



# Burlington Infant & Nursery School

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Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: Children in Years 1, Reception and Nursery

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. As you may be aware, the government announced their proposal that children in Year 1, Reception and Nursery may be returning to school after the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

A survey was sent out last week to these year groups to ask for initial thoughts about this proposal. Thank you to those who have responded.

Thank you also for all your comments and questions. Unfortunately, I do not have all the answers, but I will try to address your concerns and queries based on the advice currently available. Please note that the information and guidance communicated to schools has been dripping in slowly and is changing on a daily basis.

We are doing everything we possibly can to ensure the safety of the children and staff once our school reopens. I will share with you some of the measures we are putting in place to do this to give you an idea of what the school will look like when it reopens. The school will not be as you know it, and it is important that your children are aware of this if they are returning. I will give you as much detail as possible to enable you to make an informed decision about whether returning to school at this time is right for your child.

Please be assured that this decision is entirely YOUR choice and there will be NO penalties for non-attendance. I have also attached the school's response to questions and comments for your information.

The following is a list of measures that we are taking:

### Allocation of groups

- The school will reopen on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Year 1 (with Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June as an inset).
- One year group will be brought in each week starting with Year 1.
- Following a satisfactory risk assessment review at the end of each week, another year group will be brought in. It is extremely important to us that children and staff are safe and the risks remain low.
- In order to ensure social distancing measures take place (max 8 in a class), **each child will be allocated 2 days a week – either Mon/Tues or Wed/Thurs**



- Children will be allocated a classroom and will remain in that classroom for the remainder of the term or until further notice.
- Each child will belong to a 'bubble' (group) of children and adults, and will not mix with other groups, in order to limit social contact throughout the day.
- Each 'bubble' in Y1 will be taught by a teacher in the mornings and by 2 TAs in the afternoons using their home learning packs.
- The groups will be allocated in register order.
- Wherever possible, we will group children with their classmates. However, due to uncertainty around final numbers from each class, your child may be placed in a bubble with children from another class.
- We will try to ensure siblings are allocated on the same days.
- Y1 children will be allocated their own desk and will carry out all their work and eat a packed lunch provided by school there. For more information on lunches, please read the 'Playtime and Lunchtime arrangements' section below.
- Whole class work will be carried out with children seated at desks. There will be no carpet time.
- All children must bring in a named water bottle. Water fountains have been turned off.
- Y1 children should bring in their own pencil case with all necessary equipment named. All personal belongings will be left on their desk throughout the day.
- Desks will be positioned 2m apart.
- Movement around the school will be limited to children's allocated classroom, toilets and the playground.
- Children will not have access to the halls, ICT suite, library or to any communal areas of the school.

### **Keyworker children**

- Keyworker children will be given the option to join one of the two day 'bubbles'.
- Keyworkers' children who require more than 2 days can remain in their current childcare provision which will take place at the junior school.
- These keyworker groups will be cared for by non-teaching staff as all school staff are now required to return to join the new arrangements. No teaching will take place due to insufficient staffing and the differing age ranges. Keyworker children who can independently access the learning may do so with their own packs.
- For children who do not attend school the online learning will continue as currently offered.

### **Playtime and Lunchtime arrangements**

- The playground will be zoned and children will be allocated areas to play during the morning and afternoon.
- Each class will remain in its bubble and will not mix with children from other classes/bubbles – a playground rota will be in place.

- 'Packed lunches' will be delivered to each class for their school lunches. This will be a healthy meal prepared by our caterers, which will include some hot meal food choices such as pasta pots, crudités, pudding. We have attached a copy of the menu in the email.
- Children eat their lunches at their allocated desks.
- Children will be allocated a lunch time playtime slot.
- If you decide not to take a school lunch, you can send in a packed lunch from home. Please ensure there are no bottles, fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolates. One savoury/main food item, a fruit and pudding/treat would be fine. We would like to remind parents that we are a healthy school.

### **Drop off and collection arrangements**

- Only one adult is permitted to drop off and collect children and parents should retain social distancing at all times.
- School staff will supervise all gate and check points.
- There will be a one-way system around the school site.
- Some Y1 bubbles will be allocated a Y2 classroom.
- There will be waiting areas/lines marked outside Y2 classes for parents and children to queue.
- **No scooters/bikes will be allowed on the infant site.**
- 2m distance lines will be marked out around the school site for guidance.
- External and internal signage placed throughout the school will reinforce social distancing guidelines.
- No waiting around on the school site: there will be staggered start and finish times to allow one class to be dropped off at a time.
- **Two entry gates:**(1) Burlington road entrance and (2) Gate by staff car park – children/parents must go across the field (no walking past the kitchens).
- **Two exit gates** - (1) Blagdon Road gate and (2) children's Centre gate
- Infant toilets are closed at drop off and collection time – children can only access toilets through their own classrooms.
- YN parents to only use the main gate on Burlington Road.
- To collect children, adults must wait in waiting areas at the allocated time. Staff will bring each class out at the allocated time.
- YR waiting area – marked lines in the infant playground – 2m apart.
- Y1 waiting area – outside Y2 classes
- YN waiting area – outside YN block

