

Berrycoombe School

Berrycoombe Vale

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Head Teacher: Craig Robertson



Arrangements for school reopening

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by offering a huge 'thank you' for supporting the school over recent weeks and for supporting your child with their home learning.

As you will be aware, the government has announced that, so long as they are satisfied that it will be safe enough to do so, schools will begin to reopen for some children from 1st June 2020.

Our school will be reopening for some pupils on the 3rd of June.

We are very much looking forward to seeing many of our children once again, but I would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community is our priority.

I am therefore writing to share with you the arrangements we have implemented to ensure the safety of all pupils, parents and staff. These arrangements have been put into place following a full risk assessment process and are in line with guidance from the Department for Education.

We will continue to review the arrangements we have implemented and update you with any changes as and when we make them.

We recognise that some of you may have some concerns about your child returning to school and that for some children another change will be unsettling for them. We also understand that the past weeks will have been challenging for many families. If you would like to talk to us about your child and any concerns you have about their return to school, please – in the first instance contact – Claire Johnson, our **Parental Support Advisor**. You can ring her on 07713 499646 or phone the school directly on 01208 74969. You can also email her at psa@berrycoombe.cornwall.sch.uk

If your child has an EHC plan I know that our SENCO, Michelle Smith, will have been in contact with you during our closure. If you have any additional questions or concerns about your child's return to school, please do not hesitate to contact her.

We have contacted all families by phone who are in reception and year 1 and year 6. If you change your decision in relation to your child attending school, you must notify the school so we can agree a start date. This allows us to alter staffing appropriately.

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Children attending school need to follow all the usual attendance guidance and parents are asked to phone us if their child cannot attend on any given day (just like usual).

Initial Closure days

In order for us to ensure that we are fully ready for the return of pupils we will be closed on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June 2020 for staff training remaining open to those children of key workers only.

These arrangements have been decided at a Trust level as it will enable us to and ensure all arrangements to keep children safe are properly finalised.

School staff

There will be four small classes operating at this time of no more than 15 pupils in each.

Mrs Thomas will be teaching the reception children

Mrs Nichols will be teaching year 1 children

Mr Walton will be teaching year 1 children

Mr Atherton will be teaching year 6 pupils.

As numbers increase we have Mrs Donnithorne and Mr Tardivel on standby who have already prepared their classrooms.

No class will be larger than 15. There will be a small consistent teams of adults interacting with your children and each class will operate from their designated classroom, separate from other classes, with staggered breaks and lunches. There will be no assemblies in the hall at this time. The aim will be to maintain good social distancing at all times.

We will contact you with the name of your child's class teacher and their allocated classroom soon.

Arrangements for the start and end of the school day- Staggered daily Start

The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place and maintaining safe distances within normal arrangements can be a challenge. We have implemented the following measures for when pupils return to school:

In order to ensure arrangements are as safe and secure as possible we will be operating a staggered start for different year groups each day. The key messages are-

Only one adult to collect a child.

Be on time. Not early to avoid groups forming and not late to ensure you do not arrive at the same time as another year group.

Year 6

Start time: 9:00

Collection: 3:15

All Year 6 children to enter via the Camel Trail gate and proceed to their

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classroom.

Year R

Start time: 9:00-9:10

Drop off at the top of the steps.

Please do not accompany your child into the classroom. Please observe social distancing (keep 2 metres apart) when arriving.

Collection: 3:00-3:05

Please do not come into the classroom. Please observe social distancing (keep 2 metres apart) when outside the class.

Y1

Start time: 9:15-9:25

Drop off outside class door (Mr Walton's class) Drop off at top of steps (Mrs Nicolas class)

Please do not accompany your child into the classroom. Please observe social distancing (keep 2 metres apart) when arriving.

Collection: 3:10-3:15

Please do not come into the classroom. Please observe social distancing (keep 2 metres apart) when outside the class.

Please do not gather or group while dropping off or collecting your child.

