

Stanbridge Lower School



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Newsletter No 22

24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Plans for Re-Opening of School - 8th March 2021

I am now in a position to brief you about the plans in place to re-open school to all year groups in March. There have been new guidance released for schools to re-open to all year groups and the information listed below follows this guidance.

So this is how it will work at Stanbridge....

Attendance

The guidance states that from March it will be mandatory for all children to return to school. This means

- Parents must send their children back to school.
- We have a duty to record attendance and follow up on absence again.
- Fixed penalty notices will be issued for non-attendance.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) shielding advice for all adults and children remains in place for those adults and children who have been directed by their GP or received a letter advising them to shield. Some children will remain under the care of health professionals and you may need to discuss their care with them. Where a child is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice we will provide access to remote education. Please advise us if this is the case for your child.

If anyone has any concerns or worries about their child returning to school please call either Mrs Davies or myself so we can discuss your concerns further with you.

Class Groups/Bubbles/Shared Resources

From March, at Stanbridge

- All children will stay in their class groups and only mix with wider groups if they are using before and after school care, require transport to and from school or work with Mrs Patterson in the morning sessions. Further guidance about the use of transport will be issued soon and I will update you when this has been received.
- We will endeavor to keep all specialist teaching to class groups e.g. Ukulele/Cooking lessons as much as we can.



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- The guidance states all teachers and staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable and to give a full educational offer.
- We will continue to organise classrooms with all children front facing and children will be seated side by side and facing forwards. The tables in the Reception and the Pre-school classroom will not be facing the front, but children will be told where to sit when working in small groups or 1-1 with an adult so they are forward facing. Children in Reception and Pre-school will be limited to small groups when using equipment during their free play so they are as much as possible working side by side and not facing each other.
- All children will continue to use their own pen pack up which provides them with their own set of pens, pencils, rubbers, glue stick etc. for use each day in school, so therefore children will not need to bring a pencil case to school.
- Classroom resources can be used and shared but will be cleaned regularly
- Children can take reading books home and these will be wiped down and left out of action for a period of 48 hours before they are put back into circulation.
- Any resources that are shared between classes e.g. sports equipment, art/science equipment will be cleaned and left unused for 48 hours or 72 hours for plastic, between use.

Assemblies and Gatherings

There will be no large gatherings in school. Assemblies will take place in the classrooms each day at 9.15 am and will be led by the class teacher.

What Your Child Needs to Bring to School Each Day

Your child will need to bring to school

- **A named water bottle containing water (no juice) as all water fountains in school will be out of use.**
- PE kit - that should be taken home and washed each week
- Cardigan/jumper /coat - coat pegs will not be used in some areas due to social distancing measure. Your teacher will advise your child where to store these things on entry to the classroom. Remember the weather can be quite chilly still during the day. Classrooms will be ventilated well, so we advise you to ensure children wear layers of clothing to keep warm when working in the classroom
- A packed lunch (if they usually bring one)
- School Uniform should be worn
- Book Bags containing their reading books, reading records, time stable books etc.

Start and End of the School Day - starting 8th March 2020

Start of Day: School will open as usual from 8.45

Pre-school: Enter at front door to school office

Reception: Enter school through outside door to classroom

Year 1: Enter school through outside door to classroom

Year 2: Enter school through playground door

Year 3: Enter school through playground door

Year 4: Enter school through outside door to classroom

End of Day: We will continue to operate a staggered end to the day. Children can be collected from 3.15 each day with the final collection being 3.30pm. This will ease parking and congestion at busy times. The children will exit school from the same door they entered through. **Parents will be given a collection point and these will be sign posted. We urge parents to move straight to their collection point and not to cluster around the school gate. THIS MUST BE KEPT CLEAR. PLEASE MOVE STRAIGHT TO YOUR COLLECTION POINT.**

Pre-school: Collect at front door to school office

Reception: Collect by the wooden fence/gate at the Reception outside play area - left hand side

Year 1: Collect by the wooden fence/gate at the Reception outside play area - right hand side



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Year 2: Collect at far end of car park

Year 3: Collect from slope outside the Year 3 classroom

Year 4: Collect from Rosie Court side of playground closest to the slope that leads to the field.

