

St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation

Blackboys CE Primary School
School Lane
Blackboys
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East Sussex
TN22 5LL



Framfield CE Primary School
The Street
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East Sussex
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Headteacher: Mr G Sullivan

Headteacher: Mrs L Pestell

15th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

On Sunday 10th May the Government announced that the phased re-opening of Schools may take place from Monday 01st June, **initially for year groups R, 1 and 6 only**. We are excited about welcoming these year groups back to school, joining our "keyworker pupils" who have continued with us since 23rd March.

The Government issued guidance to schools to implement protective and practical steps to reduce risk during this phased return. Parents may wish to read this guidance via the gov.uk website. A "Guidance for Parents/Carers" document has also been produced and can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june

Within this letter we wish to reassure families that our policies and practices are in keeping with Government guidance and are based on recommendations for effective infection protection and control. There are 5 key strategies to reduce the risk of transmission or infection which we will focus on.

- Reminding parents that pupils who have Covid19 symptoms or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend Blackboys School and continue to follow self-isolation protocols.
- Expectation that pupils will be supervised in washing hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds with soap and water. This will be on entry and exit to the School as well as throughout the day.
- Continued promotion of the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to personal hygiene as well as providing extra tissues and more frequent emptying of bins.
- Continued increase in the cleaning of 'touch points' around School including door handles, equipment and surfaces.
- Minimising contact and mixing of pupils by altering the environment, timetable and routines. The overriding aim of this strategy is to reduce the contact between the year groups who return to school.

Key points to note at this stage:

- Children who received a letter from the NHS instructing them to shield for 12 weeks because they are clinically extremely vulnerable will not be expected to attend School. Likewise, should a child live with someone who received the letter from the NHS instructing that individual to shield because they are clinically extremely vulnerable, then the child cannot be expected to attend.
- Staffing issues/ill health may dictate that we have to re-prioritise which year groups attend School. If this is the case priority will be given to years R and 1.
- Government guidance concedes that primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other, but instead to only mix in a small consistent group. Therefore our pupils will be taught in their own year group, in a dedicated room with spaced out desks and with consistent adult supervision (Teacher and TA).
- To reduce mass movement around the School we will make more use of external doors, limit the number of children in the toilet at any one time, stagger assemblies, break, lunch, drop off and collection times. It is crucial that we reduce contact between the year groups who come in to school. At drop off and collection time pupils should only be accompanied by 1 adult who should follow social distancing protocol with other adults. To reduce the number of people on the school site, children will be dropped by their parent/carer at the school gate and led back to their parents by a member of staff at the end of the day.
- To maintain hygiene we will remove unnecessary items from classrooms, together with removing soft furnishings and items that are hard to thoroughly clean. Pupils will be seated at the same desk each day and use the same equipment that will be solely for their use. Each class will use hand sanitizer, on top of the heightened expectation of handwashing. Where safe to do so, doors will be propped open to limit use of door handles, to facilitate a hygienic entry and exit point to classrooms and to provide additional ventilation. The water fountain will be unavailable, and children will need their own labelled water bottles.
- School lunches will be cooked on site as normal. For our youngest pupils, lunches will be eaten at desks in the pupils' classrooms. Our older pupils will eat, at sensible distances, in the hall. School lunch will be brought to them, so queuing is not needed. Break time and lunchtime play will take place in a year group allocated part of the field or in the classroom when weather is poor.
- With school opening more widely, staff will be needed to provide face to face teaching. This means it will be a challenge to maintain the bespoke home learning opportunities that we have become used to since lockdown. Home learning will of course continue, but making more use of commercially available schemes. Parents will need to understand that they may not be able to expect such a quick response from classteachers to queries about home learning.

- To help make Blackboys a low-risk place for children by reducing contact between year groups, we will not be running our Breakfast Club, After School Club or any extra-curricular clubs. This will be reviewed as the term progresses.

Should a child display symptoms of Covid-19 whilst at school, parents will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child. We are formulating a protocol to limit possible infection with our school first aiders. Self-isolation guidance would then need to be followed by the family with testing being strongly advised.

We will write again, once the Government has fully confirmed the start date, with further Blackboys specific information, including drop off and collection times. At all stages, our focus is on the safety and happiness of our children. It is exciting to be planning a return to school.

In the meantime, we naturally thank parents for their continued support and well wishes; the way the school community has responded to this unprecedented event has been quite remarkable. As you all know, our favourite saying is *"Be the best you can be; living life in all its fullness"*. Never before has this been so apt!

If you have any questions, or require support, please do not hesitate to contact us via telephone or email. We are keen to help.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Sullivan
Headteacher