



Baines' Endowed

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CDARI**

Penrose Avenue
Blackpool
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4th August 2020

Return to School September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well and that you are enjoying some family time this summer, in spite of the mixed weather.

I am writing to you regarding our current arrangements for the return to school in September for **ALL pupils** in Nursery and School. To clarify the situation in September, the government has stated that **attendance for ALL pupils is statutory** and that the school attendance system will be running as normal, i.e. under current guidance, attendance is NOT optional; you **MUST** send your children back to school.

Whilst I realise that some of you, whose children have not been in school or nursery since March, may feel unsure or anxious about your child returning to school or nursery, I can assure you that **all necessary safety precautions** are being, and will continue to be taken, to ensure that your child is safe at our school and nursery. The safety of our pupils and our staff is of the utmost importance and remains our main priority.

You will be aware that the government is expecting a learning 'gap', created by the Covid-19 pandemic situation. Teaching staff have already attended an INSET day, on which we discussed and shared planning for September; we have another INSET day planned for 1st September, when teachers will receive training on current government guidance regarding risk assessment, further safeguarding updates and will spend more time discussing the core subjects of English and Maths, along with PSCHE, which will support our Pastoral programme throughout the year.

When your child returns in September, the first two weeks of school have been planned to deliver English and Maths each morning, as usual, and then each afternoon will be focused on a Pastoral Reintroduction to School programme, to help your child explore their feelings around Covid, returning to school, missed friendships, new systems, leaving their previous class teacher and meeting their new class teacher. Our aim is to nurture your child, to ensure that they feel happy and safe being back at school and nursery.

We are still living in very challenging circumstances, and although we are no longer in Lockdown, it is still vital that we maintain social distancing and regular and persistent hand-washing, in order to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe: we are still living with a pandemic and are still dealing with a crisis situation.

Social Distancing in School and Nursery

In September, school and nursery will continue to operate in Social Learning Pods. Each Pod will encompass one Year Group, therefore, including Nursery, there will be nine Pods in total: two at Nursery and seven at school. Each Pod will have its own set of scheduled times for the start/end of the day, breaktimes, lunchtime and toilet times. We will continue to maintain a cleaning regime, which ensures that toilets are cleaned each time they have been used by a Pod. Adults and children will remain in their Pod and will not mix with other Pods. Staff who need to work across more than one year group, will continue to follow the two metres distance rule. Within each Pod, government legislation will be followed: there will be no groups of tables; all pupils will sit facing forwards and will have their own set of personal resources to use each day. A one-way system will continue to operate in school and we will not be gathering together in the halls for collective Worship or assemblies, until it is safe to do so.

Early Birds and Bridges

Children who currently have places for Early Birds and Bridges can continue to use this service, however school is not able to offer any more places for these clubs, due to the fact that school is only able to look after children in our two halls. I must also ask that children have breakfast at home, as we are not able to provide our usual breakfast service at the current time, due to social distancing restrictions. Bridges children will be given a drink and a cold snack. In September, all children attending Early Birds and Bridges will need to be brought to and collected from the Main School Office. Your child will be registered by a member of our Early Birds/Bridges staff here.

Start and End Times for the School Day for Each Social Learning Pod

PLEASE NOTE: THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT FLEXIBLE AND MUST BE ADHERED TO.

In order to limit crowds of people on our site at the start and end of each day, each Pod has its own start and end time and its own Entrance and Exit Door. Upon arrival at school, parents/carers will enter our site from the pavement via one of two gates: Nursery (near to the Children's Centre Building) or Year 5 Gate (at the far end of school, near to the rear car park). All parents/carers must follow the signs for social distancing and leave the site through the designated gate: Main Gate or Year 5 Gate. School is operating a one-way system via the Nursery Gate, leaving at the Main Gate: this will be the route for the majority of parents. Due to the large numbers of parents/carers who will be using this system, I must insist that you **DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY**, since we can not allow any parents/carers to wait on site. **To ensure the safeguarding of all of our children, all parents/carers must see their child into the care of a member of school staff.**

