



Bradwell C E (C) Infant School

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With faith, we care, share and learn together.

Monday 18th May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

I am beginning to make plans for a possible wider re-opening of school from 1st June. At this moment there is considerable debate about this next step and how it can be safely managed. A meeting of The Full Governing Body will approve the final plan and the implementation process. As I mentioned in my previous newsletter this will not be normal school.

Fellow headteachers have shared their thoughts on challenges posed by a wider re-opening of school, so I am quoting them here because I can't put it any better than they have:

"What I can say with absolute certainty (and in total honesty) is that I CANNOT, with the best will in the world, provide a totally socially distanced working environment for your child to attend. Our school layout doesn't lend itself to a one-way system; our corridors are not wide enough to split down the middle; our classrooms are not big enough to stay 2m apart. Children will not, whatever anybody says, stay 2m away from each other. I am cheered by the fact that you as parents at least have the choice of whether to send your child or not without any repercussions. Please also remember that I am planning for an event that hasn't been set in concrete yet and may not even happen."

"I can be truthful here and categorically tell you there is no such thing as social distancing in a school; it does not exist and would never exist. The reason childhood illnesses spread in school is surprise, surprise, we are in contact with each other. I can put two children in opposite classrooms and they will still get chicken pox because that's how it is in a school. This virus we are led to believe is a super spreader."

I am not trying to frighten you, but I need to make sure you understand that I will take as many precautions as possible to reduce risk, but can make no guarantees.

I cannot accommodate all the eligible pupils safely due to social spacing and the internal restrictions of our school building. I have spent some time moving furniture and producing seating plans for each classroom. This has resulted in a maximum of 10 children in each room, giving a total of 20 places at the most.



A Church of England (C) School

I can give you some additional information now about the school day children will experience:

- No school uniform is required as clothing will need to be laundered daily.
- School lunches will be available.
- Children will work/play independently and not in pairs or groups as we often do.
- Teachers will maintain social distancing from children as far as possible.
- No items/toys to be brought in from home other than water bottle and book-bag.
- A coat is essential as we will go outside as often as possible if it is fine.
- Children will have their own equipment on their table for their sole use daily.
- Children and staff will undertake frequent handwashing during the day.
- Children will not be socialising in the normal way indoors or outdoors.
- Staff will control arrival and departure from school with your assistance.

This list is not exhaustive but gives you an idea of the changes we have to make. I have been communicating with Bradwell Junior School and Bradwell Pre-School and they are also issuing information to assist your decisions. Whatever the arrangements are, we will try to have fun with the children in our care.

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister, the groups of children to be prioritised, in sequence, for the initial school places are as follows:

- Children of keyworkers
- Children in Reception
- Children in Year 1

In order to plan for a wider re-opening, I need to know which children require places from 1st June onwards. So please respond by email to headteacher@bradwell-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk even if you do not want a school place at the moment.

In your message please include the following information:

1. Child's name.
2. Is either parent a keyworker, Yes or No.
3. Which days does your child need a place, Every Day or named days please, or None.

Please respond before 3.00pm on Tuesday 19th May to assist with our plans and arrangements.

Finally, I think this is the most depressing newsletter I have ever issued, and its tone is not my normal approach. It is such a difficult situation we are in and there is high uncertainty which in turn creates anxiety. If you require further information to reach a decision I am happy to take your phone calls in school. I will be in school today, and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday this week, but a prompt response would be most helpful.

Thank you for your understanding and I hope you stay safe and well until we can return to more social times. Daily lessons at home are on BBC Bitesize (a link is in our website).

As always, if you need a chat about anything at all, please let me know.

Geoff Wharton