Schools will also continue to operate a childcare facility for keyworkers:

This will now be run from the year 3 classroom and will be run by Lisa Gordon or Nicola Donnithorne.

Drop off times and collection time remain the same for these children

- **Children of critical workers (*Years 2,3,4,5 – other pupils will be accommodated in their year groupings*)**
- **Vulnerable pupils: those with a EHCP, with a Social Worker, or those with vulnerability to whom the school have decided to offer a childcare place.**

As with all other arrangements we will keep this under constant review and we will not open the school to any year group unless we are satisfied that it is safe to do so.

Maintaining a safe school environment

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the preventative measures the school has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection.

As per the advice from the government, the following actions for infection

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control remain in place:

- Displaying coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before and after eating any food, including snacks
 - Before leaving school
 - At regular intervals throughout the day
- Installing alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol throughout the school
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual
- School cleaned every night by a team of cleaners following latest DFE guidance.
- Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell, isolating any unwell people in a separate room, and providing a separate toilet, where possible
- Isolated classes of 15 children or less with no interaction between classes.
- Emphasis on outdoor learning in isolated zoned areas on the school site (we are lucky as we have a very large school site)
- Picnic lunches outside in each classes zoned area

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you continue to encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing, at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

In line with the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child at home if they develop coronavirus symptoms for a period of seven days. Symptoms include a high temperature or a new, continuous cough. Where symptoms continue after seven days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, or if your child receives a positive test result for coronavirus, please contact the school on 01208 74969 at the earliest opportunity.

Arrangements for break times and lunchtimes

We recognise the importance for all pupils to have a break from learning and to

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enjoy time outside during the school day. Reconnecting with friends will be an important aspect of pupils settling back into school life, but we have made some adjustments to break and lunch times.

- Breaks and lunches will be staggered so that each class does not interact or meet.
- The playground will be zoned. Year 6 will be on the large field
- Reception will be in their outdoor play area
- Year 1 will have the playground to themselves.
- As numbers increase we will continue to zone the playground and field to ensure classes are kept separate.
- We will be providing picnic lunches this term and children will be eating outside if the weather allows.

The school day

To minimise the number of pupils and staff assembling for periods of time, we have made the following changes to the school day:

- Classes of 15 in designated separate classrooms
- Children spaced apart in class
- Younger children grouped into smaller sub groups for play
- Virtual assemblies for each class using videos
- Increased emphasis on outdoor learning

Transition from Year 6 to Year 7

We recognise that this is a really important time for our Year 6 pupils as they are preparing for secondary school in September. Whilst we will not be conducting any on-site visits to secondary schools we will still be doing everything that we can to support these pupils to be ready. This includes:

- Liaising closely with our secondary schools to make sure they know all of the important information about your child.
- Providing bespoke lessons and guidance for year 6 pupils about transferring to secondary school.

We will answer any questions that they have and support them with any anxieties so that they can make the best possible start.

Support for pupils and families

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent weeks have been for us all and we all will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise the need to focus on pupils' emotional wellbeing as well as their return to learning. The following support is in place for pupils once they return to school.

- Our Nurture team will be returning to work on the 3rd of June. They will be supporting children virtually at home when needed and children in school. All Nurture group interactions with children will take place outside and be socially distanced. In bad weather there are a number of outside covered spaces that can be used.

Parents may wish to seek support for themselves from the following support

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agencies:

- Claire Johnson (Berrycoombe's Parental Support Advisor). You can ring her on 07713 499646 or phone the school directly on 01208 74969. You can also email her at psa@berrycoombe.cornwall.sch.uk
- Samaritans – call free 24 hours a day on 116 123
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline – call for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247
- Shelter provide free confidential information, support and legal advice on all housing and homelessness issues if you call 0330 0536 083 (please note, this is not a free phone number and your call will be charged). A free web chat is available at https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/webchat

I hope that these arrangements provide you with the information you need to support your child to return to school.

If you have any additional question, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

We are very excited to be welcoming children back but I promise you that everyone's safety is our main focus and priority.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Robertson

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