



# Beeston Primary School

Town Street, Leeds, LS11 8PN



“Promoting a love of learning”

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all well and keeping safe.

As we approach the end of this half term, I wanted to summarise the effects that COVID-19 has had on our school community. Since September, unfortunately we have had to close the Year 2 and Year 4 bubbles and put in place home learning for these cohorts as they self-isolated for 2 weeks. Even though daily work was set by the teachers, certain families did not access their home learning which means that some pupils are sadly falling further behind with their education. It is so important that if a bubble closes, all children continue their learning at home. This is also the case for any pupils who are isolating and awaiting test results. **This is now a statutory requirement.** If you are struggling getting your child to complete their work or you do not understand how to teach a particular concept then please let school know and we will do our best to support you whilst you self-isolate.

Thank you to all those families who did complete all the home learning tasks. We have had some great feedback from pupils and parents alike which is helping us to refine our future home learning experiences.

Sadly as COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Leeds (we are now in Tier 2 of local lockdown), closing bubbles with the onus on parents to home-school their children is nationally becoming the norm.

As a leadership team, we are very aware of the negative impact self-isolation can have on all of those involved. It is difficult for anyone to have to stay indoors for such a long period of time. Parents, staff and pupils could be negatively impacted in many ways e.g.:

- Lost learning through not attending school for up to 10 days;
- Not having access to an appropriate environment and resources to learn at home;
- Missing friends and socialising;
- Loneliness;
- Having to take time off work for child care (in many cases unpaid);
- Working from home with children to look after as well;

These are just some of the challenges which those who have to isolate could face.

As you know, currently we have year group bubbles. We made the decision to plan for this in July when we set up playground and lunch-time rotas and completed our first Covid-19 Risk Assessment in line with advice from the Leeds Health and Safety Team.

Headteacher Mr. N. Edensor

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Since then, we have reflected on the guidance from Public Health England, our own Risk Assessment and logistics in school and we have taken the decision to reduce the size of a bubble and to separate these bubbles into classes. These changes will be effective from after half term. This means that, in the future, there may be the option of Public Health England directing us to close a class bubble of 30 pupils for 14 days, instead of a year group of 90 pupils. Our aim is to cause less disruption for school and for families. Due to the nature of provision and the way our younger children in Foundation Stage learn, bubbles in Nursery and Reception will remain the same as they are now.

We have also had three staff members test positive for COVID-19, including myself. This puts extra pressure on the senior leadership team as they continue in my absence. Thankfully, as we are a large staff, we have not had to rely on any supply teachers so far, causing minimal disruption to teaching and learning.

## **Updated Attendance Policy**

During the coronavirus pandemic all schools have had to update their attendance policies to reflect the new laws and guidelines regarding, mandatory school attendance, test & trace and self-isolation. We are committed to meeting these obligations with regards to school attendance by:

- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Supporting parents/carers and pupils who are concerned about the coronavirus

This addendum to the school policy reflects the latest advice from the local authority. In line with the Department for Education's policy, Leeds has stated that 'non-attendance' is permitted if attending school is:

- Against guidance from Public Health England and/or the Department of Health and Social Care relating to the incidence of coronavirus or its transmission
- Prohibited by any legislation or statutory directions relating to the incidence of transmission of coronavirus

This includes, self-isolation, quarantining and shielding.

## **Self-Isolation**

Self-Isolation means pupils should and can stay at home if they or someone they live with develops symptoms. Parents or carers must notify the school on the first day that their child needs to self-isolate. The pupil will stay at home until they or the symptomatic person they live with receives their coronavirus test results.

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**If the pupil’s test result is negative:** the pupil will return to school when they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus. They should continue to stay at home if they remain unwell (i.e. with a different illness).

**If the person the pupil lives with tests negative:** the pupil will stop self-isolating and return to school.

**If the pupil’s test result is positive:** The pupil’s parent/carer must notify the school about the positive test result as soon as possible. They must contact the school office at their earliest convenience. Proof of a positive COVID-19 test can be sent to the following email address **[positivecovid@beestonprimary.org](mailto:positivecovid@beestonprimary.org)**, as soon as the parent/carer receives the result, even if this is at a weekend. This allows the school to take the appropriate action. This email address is for COVID -19 positive cases only.

Pupils who test positive must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms, and must only return to school when they no longer have symptoms (other than a cough or a loss of sense of smell or taste).

**If the person the pupil lives with tests positive:** If a member of the pupil’s household, support bubble or a ‘close contact’ tests positive, the pupil must self-isolate for 14 days. The pupil must do this from when the member of their household first had symptoms, or the day the pupil last met with the ‘close contact’ who received the positive result. This is the definition for ‘close contact’:

- Direct close contacts: face-to-face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face-to-face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- Proximity contacts: extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- Travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

If you’ve been in close contact with someone who has coronavirus and need to self-isolate, you will be contacted by test and trace. Parents will be contacted on the behalf of children.

