

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

Federation Headteacher: Miss Z J Linington

Potton Road, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. SG18 0EJ

Tel: 01767 314562

E-mail: info@edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk>



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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this letter finds you all well and that you and your family have enjoyed the summer break. You will receive a detailed guidance booklet containing all the information needed prior to the school year. In this letter, I will summarise some of that and highlight the most important information or signpost you to where it might be found.

Edward Peake have chosen a 'phased return' approach to the new term, in line with many other schools. As our new year 5 have been unable to have their transition day, they will be the only year group to attend on Monday 7 September. Their teachers will be able to teach them the routines of their new school and move around the building safely and easily and complete transition activities with them. On Tuesday 8 September, year 6 will also return and then on Wednesday 9 September, all children in every year group will attend school.

School Day

Initially, the school day will have a staggered start and end in order to prevent all pupils from entering the school building at the same time. This will be reviewed regularly.

Key Stage	School start time	Collective Worship	Break time	Lunch time	PM Registration	School finish time
Key stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)	08:40	09:00-09:10	11:10-11:25	12:25-13:05	13:05-13:20	15:20
Key stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)	08:50	15:20-15:30	11:10-11:25	12:40-13:20	12:25-12:40	15:30

Children who travel to school by bus will not be subject to these start and finish times.

All pupils will have 5 hours teaching per day and all pupils will have access to the full curriculum. There may have to be minor changes to some subject delivery methods in order to accommodate the situation.

Keeping groups of children separate (bubbles)

In line with Government guidance, we will be operating two 'bubbles' - one for key stage 2 and one for key stage 3. It is our intention that the playground will be 'zoned' for different year groups and facilities/resources will be allocated in such a way that cross-contamination between key stages is minimised. We do, however, want our children to experience the best that we can offer in terms of a broad and balanced curriculum and will provide this in the safest way possible.



Masks

Neither pupils nor adults are expected to wear any form of face covering in a classroom. In line with Government guidance, years 5 and 6 are not expected to wear face coverings when moving around the building but years 7 and 8 will need to bring their own face mask to wear in corridors, indoor communal areas and entering/exiting the school site.

Please see page 19 the guidance.

Entrance and exit points

KS2 pupils will enter from the pupil gate. Parents and carers will be asked to wait on the far side of the concrete bollards to protect all members of our community. KS2 pupils will walk along the single track towards the playground.

KS3 pupils will enter from the main entrance. Parents and carers will not be allowed to enter the turning circle as school will be a drop off free zone unless arranged in advance with SLT. They will follow the path towards the main playground.

We will be operating a series of one way routes around the school. All members of our community will be expected to walk on the left.

Please see page 21 of the guidance.

Mobile phones

Pupils will be expected to hand in their mobile phones at the beginning of every day and will be informed of the system to use. Please ensure that your child's mobile is CLEARLY LABELLED.

Please see page 22 of the guidance.

Equipment

Every pupil is asked to provide the following basic items of equipment for every lesson

- Black/blue handwriting pen (not a biro or cartridge pen)
- Pencil
- 30 cm ruler (non-bendy)
- Pencil eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Colouring pencils/fine fibre tips
- Calculator
- A4 plastic wallet for homework
- Water bottle
- Reading book

While the majority of pupils are well equipped, bringing in the appropriate items for their wide range of lessons, there remains a significant minority who do not bring pens, pencils, rulers, calculators etc. to their lessons. This results in valuable learning time being lost while equipment is being sought or pupils are not able to complete tasks because they do not have the relevant equipment to support them. Please make sure all uniform and equipment are

clearly named. Equipment must not be shared across bubble groups. School equipment should be carried in a suitable bag. Pupils will not have access to lockers during this time to adhere to Covid-19 protection measures.

Lunches/food

A reduced menu from the school kitchen will be available and pupils will be asked to make their choices in the morning so that the correct food can be delivered to them.

Year 5 and 6 will eat lunch in their form rooms. Years 7 and 8 will either picnic outside, or in the hall or form rooms, depending on the weather conditions.

Please see page 28 of the guidance.

PE kit/uniform

There will be no PE lessons on the first day of school for any year groups. Full school uniform is required. Children will be allowed to wear the school PE kit on their designated PE lesson day.

Visiting site

- Pupils may not be dropped off at the main entrance without prior arrangement. Please contact the school office if you need to arrange this.
- No parent/carer vehicles will be permitted on the school site or front drive. The school is promoting walking/cycling in line with government recommendations.
- No parent/carer will be allowed to wait at the pupil entrance or main entrance unless individual arrangements have been made with parents/carers.
- Parents/carers will not be allowed to visit the site without a prior appointment.

Full guidance regarding visitors can be found in the guidance document.

Track and trace update from Central Bedfordshire Council

It is imperative that we encourage all those who work in or attend our schools to engage in the Test and Trace process.

CBC is working with NHS Test and Trace to help contact those who have tested positive for COVID-19. This will ensure the NHS can contact anyone who may have caught the virus from them

If NHS Test and Trace is unable to get in touch with someone after 24 hours, their local council will follow up, contacting them by text, by telephone or by coming to their door. Text messages and phone calls will come from a local number and if they are visited at home, it will be by a council officer with an ID badge

If they are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace or by their local council to ask about their contacts, it's important that they share information honestly and openly. Their information will be handled with strictest confidence, and by sharing their contacts they are helping to keep our community safe, save lives and avoid further restrictions on public life

School buses

We have received the following from Central Bedfordshire Council:

With regard to transport, the government guidance remains, wherever possible, to avoid public transport (including school transport) and either walk or cycle to school, or travel in your own car. If you are able to drive your child, but they normally travel on a school bus, then Central Bedfordshire Council can refund you for the mileage you use.

Further details are available by clicking here:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/3/schools_and_education/530/apply_for_school_transport/14

If you are entirely unable to drive your child to school, and they are eligible for transport, this will still be provided in the usual way, with the normal routes and timetables. Government guidance is that social distancing requirements will not apply to dedicated school transport, so I understand you may have some concerns about the risk of infection on school transport.

Transport providers are required to ensure that all vehicles are cleaned at regular intervals throughout the day and to carry out an enhanced clean of all vehicles overnight. Drivers and passenger assistants will be expected to maintain good hand hygiene practices. Please be aware it is pupils only over the age of 11 that should wear a face covering throughout the journey to and from school, unless they are exempt from doing so. During the journey, windows and any roof lights should be kept open wherever possible to allow suitable ventilation. Children will clean their hands upon arrival to school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our pupils back. We know that there may be some anxiety surrounding this although we are also confident that the vast majority of our pupils will be excitedly anticipating their return to school with their friends to enjoy learning together as a community once again.

Yours sincerely



Miss Z J Linington
Federation Headteacher