sanitised before and after reading.



CURRICULUM

We will continue to teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in *all* subjects as well as identifying priorities for any potential catch-up programmes. Mental health and wellbeing will continue to be a focus to support the children with readjusting to school expectations and routines.

We intend to continue to deliver high quality physical education, sport and physical activity, which will be in accordance with our safety measures. Pupils will be kept in their bubbles but only half will participate in a lesson at any one time because of the way in which people breathe during exercise. Sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups, and contact sports will be avoided. Outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene. External facilities can also be used in line with government guidance for the use of, and travel to and from, those facilities. Year 5 were due to resume swimming in January, therefore the school is currently investigating this for later on this term.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

We will not be able to have large gatherings in school yet (although we are keeping our fingers crossed for 21 June and beyond), therefore parents evenings, performances etc. will continue to be very different to normal. We intend to keep our calendar commitments and the dates we have penciled in for these, but please bear with us as we will have to continue to be very creative with how these will look in line with the protective measures we have to adhere to!

UNIFORM

Children will be expected to wear **full school uniform**. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. Pupils should wear: black/grey trousers or skirt, white shirt with collar, school tie, royal blue jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan (with or without school logo), smart, dark shoes (no trainers). Pupils should also have a PE kit, including: black shorts, white t-shirt, black pumps (for indoor sports) and a tracksuit, sweatshirt, hoody and trainers (for outdoor sports). Pupils should come to school in their PE kit on their designated day/s as was the case in the autumn term.

HANDWASHING

It is essential that children and parents wash their hands thoroughly before arriving and leaving school. The children will wash their hands once they arrive and leave the classroom and regularly and thoroughly throughout the day. Additional handwashing facilities are set up in each classroom. It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides. Children are very welcome to bring their own personal small bottle of anti-bac gel although we do have plenty of hand sanitiser in all classrooms.

ILLNESS

If anyone in your household becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), your child must not attend school and you will be advised to follow the [guidance for household with possible or confirmed \(COVID-19\) infection](#). This sets out that you must:

- Self-isolate for at least 10 days
- Arrange to have a [test to see if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)



Please keep the school fully informed as swift action must be taken if we become aware that someone who has attended our school has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We can only act on facts so speculation and rumour is unhelpful.

REMOTE LEARNING

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, we will revert to our remote learning that has been in place since the beginning of the lockdown. It is important to be aware that in the event of a local outbreak, the local authority may advise the school or number of schools to close temporarily to help control transmission. It is highly probable that as a result of such guidance, we will remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, and providing remote education for all other pupils.

FURTHER INFORMATION

You may find it useful to read the following government guidance, which has been used for our planning and risk assessment:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#)

We would like to thank you once again for all of the work that you have been doing with your children and for all of the lovely messages of support and encouragement that you have given to all of the team at Shobnall Primary School.

We look forward to seeing you on 8 March! In the meantime, stay safe!

Many thanks and kind regards,



Mr D. Adams
Head Teacher