



Beeston Primary School

Town Street, Leeds, LS11 8PN



“Promoting a love of learning”

16th July 2020

Parents Update: School Opening in September

Dear Parents/Carers,

We can hardly believe we are reaching the end of another academic year. It has certainly been one to remember, in so many ways. There have been a huge amount of challenges for us, as a school, and for you as parents. We really feel that the strength, commitment and passion of our school community has helped us to get through this difficult time. Everyone has really pulled together and worked as a team; thank you all for being a part of that.

As you will know, the Government has confirmed that **all pupils in all year groups should return to school on a full-time basis from September**. We can't tell you how pleased we are to be able to open our doors up and fully welcome everyone back to school.

You will know that school has never actually 'closed'. Throughout lockdown, we have been open to Key Worker children and from the start of June, we began to welcome back children from Foundation Stage 2, Y1 and Y6. Partial opening has been a real success and, although different from 'normal', all those children who have come back have enjoyed the routine and security of school-life and learning.

As we look towards September's opening, we thought we would outline some of the changes and safety measures which we have put in place to protect us all. Please share these with your children.

Logistics

The Government made it clear that learning 'Bubbles' (small groups who learn and play together) can be much larger than they are now. We will operate school with the children in their normal classes to learn and extend these to year group bubbles at playtime and lunchtime. As you can imagine, in a school of our size, this has proved a logistical 'challenge', but one which we feel is important to tackle. As such, we have had to make some changes to the school day to keep groups of children and families at a social distance.

Staggered Start and Finish Times

We are very mindful that our school site does not easily facilitate parents, carers and families to socially distance. We have many people trying to use only a few entry and exit points. Whilst we realise that staggered starts and finish times will not be as convenient, they are going to be essential in allowing families to keep safe. We have tried to be considerate of those who have children in more than one year group and allow time to get to different parts of the school.

You will already have seen a letter detailing plans for the first day back (Tuesday 8th September). Children new to Reception will also have already received information about their own staggered 'start' and 'finish' times and can follow the timings below in due course.

From Wednesday 9th September, the following arrangements will be in place (Y1-6).

Phase	Drop off	Time	Collection	Time
Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception)	Nursery and Reception classroom doors	8.50am	Nursery and Reception classroom doors	3.00pm

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)	Classroom Doors and KS1 Cloakroom	8.40am	Classroom Doors and KS1 Cloakroom	3.10pm
Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)	In the KS1 Playground. Children walk around the back of the school on their own.	8.50am (unless children have siblings in KS1, then they can walk around at 8.40am)	Lower Key Stage 2 Playground. Accessed through the Nursery gate and through Reception Playground.	3.15pm
Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)	In the KS1 Playground. Children walk around the back of the school on their own.	9.00am (unless children have siblings in KS1, then they can walk around at 8.40am)	Lower Key Stage 2 Playground. Accessed through the Nursery gate and through Reception Playground.	3.25pm

Please ensure that you are prompt. Being early or late will cause a problem for others so please play your part and follow the rules to keep everyone safe.

If you are collecting children from Lower Key Stage 2 and need to wait for children in Upper Key Stage 2, then please wait on the playground and move to the far end so that those children and families who are leaving have a clear access path.

We will use cones and tape to mark out one-way systems to help you and there will be plenty of staff around to help guide you while you get used to the new systems.

Children in Y5 and Y6 are allowed to walk home on their own if we receive a signed permission slip. Those Y5 children who are moving into Y6, who have previously walked home this academic year may continue to walk home without a new slip. If you would like to change this arrangement and collect your child, then please contact the main school office. Those Y4 children, moving into Y5 must be collected on the first day, but they will bring home a permission slip and may walk home as soon as this is signed and returned to school. Children who this affects, will already have had a text message with additional information.

Play Times and Lunch Times

Children will be able to play with all other children in their year group. They will have a zoned off area of the playground and we will teach them to play some new games to help them 'socially distance' and limit physical contact with each other. Key Stage 2 children will be excited to see and use our new trim trail and games equipment, partially funded by the Friends of Beeston; everything will be wiped down after use.

In order to be able to safely staff our staggered lunch times, children will start their lunch break at 11.30am and everyone will be back in class by 12.30pm ready to learn. Lunches will be eaten in the classrooms or outside where possible and those children who have a school lunch will have a grab bag 'picnic' style meal where all of the packaging is disposable or recycled. The Leeds Catering Team have been amazing and adapted these bags so that there are hot meals as well as cold; and a large range of meals from pizza, sausage sandwich and fish and chips. You can see the full menu on the school website. If your child chooses to bring their own packed lunch, they will also eat it in the classroom or outside with their class bubble. The idea is to avoid year groups mixing.

