

St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation

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



Framfield CE Primary School
The Street
Framfield
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5NR

Headteacher: Mr G Sullivan

Headteacher: Mrs L Pestell

01st September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are very excited about welcoming all pupils back to Blackboys Church of England Primary School this Friday 4th September. Our pupils are the heart and soul of our school; the very reason for all the efforts we put in to "being the best we can be; living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)". We look forward to hearing the buzz of purposeful learning back in our classrooms.

The reason for this letter is to remind parents and pupils of the steps we have put in place to help keep everyone as safe as possible. A copy of our School Risk Assessment for the return to school can be found on our website, via the information tab. A copy of our letter to Parents and Carers prior to the summer holiday can also be found via the information tab. We will continue to monitor and act on Government Guidance via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

We have included overleaf what we believe will be Frequently Asked Questions, but should you have any more personal questions, please contact Mr Sullivan or the school office via email. It is particularly important that parents read the questions about drop off and pick up from school.

We are very happy to work with you all to make sure this is the most successful transition to whole school opening that it can be.

Thank you as always for your unstinting support.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Sullivan
Headteacher

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if my child is poorly?

If your child has the symptoms of Covid-19, then it is vitally important that they do not attend school and that the family move to a period of self-isolation. Please let us know if this is the case and follow the guidance to arrange a test <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>. Once there is an outcome, then you need to inform us about the result.

Will the school close if a child or adult contracts Covid-19?

Should there be any positive cases of Covid-19 at school, we will work with the East Sussex Health Protection Team to put out clear, swift information to parents. As we will be implementing control measures (such as our Key Stage bubbles), we hope the need for whole-school closure will not become necessary.

What are the main protective measures the school will use?

These are stated in our letter to parents before the summer break. This letter can be found at <https://www.blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/65-Back-to-School-in-September-22-07-20.pdf> Good hand hygiene continues to be a major protective measure, and we would value parents and carers talking to, and demonstrating this to their children before the restart.

Can my child wear a face covering?

There has been much debate on this subject. There is currently no necessity to wear a face covering at Primary School. If this guidance changes, we will contact parents. Should parents wish to use a facial covering during drop off and pick up, they are of course, most welcome.

Will school dinners be served?

Yes. Although our school cook, Portia Withers, moved on in the summer, Chartwells have committed to continuing hot school meals at school. There will be a staggered lunchtime so that the hall is not overcrowded and that pupils eat only with children of their Key Stage.

Will the children have playtime?

Yes. Children will play together as a Key Stage. Class 1 and 2 will play together and Class 3, 4 and 5 will play together. Due to the need to split the playground accordingly, there will be no ball games initially as space will be at a premium.

Can the children have water bottles?

Yes, as the water fountain will not be available. However we expect children to be responsible for their own bottle and to take it home nightly for washing.

Will PE take place?

Yes. As has always been the case, we were committed to physical exercise to boost fitness and well-being. PE sessions will take place twice a week, with hand washing before and after the sessions. Separate equipment will be used within the Key Stage bubbles and we have invested in an anti-bacterial sprayer, so equipment will be disinfected before and after use, as an additional control measure.

Will we have Breakfast Club and After School Club?

Yes. Breakfast Club and After-School Club will begin on the first day of term, Friday 4th September, but children will only mix within their Key Stage "bubble" while in the club. Staff will help with this. Please book your child in, in the normal way and use the school buzzer system for entry and exit. Breakfast Club begins at 7:45am. There will be no access to the school before that time.

Will clubs be taking place?

Yes. As most school clubs are Key Stage specific, they will re-start following the traditional club letter.

What are the drop off and pick up times?

To ease congestion, we have recommended drop off and pick up times for the different Key Stages: 8.40am for Key Stage 2 pupils and 8.50am for Key Stage 1 children. If you have children in both Key Stages, please drop off your children at the earliest time. With the exception of Reception children *, parents are to leave their children at the gate. Children will head straight to their classroom via their cloakroom. Staff will be available to help with this. The school gates will close at 8.55am, when all children are expected to be present.

***RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 2020:** From Friday 4th September to Friday 18th September, we would like Reception children to arrive at 9am. Parents are very welcome to bring their child into the playground. Staff will then help the children line up and enter the school together. Parents can then leave via the main gate.

At the end of the day the school gate will be opened at 3.10pm. Parents may come and wait, socially distanced, in the playground.

Class 1 parents will need to walk around the side of the building to the Class 1 outdoor area to collect their child. When they have met their child in the Class 1 outdoor area, they may leave through the school hall fire exits. A member of staff will help with this.

Class 2 pupils will be led by their teacher to the playground at 3.15pm.

Class 3, 4 and 5 pupils will be led by their teachers to the playground at 3.20pm. We expect children and parents to disperse quickly and efficiently please.

Does my child need to wear uniform?

Yes. There is a high expectation that children will wear the correct school uniform including school shoes. A reminder of the school uniform code can be found here: <http://www.blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/17-07-20-School-Uniform.pdf> Although the weather can be good in September, we would like all children to wear Autumn and Spring Term Uniform please.

What should I do if my child is anxious about returning to school?

For some children, it is nearly 6 months since they were last in school, so it is entirely normal for them to be a little anxious. Parents could help by talking to their children about times of change and how they go about dealing with change as adults. We found that when Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils came back to school to join our Key Worker pupils that there was soon a real desire to be taught and have new lessons and learning. Our school curriculum has been improved over the last few months and children will be excited about their learning in class.

As transition before the holidays was difficult, all classes will have a short period on re-adjusting, practicing routines and getting reacquainted. In addition to the core offer in classrooms, our daily acts of worship will provide children with thoughtful reflection time allowing us to focus on positive mental health and we also employ a school counsellor one afternoon a week who can pick up on more individual support that children may need. Most importantly, please communicate with your child's classteacher if you have any individual concerns. We are here to help.

What will the school work be like?

We plan to get in the swing of teaching new learning as quickly as possible. Many children will have improved their independent learning strategies while home schooling and we can see from the home learning books that the vast majority of pupils got on really well. Classteachers will be responsive to the needs of their pupils and plan lessons according to what the class need to learn. We are determined that children will be challenged educationally, and those that might need some additional catch up interventions, in addition to taught lessons, will be catered for. We will communicate this clearly with parents if we feel it is necessary.

What if my child becomes poorly while at school?

We will continue to deal with poorly children as we have done previously, using our qualified first aiders. Should a child display Covid-19 symptoms, however, we have a bespoke planned protocol to isolate them swiftly and to contact parents immediately. Please ensure you are contactable during the school day. There are further details on Page 2 of our letter to parents: <https://www.blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/65-Back-to-School-in-September-22-07-20.pdf>

If my child has to self-isolate, what will they learn?

In the event that a child cannot come to school because of self-isolation, we will send details for home learning provided through Oak National Academy, the government funded online learning portal.

Will we have parent consultation, class planning meetings, class assemblies and Friday cafes?

We will not hold traditional Class Planning Meetings at the start of term 1. We will though have virtual ones, using Zoom as we did during lockdown in term 5. We think it is still vital for parents to hear about their child's class curriculum.

We would normally have parent consultation meetings towards the end of term 1. We will need to look at alternatives for this, such as the possibility of holding Zoom meetings or telephone meetings. Our aim is always to communicate clearly with parents as to how their child's learning is getting on.

We are following current Government guidelines regarding assemblies. To limit contacts through the school day, the whole school will not come together for assemblies/acts of worship. Instead daily assemblies will be viewed on our interactive screens in individual classrooms. When we are guided that it is safe to do so, we will re-start.

With Friday cafes, again we will be looking to reduce contacts within school as much as possible. There will be no traditional cafes until further notice, but we will be looking for opportunities for children to learn and practise cooking skills within their class.