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16/05/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Possible re-opening to more pupils in June:

Further to the earlier notification on the school website, written just after the government's announcements about schools beginning to re-open for some year groups from 1st June, I wanted to share some more information with you.

What the government has announced:

- It is the aim for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return to primary schools from 1 June if they believe it is safe then. The government has said this will be decided provided that their 5 tests are met.
- This is alongside the children of Key Workers and vulnerable children who have already been actively encouraged to attend.
- Children who are 'shielding' (because they are clinically extremely vulnerable) or who live with someone who is 'shielding' should not attend. However, those who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (the category below shielding, including those who are pregnant) can attend. Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups.
- All staff and pupils will be eligible for testing if they show symptoms.
- Parents will not be fined for non-attendance during this time.
- The ambition is that all primary school children will return to school before the summer for a month if feasible.

What we are planning to do at Biddick Hall Junior School:

Firstly, I want to start by reiterating that the health, safety and wellbeing of your child(ren), staff and our wider community is of the upmost importance to us and we will have this at the forefront of our minds in everything we do and plan to do.

This has been a very unsettling time for us all but rest assured that we have taken on board the guidance that has been issued and we are working hard to devise and carry out a full risk assessment specific to our school on all the issues that need addressing.

In response to these guidelines, we will endeavour to put the following measures in place:

- Placing children into smaller groups (bubbles) who will be taught by the same designated teacher/s every day. This will not necessarily be their own class teacher. We aim to have no more than 7 pupils in a classroom group and up to 15 in a larger space such as the main hall.
- Children will be seated as far apart as possible in classrooms. We will try and endeavour to adhere to the 2m social distancing rule wherever possible but cannot guarantee it. They will sit in the same chair and at the same desk.
- Resources will not be shared amongst 'bubbles'. Pupils will not be allowed to bring in any resources from home, apart from a water bottle. All resources needed will be provided by school in their own plastic wallet. Reading books will not be sent home.
- Pupils will remain in their bubble throughout the entire school day, including break times and lunch. There will be staggered playtimes and lunchtimes for each group.
- School dinner, if required, will be available from the school kitchen in the form of a packed lunch and will be eaten in their bubble. Pupils bringing their own packed lunch should do so in a disposable bag.
- Toilet visits will be carefully managed.
- Each group will have their own set of playtime resources which will be cleaned frequently. Pupils will not be allowed to use the fixed play equipment.
- Pupils will be reminded throughout the day to not touch their face and eyes.
- Clean clothes should be worn every day. School uniform will therefore not be compulsory. Children should wear comfortable clothing and suitable footwear.
- There will be staggered start and end times to the school day. Children will enter school through specific entrances including classroom fire doors. On entry, pupils will be asked to wash and sanitise their hands.
- Promote good hygiene - throughout the school day, pupils will be asked to clean their hands more often than usual, particularly upon leaving and re-entering the school building throughout the day. All classrooms have access to a sink.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Keeping windows and classroom doors open to allow for good ventilation.
- Thorough cleaning of occupied areas and equipment.
- Limited movement around school – stick to right hand side of corridors.
- No access to the bike shed. The bike shed will not open. Children will be encouraged to walk to school.
- No Wake up shake up will be offered.
- No after school clubs available during the summer term.
- Telling children not to enter school if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus.
- Informing parents that they are not permitted to enter the school yard at the start or end of the school day.
- Communication with parents will be via telephone, school website or email.

What will learning look like?

- There will be a continued focus on English and maths which may be based on the online programmes that children have been working on at home.
- We will continue to set online learning for those children not attending and will endeavour to ensure this matches what is being taught within school.

Transition to secondary school:

- There will be no face to face induction for the children with the secondary schools during the summer term.
- The secondary schools will liaise the logistics for starting secondary school in September directly with parents.

Could we ask that you indicate by email to admin@biddickhallschool.co.uk or ring school 0191 5362186 by Tuesday 19th May 12 noon, whether you intend to send your child into school. If you are not intending to send your child into school, could you please indicate the reason why. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance during this time, but we would appreciate you letting us know your thoughts so that we can adapt our plans to be as accurate as possible. Please note that even with careful planning, circumstances can change – for example school staff may need to self-isolate and therefore planning will need to be adapted.

We understand that this will be a difficult decision for all parents/carers to make, and we will not be pressuring parents to send their children to school.

I would like to reassure you that we will continue to make our school as safe as we possibly can in these difficult circumstances. We will not open until we are assured that it is safe to do so.

We will be in touch once logistics such as starting dates and times have been agreed and we have all the necessary risk assessments and planning fully in place.

Yours sincerely,

M.Collinson