## **Quarantine**

If your child has to quarantine after they have travelled to a country that is not on the government’s exceptions list then the parent or carer must contact the school immediately. The pupil must quarantine for 14 days on their arrival to the UK and return to school thereafter.

## **Shielding**

If there is a local lockdown and a child is required to shield, the parent/carer will notify the school and provide proof of their shielding by forwarding their letter to the school office at **[mainoffice@beestonprimary.org](mailto:mainoffice@beestonprimary.org)**. The pupil will stay at home until the shielding measures

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in the local area are paused. Once the shielding measures are lifted, we will contact the pupil's parent/carer to set the expectation that they can return to school.

## **Remote (Home) Learning**

If a pupil is not attending school because of circumstances related to coronavirus, but where the pupil is not ill, the school will provide the pupil access to remote education.

The school uses its website to set work for those children who are not attending school due to COVID-related reasons. These tasks are linked to the work set in class that day. This ensures that gaps are not appearing in the children's learning. Teachers give feedback virtually on this work. Where the children do not have access to the internet or suitable devices, home learning packs are provided and sent home to the child.

All parents have been contacted to make sure that their child can access the platform. Please call the school office if you or your child cannot access the school website.

## **Our Recovery and Catch-up Curriculum**

We know that school closures between March and July had a huge impact on many of our children's learning. Because of this, we implemented our Recovery Curriculum to help all our children 'catch up' on missed learning. We have modified the curriculum so that teaching time can be prioritised to address any significant gaps in pupils' knowledge. Our priorities are: pupil well-being, phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and maths. Our Recovery Curriculum is already having a positive impact on all of our children during the school day and children are already beginning to 'catch up'. In addition to this, we are running a range of extra sessions after school for many of our children. We hope to be able to run these each half term and therefore provide this additional support for as many children as possible over the school year.

## **Face Coverings**

Now that Leeds has been identified as an area with tier 2 restrictions, the school is advising parents to wear masks or visors in the school playground. Thank you to those parents and carers who are supportive of this; we must all continue to work together as a team to keep our whole school community as safe as possible.

## **Year 6**

Parents with children in year 6 need to complete the common preference form by the 31<sup>st</sup> October. This should have been emailed to parents/carers. If you have not received this email please visit. <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school>

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## **Free School Meals**

Since returning to school our circumstances have continued to change. We are living through difficult times and we want to make sure that your child has everything they need. Please read the following information and apply for Free School Meals if you think you meet the criteria.

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions to help:

### **1. Do I Qualify For Help?**

Although children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals, all parents and carers that meet the criteria below are encouraged to apply for free school meals so that the school can access the appropriate funding for your children.

You can claim Free School Meals for any child who normally lives with you and who is classed as being under your parental care.

To get Free School Meals you must receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (and your net combined household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax)
- Income Support, Pension Guarantee Credit, Income-based Job Seekers Allowance.
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit Only (With No Working Tax Credit) and your Annual Taxable Income does not exceed £16,190.

### **2. How do I register?**

Read and complete the forms added to the school website. Make sure you sign it and then return to it to the address provided.

### **3. Do I need to fill in separate registration forms for each child?**

No. You only complete one form which will ask for information about each of your children

### **4. Will other pupils know my child is receiving free school meals?**

No. We provide the same food to all pupils and lunches are ordered and purchased in the same way for everyone. There is no difference at all.

### **5. Does my child have to eat the free school meals?**

No and if your child brings a packed lunch you should still register because we will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways in school.

### **6. What if my child is self-isolating?**

We are providing hampers for pupils in receipt of free school meals. These are provided by the Leeds catering service. We can deliver these straight to your home if you are not able to collect them because the whole family is isolating.

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## 7. Are there any other benefits to receiving free school meals?

Yes! School receives extra funding (pupil premium) for every pupil who receives free school meals. We use this to run breakfast club, provide extra resources and offer support from specialist staff as well as a full programme of intervention. This money really makes a difference and it is important that you apply.

If you need any help with completing the form (which is available on the school's website) then please get in touch and we will do our best to help you.

### **Important Information**

Please remember that if your child tests positive for Coronavirus, you will need to send proof of any positive COVID-19 test results to the following email address **[positivecovid@beestonprimary.org](mailto:positivecovid@beestonprimary.org)**, as soon as you receive them, even if this is at a weekend, so that we can take appropriate action. This email address is for COVID-19 positive cases only.

If your child receives a negative test result, please email proof of this to the main school office: **[mainoffice@beestonprimary.org](mailto:mainoffice@beestonprimary.org)**.

I do hope that you have a productive conversation during your parent consultation meeting this week and thanks again for your support, trust and understanding during these challenging times.

Have a lovely half term break and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

Best wishes,

Mr Edensor  
(Headteacher)

Headteacher Mr. N. Edensor

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