



'Inspiring pupils to reach their full potential in our Christian Family through trust, respect and care for all. Our School value this half term is courage.

Reception Class Newsletter 1st September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your families have enjoyed a restful holiday. We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school. We enjoyed being with you on your home learning journey and sharing the highs and lows. We're excited to finally have everyone back in the classrooms. We know school will look and feel different, but we've tried hard to keep the essence of Benington there. We are all in this together and want the best for your children.

We shared with you our return to school plans in July and would like to remind you of the key points together with some further information.

Behaviour

We always have the highest expectations of our children, and this will continue to be made clear through circle times and in lessons. Our Behaviour Policy has been updated in line with current government advice. We know that a small number of children may find the return to school more challenging than others. There will be routines and restrictions on movements, and children might be anxious about changes. We will endeavour to support all children to adapt to these differences. However, **any behaviour that puts the health and safety of any member of our community at risk will not be tolerated.** We will expect all children to be in full school uniform and adhere to our rules on jewellery and hair.

Attendance

Please be reminded that **attendance will be compulsory for all children.** We appreciate that there might be anxieties over the return to school particularly from those previously advised to shield, those living with family members who are clinically vulnerable and those with a comparatively increased risk from COVID-19. We will endeavour to work with you as best we can to support you in ensuring your child attends school. Schools do have a duty to follow up on absence with appropriate actions, and normal absence procedures apply for reporting and requesting any children's absences. **We would ask that parents are specific when leaving a reason for absence to assist us with the monitoring of symptomatic children.** Messages may be followed up by a member of staff for clarification.

Lunchtimes

Children can bring a packed lunch into school or have a school dinner. School dinners will be delivered to the classroom and all lunches will be eaten there. Beech will eat in the hall. Please ensure your child has a water bottle in school to use with their school dinner. Children will be expected to clear up food mess which they've made.

PE

As a reminder, we are expecting children to come into school in their PE kit on the days that they have PE timetabled. If they have trainers with laces they need to be able to tie them themselves.

Please ensure your child has a spare pair of plimsolls that remain in school in case they get muddy shoes.

Transport to and from school

In order to support safer travel and ease congestion, we have extended the time that students can be in school. From September, **children can arrive from 8.30am and can remain in school until 3.30pm**. Where possible, children should be walking to school. Where families live a long way from school, parents may find it easier to drop their children off a short distance away from the school, and they can walk the rest of the way. If walking to and from school, children should take care to maintain social distancing with others. We have a one-way system in place. Everyone will be required to follow the arrows onto and off the playground. **On arrival, all children should go straight to their classroom, they should not go to other areas of the school.** They will be asked to sanitise/wash their hands as soon as they arrive on site.

Children will be dismissed from the classroom once a parent/carer has been seen. Please maintain social distance while waiting outside your child's classroom. Please follow the signage and leave promptly. If there is congestion, we will have to allocate arrival and leaving times. Alternatively, we could introduce one-way entry through the playground and exiting across the field through Duck Lane. We are aware that this could be very inconvenient so hope to avoid it if possible.

Health and Safety

The school's health and safety policy and COVID-19 risk assessment has been updated in line with the latest guidance. This can be found on the website. We will be following Government advice on the use of face coverings in schools. If a student or staff member wishes to wear a mask/visor in school, they are of course able to do so. If this is the case, a new mask will need to be worn each day.

Everyone on the school site will be expected to follow the health and safety guidelines

- Use sanitiser/wash hands when entering and leaving the classroom
- Wash your hands more frequently for the recommended time of 20 seconds
- Wash your hands before and after using the toilet
- Wash your hands before and after eating
- Follow the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Pedal bins with lids will be available in every classroom. **Children should bring in their own tissues for personal use.**
- Observe social distancing wherever possible.
- Follow the school signage by adhering to one-way system
- There will be sanitiser available in all classrooms and in the playground

We are responsible for your child's safety when they enter the building. When they leave the building you are responsible for ensuring your child maintains social distance and leaves promptly. We request that no one remains on site before or after school for any reason in order to be fully compliant with government guidelines.

COVID-19 symptoms

- **Children, staff and other adults will not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and should get tested**
- **If the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.**
- **If the test result is positive, they should inform the school immediately, and should isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the**

self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms

- If anyone in the school 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), they will be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'. They must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Students who display symptoms will be moved to an isolated room where they will be supervised until a parent/carer is available to collect them
- PPE must be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection
- We ask for your support in arranging to collect your child immediately
- Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms.
- If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They should get a test.
- We will inform you if anyone in your child's class tests positive for Covid-19

Parent Queries

Please contact the school by telephone or email if you have any questions. **Please email your child's class teacher directly if it's a class related question.** Email addresses can be found on the school website. **We will no longer be able to allow parents to enter the school building.**

Reading

We will continue to hear children read. Staff will wash their hands after hearing children read and children will also wash their hands. Staff will limit contact with reading books. When a book is finished it will be quarantined for 72 hours.

Equipment

Each class will have their own equipment such as dictionaries, calculators and cubes. Where equipment is shared with other classes such as magnifying glasses and scales it will be quarantined for 72 hours before another class can use it. We will ask children to wash/sanitise their hands after handling shared equipment. Each child has their own named pencil pot with personal pencils, scissors, glue etc

Please be aware that this could change at any time in line with government guidance. We will try our best to keep you updated quickly, but please bear with us as we navigate these new and challenging times together. We are looking forward to seeing all of our children return to school and would like to thank you, as always, for your support and cooperation.