



Burlington Infant & Nursery School

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10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid-19 arrangements update for January 2021

As the end of term approaches, I wanted to reach out to you all to say a very big thank you for supporting the school's efforts in keeping the children, staff and school community safe. You may be aware that there has been a spike in the number of cases across Kingston, and although we have now had 6 cases in the school, the positive cases of Covid-19 have been 'isolated cases' within each class bubble, which means that the infection has not been spreading in school. This is good news as we have managed to contain the virus and it has not been passed on from pupil to pupil, and I must thank you all for the part you have played to support this.

We regularly review and update our risk assessment based on up to date guidance from the government and from RBK Health and Safety, and we endeavour to continue to serve our community in the best possible way at this very challenging time.

The current risk assessment and measures that we have put in place have been reviewed and we have found that as all the positive cases have come from outside the school, there is no difference between seating arrangements in classes - with tables in rows or in groups. As an infant school, our very young children are not able to effectively socially distance, therefore, we have had to close the whole class bubble as soon as a positive case is confirmed within that class.

Autumn term review

We have been looking closely at the impact of the tables being in rows in Year 1 and 2 classes, and have decided that the benefits of seating in groups outweigh the benefits of seating in rows. We have been monitoring the provision throughout the autumn term and have found that progress has been slower this term as the seating arrangements do not allow for pupil to pupil interaction, adult support and collaborative group learning in lessons. This has meant that the children's progress in learning has been slower this term, and adults are not able to move around the class to support every child adequately. We have also found that possibly as a result of the seating arrangements, some friendship groups have changed and this may have had an effect on some children's wellbeing. We are keen to address these concerns in the spring term, having now seen that our measures are effective in stopping the spread of the virus even in classes that are not seated in rows (Reception and Nursery).

Finally, we would like to increase learning time for children and would like to make some changes in classes that are affected. In Year 1 and 2, we have decided to change the start and finish times for Diamonds and Emeralds, as they are losing 20 mins of learning time each day. This is essential intervention time especially for those needing more help to catch up following lockdown. We are also making the afternoon playtime for Year 1 and 2 'optional' for classes as and when they need it. This is because learning time in the afternoon is shorter and currently afternoon play cuts the learning time short. Teachers can still choose to take classes out as and when needed, and they will be best placed to make that decision for their children. Some minor improvements to Squirrels and Rabbits will also be introduced.



Please note that all changes will be brought in from **Tuesday 5th January**.

Our updated measures to keep your children safe are as follows:

New drop off and collection times from Tuesday 5th January 2021

Class	Drop off	Collection	Designated area for drop off/collection
Diamonds	8:40	3:10	Infant playground
Emeralds	8:40	3:10	Infant playground
Rabbits	8:40	3:00	Outside classroom
Squirrels	8:50	3:10	Outside classroom

- Please speak to the school office if you have any problems with this new allocated time.

New seating arrangements for Year 1 and 2 classes

All Year 1 and 2 classes will return to sitting in groups. This will require considerable re-planning to organise where children will be seated, who will need additional support and who will be in each group.

Covid-19 Risk Assessment

The school regularly reviews and updates the Covid-19 risk assessment. We have prepared a **summary of main points** for parents on our website which I hope you will find useful.

<https://www.burlingtoni.kingston.sch.uk/news/covid-19-latest-updates>

Punctuality

Finally, can I please remind all parents to arrive promptly at the allocated times to pick up and drop off children. The impact of children not arriving at the same time, for example in **Jupiter class** is that the teacher cannot start the lesson on time for the whole class, and each day, all the children are losing 20 minutes of learning time due to lateness. Please can I stress how important it is for us to maximise the learning time for our children to support progress and address gaps in learning as a result of lockdown.

How you can help Burlington Infants stay open – Please see attached document.

Parents' Survey

Thank you to all those who have already completed our parent survey. We really appreciate your support and encouragement, and want to thank you for all your positive comments. If you haven't already responded, you can leave feedback - <https://forms.gle/XCaZ73dkCBhxjgmw8>

I hope that this gives you some assurance that the measures we have in place are working and that we are making these essential changes to address the gaps in learning.

We would greatly appreciate all your support in adhering to our rules around the school site and by following government guidelines on social distancing and contact when outside of school.

If you have any questions, please do come and speak to me or any member of the senior leadership team who are always outside on duty at drop off and collection times.

Best wishes

Mrs S Yay-Walker
Headteacher