All of these areas will be sign posted. Teachers will not release children to parents who call their children to them from the roadside on the other side of the metal fence at the front of school. They will ask you to come to your collection point to collect their child.

Please remember to adhere to social distancing rules when waiting to collect your child and to wear your mask to protect yourself.

We will remind parents to display their blue badge if they need to use the bus lane to collect children. If anyone of those parents needs to arrange for us to collect/bring their children to them, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mrs Davies will be on duty at the start and end of the school day to ensure a smooth transition is made and for parents to talk to if needed. Teachers can be contacted in the same way as normal if parents need to talk to them.

- **Children can be accompanied onto the school site by one parent and classroom doors will be open from 8.45.**
- No adults will be allowed in the building this will minimise cross contamination and keep the environment as clean as possible for those who have to use it.

Teaching and Learning:

- The full curriculum will be taught from March. For the first two weeks from 8th March the children will be taking part in emotional well-being projects designed by their teachers to address any emotional well-being needs the children may raise or have and to bring the children back together as a class; developing friendships, listening and thinking together, working as a team and generally getting used to being back in school and following the structures of life back in school. This will enable the children who have been remote learning and the children who have been working in school to reform together. During this time may teachers are planning to focus on outside learning focusing on gardening, sport, planting and growing seeds and completing activities in the using the newly formed Woodland Garden developed by the PTFA.
- Across these two weeks, teachers will focus each morning on gaps in learning in phonics, maths, reading and writing, using observational assessments and practical teaching methods within the emotional wellbeing project, to gather this information. We know what learning has been missed and teachers will revisit missed learning as they teach across the whole of next term and into the following academic year. Having gone through this process last September, we know the children showed evidence that gaps in learning were being addressed and most were making quite rapid progress and catching up on gaps in learning well. Any significant concerns about your child will be raised with you as the term progresses and we urge parents to attend the Parent's Consultation booked for 25th March 2021. Further details about this will be given nearer the time.
- After Easter a broad curriculum will be taught focusing on the full range of subjects, but teachers will focus on the most important parts of the curriculum in each subject, in which pupils are not yet secure. To achieve this we will be making modifications to the curriculum and teachers will be using informative assessments to understand what to teach to ensure children are catching up and making good progress. Phonics, reading writing and maths will remain a priority.
- Catch Up Lessons: Mrs Forbes will be leading these again after half term. We are waiting to see how much additional funding will be allocated to our school and this will be used once again to address gaps in learning
- Pre-school teachers will focus on prime areas of learning and Reception teachers will also focus on gaps in language, reading and maths with a particular focus on the acquisition of phonics and extending vocabulary. Miss Hughes and Mrs Felstead have trained to lead the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) with groups of children in the Reception class.

Homework

- The setting of homework will resume from the end of March



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Lunchtimes

- Children will go into lunch in 2/3 sittings.
- Hot meals will be provided from March.
- All tables and equipment will be cleaned between sittings.
- Packed lunch children will eat outside as much as possible.
- Through the Covid Summer Food Fund, schools can support eligible pupils with a £90 voucher to cover the 6-week holiday period. Mrs Coupland has applied for these and they will be forward to you as soon as possible. All meal vouchers will cease after this allocation.

Toilet Areas

- An adult from each classroom will take groups of children to the toilet across the school day.
- They will advise the children to keep their distance and be on duty outside of the toilet area to supervise children going into and out of the toilets. In this way we can stop gatherings in the toilet areas and ensure social distancing as much as possible.
- During lunchtimes/breaktimes children will be supervised in the same way as stated above.
- Toilets will be cleaned following a schedule at points across the school day.

Break Times

- The teacher in charge of their class group will take their group of children out to play from 10am each day and go to an area that is not being used by another class group. Each class group will have their own set of play equipment to use and these will be sterilised regularly.
- Children will wash their hands after using shared equipment.

