

# 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**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

## **Return to School, Thursday 2nd September 2021**

We are excited about welcoming all our new and returning pupils to school on Thursday 2nd September. We have confidence that this academic year will be a complete one in which we can develop pupils "Living life in all its fullness" (John 10:10).

As previously, we are following the Government guidance document 'Schools Coronavirus Operational Guidance' together with lessons learnt during the global pandemic. With the lifting of many restrictions, school will now be fairly similar to how it was before the pandemic. Below you will find a list of our safety measures for term 1 together with some useful pointers/reminders for the start of the new academic year.

We are retaining 9 key measures to keep children and the community as safe as possible.

- 1) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 2) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 3) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 4) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- 5) Children, parents and staff to continue to be vigilant for symptoms of Covid-19, isolate as individuals, and take a PCR test.
- 6) Staff will continue to engage in asymptomatic testing, taking a lateral flow test twice a week.
- 7) Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
- 8) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.
- 9) Although face coverings will no longer be needed externally, should large numbers of parents or visitors meet indoors for school events (such as class planning meetings or assemblies) we would request that face coverings are worn, unless exempt.

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 child's health, please keep your child home and seek a test. Please keep the school informed and updated as time progresses.

## Important Notes for September 2021

- With the change of restrictions, children under the age of 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. This will help school attendance. If a pupil has symptoms and is awaiting a test result, the rest of that child's family may continue with their everyday routine and attend school. Should a positive outcome result, the pupil isolates for 10 days, we communicate that fact confidentially to the school community and seek East Sussex Public Health advice on our next steps. We will no longer be communicating every "possible case" to the school community, only positive cases.
- In assembly on Thursday 2nd September, we will once again re-iterate to all our pupils the importance of good hand hygiene and the use of tissues. The school will continue to provide hand sanitiser for use should children wish to use it, 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.
- Following Government Guidance, we will no longer be operating as a Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 bubble. Children will mix together for playtime and lunchtime. We will have assemblies together in the school hall. There will be no staggered drop off or pick up times. There will be more flexibility in classroom seating plans. Learning resources can once again be shared across classes. The school water fountain will be in use, but it is advisable that all pupils continue to bring a named water bottle daily.
- In the morning, the school gate will open at 8:40am whereby pupils and parents may come into the playground to wait or may leave their child at the gate to independently wait in the playground with friends. A member of staff (usually Mr Sullivan) will be on duty at the gate to help with this. The school bell will be rung at 8:50am and Class 2, 3, 4 and 5 children will then head into school via their cloakrooms. Class 1 staff will come to the playground at 8:50am to collect Class 1 pupils and lead the line around the side of the school building with entry via the Class 1 outside area. Waiting parents are then to leave the school premises. Children arriving between 8:50 and 8:55am will go straight into school from the school gate. The gate will be closed at 8:55am, by which time everyone will be present.
- Playtime for all pupils will return to being 10:45-11am. Lunchtime for all pupils will be 12-1pm. To begin the term all Reception pupils will be allocated a year 6 buddy, who will help them at these times.
- At the end of the school day, all classes will finish at 3:15pm. The school gates will be opened at 3:10pm and parents invited to come into the playground to wait. Class 1 parents will need to walk around the side of the school to wait in the Class 1 outside area. Please also exit around the side of the school too. Class 2 parents should wait by the Class 2 external door. Class 3, 4 and 5 pupils will make their way independently to the school playground to find their parents. The school gate will be closed at 3:25pm. \*
- Some children will select after school clubs or use wrap around care at the end of the day. A club list will be distributed at the start of term. \*
- Breakfast Club and After-School Club will begin on Thursday 2nd September, and children of all ages will be able to mix together during this wrap-around care. Please book in, in the usual way via an email to [office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk). As in previous terms, we expect wrap-around care to actually be needed, not as a lifestyle choice or a way of having staff supervised play dates. \*
- At drop off or pick up, face coverings are no longer required, but obviously adults may choose to wear them if they prefer. We will revert to just using the pedestrian gate for access and there will be no one way system. Could we take this opportunity to remind parents that dogs are not to enter the school site. If you wish your child to walk home independently, please ensure you have sent written permission to the school office. All other children will be picked up from the playground or gate by their parents/named carer. \*
- First aid requirements will continue to be led by our First Aiders, Miss Pavitt 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.
- Should a pupil need to self-isolate while awaiting a test result or due to a positive result, 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 welcoming visitors back to school. They will check in to school via the school office and entry buzzer systems.

Our measures and school routines will only have impact if we work together. We will communicate with parents should there be any changes to Government Guidelines.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to make contact.

Finally, a thank you to our whole School Community for their understanding, co-operation and collaborative working. The past 18 months have been a challenge we have risen to, and we hope for an even brighter future.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Sullivan and Mrs K Rabson Stark  
**Headteacher    Chair of Governors**