School Uniform and P.E.

For those children who have been back at school since June, school uniform has not been compulsory. This was in recognition of the shops being closed and the fact that most children would have grown over the period of lock down. From September, we expect all children to be back in school wearing the correct school uniform.

On days when your child has P.E., they may come to school in their school P.E. kit. We will be avoiding asking children to change clothes in school. Keep an eye out for year group newsletters (on the website and sent home) for the days where this applies to your child.

School bags and coats can come to school. Book bags can be brought to school and books will be changed during the week. Your child may also bring in a clearly named water bottle. They can fill this up at school or at home. Our normal school drinking water 'fountains' will remain closed for the time being.

Attendance and Illness

All children must attend school and our normal attendance policy applies. School is no longer optional. We know that all children will have a lot of 'catch-up' learning to do and so every day really does matter.

If your child is poorly, then please phone the main school office and let us know. It is incredibly important that if your child or a household member displays any of the following symptoms they should stay at home, notify school and take a Covid-19 test:

- A high temperature of 37.8 degrees c or above
- A new and continuous cough
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste

In this instance, please inform school of the outcome as soon as possible so that we can use the track and trace system and ensure the safety of all other children and staff in school.

If your child shows any of the above symptoms in school, then they will be isolated and you will be phoned and asked to collect them. You must then seek a test and inform school of the outcome. If the test is negative then your child can return to school straight away.

As a parent, you will be informed if there are any confirmed positive cases in school and we will then follow the advice of Public Health England and 'close down' any affected bubbles. Anyone directly affected will be informed promptly.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Initially we will be prioritising places at our Breakfast Club to 'working parents' who rely on the earlier school opening to be able to get to work on time. Those parents to whom this applies will already have had contact from our Breakfast Club Team.

We hope to be able to get after school extra-curricular clubs up and running soon. These clubs are an essential part of our school curriculum and we know how much joy and enrichment they bring. However, for the time being, we are still working on safe logistics and after school clubs will not start immediately. We will be in touch in the new academic year, once we know we are able to safely deliver these. In the first instance staff will be focussing on targeted additional 'tuition' in order to help pupils catch up on lost learning (more details to follow).

Visitors to School (including parents)

In line with our risk assessments, we will be limiting visitors into school. If you would like to talk to a member of staff or have a question, it would help us immensely if you could phone the school office rather than visiting in person. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher, then please contact the main school office (via phone or email) and they will pass the message on. Unfortunately, there will be no 'Afternoon Tea' or Celebration Assemblies.

Changes to our Curriculum

The Government has advised that schools do not need to teach the full National Curriculum until Summer Term 2021. This is in recognition of the fact that children have had a long time away from the formalised learning of school and there are key areas of learning which must be targeted in order for them to 'catch-up' and get back on track. We have thought hard about how we will prioritise learning at Beeston Primary School, and whilst we will be having an extra focus on phonics, reading, writing and maths, we will also be prioritising pupil mental and physical health and well-being. We will share more details of our 'Recovery Curriculum' in the new academic year. We will spend time carefully assessing each pupil and understanding their own individual needs.

In line with Health and Safety Guidance, there will be no assemblies, singing practices or general use of our computing suite until further notice.

Hygiene Measures

Children will be asked to wash their hands as soon as they enter school and just before they leave, as well as at regular intervals throughout the day. Classrooms are well ventilated, well-supplied with hand sanitisers and antibacterial wipes and resources are frequently wiped down. Additional cleaning has been organised and touch plates and contact surfaces are wiped down throughout the day. In school, everyone will be encouraged to use the, 'If you've used it, wipe it,' principle. These are just some of the additional measures which school has put in place.

School Calendar Dates

School will close for Summer **on Friday 17th July** and re-open for pupils **on Tuesday 8th September** (Monday 7th September is a Training Day). Summer closure will be the first time school has closed its doors since February half term, as we have remained open throughout the 'normal' Easter and Spring Bank holidays. As well as giving pupils and staff a break, this closure will also enable essential buildings maintenance improvements to be made.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your support. We hope you continue to stay safe and that you know that you can contact the main school office, in September, if you have any questions or would like any support.

We are sure that it won't take us very long to get used to our, 'new normal,' and our lovely school to be full of excited learners once more.

We will continue to keep in touch after the summer break.

Very best wishes,

The Senior Leadership Team

Mr N. Edensor
Headteacher

Mrs B. Tidey
Senior Deputy Headteacher

Mr S Nicholson
Deputy Headteacher