Before and After School Club

The guidance then states "Schools may keep children in their class groups for the majority of the time, but also allow mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching, before and after school care and transport...endeavouring to keep these groups at least partially separate and minimizing contacts between children.

This will resume from 8th March and at Stanbridge we will

- Keep children, where possible, in their year group bubbles with in the session.
- The staff will follow all of the requirements listed in this letter relating to cleaning of equipment, toileting procedures, good hygiene practices etc.

If you require a place for Before and After School Club, please speak to Mrs Davies who can be contacted on the above listed number.

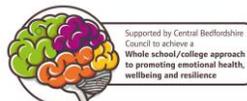
If Your Child Becomes Unwell

The educational guidance schools have received is very clear and has a very clear procedure.

- If your child is unwell and is exhibiting symptoms in school you will be contacted immediately.
- Your child will be placed in isolation away from other children with a supervising adult who will be wearing PPE.
- You will be asked to have your child tested and each member of your family will be entitled to a test as well.
- If your child tests negative for COVID then they can return to school.
- If your child tests positive for COVID then they will be asked to remain in isolation at home for 7 days and the rest of the family should remain in isolation for 10 days.
- We will then send everyone home, both adults and children in that class group who has come into contact with your child. Each child and person in the class group and everyone in their household should then be tested and remain in isolation for 10 days from their last point of contact with the positive person.
- If your child is unwell and showing symptoms of COVID at home, please inform us, as the same procedure will apply if they have been attending school in their class group.
- If one of your children is in PS/R/Yr1 or a key worker group and is attending school and a child who is in Yr 2/3 in your household who is their brother or sister and is not attending school at present, but starts to show symptoms of COVID 19, then please inform us, as the same procedure may apply.



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Good Hygiene Practices

- All staff have been briefed about the continual need to clean as often as is possible across the school day.
- Our cleaner will be cleaning classrooms as she has continued to across the shutdown period, this will include all door handles and any surfaces that have been used by children.
- Children will be supervised washing their hands across the school day including when they arrive in school, when they return from breaks and when they change rooms before and after eating.
- Tissues will be on supply in the classroom for children to catch it, bin it, kill it.
- Soap and antibacterial wash will be available around the school.

Emotional Wellbeing

We understand that some children and families have been away from school for a long time and returning to school could lead to worries, anxieties and concerns. If anyone is feeling like this, then please do get in contact with us. We are all here to help your return to school happen as smoothly as possible. Mrs Davies can be contacted on the above telephone number or if you want to speak to me directly, please do. We are here to listen and to help.

If you or your children have experience any distress over this period of time that we would need to know about E.g. bereavements, family separations, financial issues that have affected your emotional wellbeing, then please also get in touch with us.

Risk Assessment

The Re-opening Risk Assessment and Action Plan for the full re-opening of school can be found on our website at www.stanbridge.beds.sch.uk in the policy section. Once you have read this, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Further Information

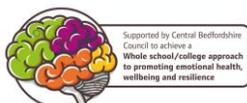
- Grafham Residential Field Trips: These have been cancelled for this year as the guidance states no residential trips can be held.
- Cooking for Yr 3/4: These will resume after Easter. Further information will be sent home nearer the time.
- Pre-school: during the lockdown period, we have completely transformed our Pre-school introducing the Hygge approach to learning into it. The whole ethos of the Pre-school has changed and there will be a greater emphasis on outside, discovery learning linked to nature. Pre-school parents might have noticed the change in themes on the pre-school planning sent home for remote learning. This is based on the work of Anna Ephgrave and more information about all the changes can be found on our website under the Pre-school section entitled Hygge in the Early Years - Theory and Development Plan.

If anyone has any questions, not answered through this newsletter, please do not hesitate to ask. We will see you all very much looking forward to seeing you all again on 8th March.

Kind regards
Miss Godwin
Head Teacher



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