### **Daily checks, managing symptoms and other arrangements**

- Temperature will be taken of every child and member of staff at the start of each day – parents do not leave their child until their temperature has been checked and is below 37.8 degrees.
- Parents and staff are reminded that if there are any symptoms of COVID-19 in their household they will not be allowed on the school site and are advised to self-isolate the entire family for 14 days.
- Parents and staff will be asked if anyone in their household have experienced any of the symptoms. Symptoms include: new/continuous cough, temperature, and loss of taste/smell.
- Any child with any symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days or until a test has been carried out.
- If a child is tested positive with COVID-19, all children and staff in the child's 'bubble' will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days.
- All staff and children are asked to self-refer for a test if experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
- Parents MUST NOT administer Calpol (or similar medicine) before bringing their child to school to mask a fever.
- Surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Parents/visitors should avoid coming into the school office/reception unless in an emergency (e.g. collecting sick children).
- All communications with the school office should be via email or phone.
- Some staff may wear a mask if they are classed in a 'moderate risk' group.
- No reading mornings/reading den/reading in the hall.
- No school trips.
- No volunteers or non-essential visitors on site.
- No climbing on the playground equipment at drop off and collection times.
- All communications with the school office should be by phone or email
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be worn by all first aiders attending to sick children, and adults and when providing personal care to children if needed.
- Governors and the Local Authority are also aware of our plans to reopen and we will be in regular contact with them throughout this process.
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### **Items for each child to bring in each day**

- A named water bottle
- A named pencil case with pencils, colouring pencils for Y1 children
- A named sunhat
- Please also remember to apply sun cream
- A packed lunch if they are not having a school lunch

While we will put in place every measure possible to ensure the safety of all children and staff, strict social distancing with small children is unrealistic. Children as young as three years old will need the nurture that we have always provided, making social distancing of this age group an impossible task.

If children are upset or have hurt themselves, we will want to help and comfort them despite the social distancing rules.

We know from yearly experience, especially with children in Nursery and Reception, that the spread of childhood diseases and infection is not something we can control. The very nature of young children is that they do cough, sneeze and spread germs. We are told that children are often asymptomatic which makes it even harder to detect. Recent government advice also indicates that people from Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are at greater risk and therefore more vulnerable.

We are all committed to doing our very best to ensure the safety of all our staff and children, but I want to be clear that there are no guarantees in such a challenging and evolving situation. School will be a very different experience until we are able to return to normal. We will endeavour to make the experience as positive as possible and recognise children will be anxious. We hope their small groups will help.

I am preparing a short video which I will share prior to school opening so you can see what the classrooms will look like with less furniture, and how we have marked lines around the school to keep you 2m apart. Please take the time to talk to your child about this. The best way to prepare your child and reduce anxiety on their first day back will be to show them exactly what to expect when they return.

I hope this letter has given you an idea of what school will look like and the measures we are taking. I also hope this has given you some reassurance that your child's safety has been carefully considered. However, given the unprecedented nature of the situation, I understand that you may decide to keep your child at home. In this instance, any absence due to COVID-19 anxiety and concerns will be authorized and this will not impact on your child's attendance.

Please make a decision based on the above information whether you would like your child to return to school or not. Reopening school will take a great deal of planning and organisation and we are grateful for your help. Please make your final decision using this link - <https://forms.gle/RDNU6teRmm26N4AE7>

If you are currently accessing our keyworker childcare provision our office will contact you shortly to talk you through your options.

Please note that we currently do not have capacity for Year 2 children to return to school. Only children who have confirmed places will be permitted to enter the premises. We will be planning on a weekly basis and making changes to our provision dependent on current Government announcements. If we are asked to take Year 2 children back in the future, we will rethink the two-day offer. We may need to reduce days/sessions in order to free up classrooms.

Finally, thank you so much for all your support and encouragement through this very difficult time. We are incredibly lucky at Burlington to have such a warm and supportive parent community. We are really missing the children and are looking forward to welcoming them back. **Above all, we want them to be safe.** I appreciate this is a difficult decision for you as a parent and I will try to answer

any questions you may have – please send them through the survey. I will keep you updated of any changes as they occur.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Yay-Walker', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Yay-Walker

Headteacher