

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

1st March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Return to School, 8th March 2021

We are delighted that all children can be welcomed back full time on Monday 8th March 2021 following the partial closure of all Schools.

This is great news, and we are excited about helping the children return to full education and "Living life in all its fullness." Attendance at school is mandatory from 8th March unless a child is ill, has a medical appointment, an absence has been authorised by the headteacher or has been instructed to self-isolate.

We are following the Government guidance document '*Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance*' together with lessons learnt during the previous re-opening of School from 3rd September 2020.

First and foremost, we will be following prevention and response measures. Government Guidance states to:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- 8) Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.
- 9) Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing, where available.
- 10) Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- 11) Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
- 12) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

Important Notes for March 2021

- In all intents and purposes we will still be in a National Lockdown when schools re-open. Therefore all current government restrictions will still apply and we expect families to respect that.
- One of the key tactics in keeping the school community as safe as possible is self-checking against symptoms and then self-isolating and testing. The 3 main symptoms often stated are: a new, continuous cough and/ or a high temperature and/or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste (anosmia). However other symptoms are also reported and parents/carers should remain vigilant for any perceived changes in their child's health. If you are in any way concerned with your health or your child's health, please keep your child home and seek a test. Please keep the school updated as time progresses.

- Staff will be taking rapid result Covid-19 tests twice a week. These lateral flow tests are designed to pick up potential asymptomatic covid-19 and will provide the school reassurance that staff are well and fit to work.
- Windows and doors will be open, unless external fire doors, to allow for further ventilation.
- In assembly on Monday 8th March, we will once again re-iterate to all our pupils the importance of good hand hygiene, the use of tissues and of keeping sensible distances, particularly in the school corridors. The school will continue to provide hand sanitiser for use, but please remember that children are very welcome to bring in their own for personal use, as long as they are aware of how to use it properly.
- Pupils will stay in consistent class groups. For the purposes of outside play and lunchtime, Class 1 and Class 2 will join together to create a 'Key Stage 1 bubble' and Class 3, Class 4 and Class 5 will join together to create a 'Key Stage 2 bubble'. The two Key Stage bubbles will not mix. They will have different playtimes and a staggered lunchtime.
- Children will be escorted to the toilets by a teacher/TA at various points throughout the day, which will lower the likelihood of mixing with other classes. We have a high expectation on hand washing.
- A one-way system utilising the pedestrian gate and vehicle gate will be operation on approach to the school.
- To reduce congestion at the school entrance there will be a drop off time of 8.40am for Key Stage 2 pupils and 8.50am for Key Stage 1 children. If you have children in both Key Stages, you are advised to drop off your children at the earliest available time. 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.
- In lessons, children will be sat side by side facing forward. Our youngest pupils may sit like this on the carpet.
- We will be avoiding large gatherings such as assemblies. Assemblies/Acts of Worship, including our upcoming Easter Service will be continued remotely and screened into classrooms.
- Classroom resources will not be shared between classes wherever possible, but if really necessary will be cleaned before use. This includes computer equipment.
- Outdoor play equipment will not be shared across Key Stage 'bubbles' and will be frequently cleaned.
- At lunchtime, Key Stage 1 children will eat together first and use an allocated part of the playground at playtime. Key Stage 2 children will have a slightly later lunchtime, but will eat together in the hall once Key Stage 1 has finished and cleaning has taken place. They will then use their own allocated part of the playground at playtime. Both Key Stages will still have a 1 hour lunchtime.
- The school water fountain will not be in use. All pupils are to bring a named water bottle daily.
- Breakfast Club and After-School Club will begin on Monday 8th March, but children will only mix within their Key Stage bubble. Staff will help with this. Numbers will be limited to 15 per session and this provision will only be available to support Parents at work, attend education or to access medical care. It is not be used as a lifestyle choice or as 'play date' opportunities. Please book in, in the usual way via an email to office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk
- Guitar club, KS 1 football and KS2/Girls' Football will restart on their usual days from w/b 8th March. A ParentMail email regarding this will be sent out.

- 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, utilising our Gold Footprints to help with distancing. Class 1 parents will need to walk around the side of the building to the Class 1 outdoor area to collect their child. Class 2 pupils can be collected from their external fire door 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 and not to congregate around the main gate. Parents will need to wear face coverings at pick up and drop off unless exempt. We strongly recommend just one family member picks up and drops off. We also remind parents that dogs are not to enter the school site.
- First aid requirements will continue to be led by our First Aiders, Miss Butler and Mrs Pomfret, in the first aid room. If your child needs prescribed medication, please contact the School Office by e-mail to be sent an electronic version of the Parental Medication Form to complete and return. Should a child display symptoms of Covid-19 whilst at school, parents will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child. The child will be kept in the first aid room until collection, with our first aid staff using PPE. Once collected the first aid room will be thoroughly cleaned. Self-isolation guidance would then need to be followed by the family with testing strongly advised.
- Should a pupil need to self-isolate, when well enough, they will be expected to learn at home during the self-isolation period. Remote education will be provided via e-mail with links made to the Government funded Oak National Academy website. Please contact the school office in the first instance.
- We are looking to continue to keep visitors in school to a minimum. Contact with the school office should be through email or telephone when at all possible. Due to its outside nature, we can still welcome parent volunteers for Forest School.

We would also request, to ensure that the very careful measures that we are implementing at school continue to have impact, that all of our families abide by the Government's current restrictions on social distancing outside of school to minimise the chance that the Covid19 virus is brought into Blackboys School. Our measures will only have impact if we work together. We ask that no sleepovers and play dates take place, that mixing rules are followed and that families who have no option other than to lift share do so with ventilation and face coverings in vehicles.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to make contact. We will write again in the middle of the week with further reminders.

Finally, a thank you to our whole School Community for their understanding, co-operation and collaborative working. This year has not yet played out how we anticipated it to be, and as ever the whole School really is being the best that it can be.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Sullivan
Headteacher

Mrs K Rabson Stark
Chair of Governors