

Berrycoombe School

Berrycoombe Vale

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Head Teacher: Craig Robertson



February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements for school reopening on the 8th March 2021

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 schools will reopen from Monday 8th March 2021 and pupils will be expected to attend school from this date. If your child has been confirmed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and have been advised to shield, please contact Claire on 07713 499 646 as soon as possible, to discuss this further.

We are very much looking forward to seeing all 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 will continue to implement 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.

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.

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:-

- When entering school premises, we are asking parents to wear a face mask. This protect you but also the children arriving and leaving who are not wearing masks.
- Only one adult to drop off and collect pupils.
- Do not congregate around school gates.
- 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 Group	Entry/Exit Point	Start Time	Finish
Reception	Main Gate	8.45am	2.30pm
Y R/1	Main Gate	8.45am	2.30pm
Y 1/2	Main Gate	9am	2.45pm
Y 2	Main Gate	9.05am	2.50pm
Y 3	Bottom Gate	8.50am	2.35pm
Y 4	Main Gate	9.05am	2.50pm
Y 5	Bottom Gate	8.55am	2.40pm
Y 6	Bottom Gate	9am	2.45pm

-3-

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 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
- All staff members will wear face coverings when outside of their own bubbles.
- 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 (class bubbles) with no interaction between classes (including at lunch time- meals eaten in class and play time- children zoned and timetabled)
- Emphasis on outdoor learning in isolated zoned areas on the school site (we are lucky as we have a very large school site)

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 and/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.

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:

- 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.

Support for Pupils and Families

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent months 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.

- The Nurture Team: They will be supporting children in school if needed. 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.
- A significant focus during class time on feelings and emotional wellbeing.

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

- 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