Pod	Entrance Gate	Entrance and Exit Door	Start Time	Finish Time	Exit Gate
Nursery	Nursery Gate	Nursery Main Door	9:00 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	Main Gate
Reception	Nursery Gate	Reception Canopy	8:45 a.m.	3:15 p.m.	Main Gate
Year 1	Nursery Gate	Reception Doors	8:55 a.m.	3:20 p.m.	Main Gate
Year 2	Nursery Gate	Key Stage 1 Door 1/2JB	8:45 a.m.	3:15 p.m.	Main Gate
Year 3	Nursery Gate	Library Door	8:55 a.m.	3:30 p.m.	Main Gate
Year 4	Nursery Gate	Main Hall	8:50 a.m.	3:25 p.m.	Main Gate
Year 5	Year 5 Gate	Year 5 Study Room	8:45 a.m.	3:15 p.m.	Year 5 Gate
Year 6	Nursery Gate	Side Door (with steps)	8:45 a.m.	3:20 p.m.	Main Gate

Collecting Children at the End of the School Day

All parents/carers will need to maintain a two metre distance when collecting their child from school.

- Nursery parents/carers should access the site via the Nursery Gate and once you have collected your child, please walk the length of the playground to the Main Gate to exit the site.
- Parents/carers of pupils in Reception, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6: your child will join you as you walk onto the playground and you will both be able to exit the school site at the Main Gate. There will be signs posted to help you.
- Parents/carers of Year 5 children will need to wait near the Year 5 Gate and your child will be brought out to meet you. Please wait at a distance of two metres, thank you.

Uniform: Back to Normal

Following government guidance, all children must wear their school uniform to school from September. Children can bring a coat to school, along with their P.E. kit in a labelled bag (these will be stored on their coat peg) and a *small* bag/school reading bag to carry their reading book to and from school. Children must NOT bring any other personal items into school: no pencil cases or books from home, thank you. No mobile phones are allowed in school at all, since we are unable to store them for the children.

Lunches

If your child usually has a school lunch, they will be provided with a picnic lunch bag, which will be collected for them by one of the two members of staff in their Pod, and will be brought to their Pod (room), where they will eat their lunch with the Podmates. Lunches will continue to be balanced and healthy. Each day Reception children will eat their lunch in the dining hall; this is to allow them to become familiar with dining routines. For all of the other six Pods, children will take a turn on a rota to eat their lunch, hot school meal or packed lunch, in the dining room with their Pod; on this day, children who have a school dinner, will be offered a hot meal. Reception will eat lunch from 11:45 - 12:15 p.m. as usual and one other Pod will eat lunch between 12:15 - 1.00 p.m. each day. Children who bring a packed lunch will continue to bring their own lunch and will eat this with their Podmates.

Breaktimes

Each Pod will have their own designated breaktime in the morning, at lunchtime and in the afternoon, to ensure that they get exercise and fresh air throughout the course of the school day.

Resources

Each child will have their own allocated desk and chair, that will be their personal space whenever they are in school. At their desk, they will have their own personal resources: pencil and ruler. Resources that must be shared between Pods will be sanitised using appropriate spray or wipes after each use. Where possible, resources will be left for several days before they are used again. Children will be allowed to bring their school reading book home. Each Pod will be given a day to return their reading books; these books will be kept out of circulation for one week and will then be returned to the reading scheme for other children to choose.

Online Classrooms

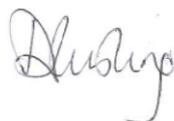
Online classrooms will continue to be used as part of our curriculum and for homework. If any families are asked to self-isolate, children who are unable to attend school will receive lessons via the online classroom. Due to teachers being back in school full-time in September, they will not be available online during the hours of 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. All work and messages will be picked up at the end of the teacher's school day. Thank you.

The information included in this letter is current at the time of my sending it to you. I will monitor the information from the government closely and will contact all parents/carers with any relevant updates or amendments. If there are any changes, it is most likely that I will contact parents/carers at the end of August.

Myself and all of the staff are looking forward to seeing all of the children back in school in September - we have missed them all.

Take care and enjoy the rest of the summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D. Rusling', written in black ink.

Mrs. D. Rusling
Headteacher