

## **Wider school opening – Frequently Asked Questions 2**

### **Will my child have to wear school uniform?**

No. We would like children to wear clothes that are suitable for a day in school, including being physically active. Where possible, we recommend that children wear clean clothes to school each day.

### **Does my child need a PE kit?**

Yes. Please bring your child's PE kit (or something appropriate to do PE in if their PE kit no longer fits) into school, in a bag, on the first day back.

We ask parents to use their discretion as to how often they wish their child to take their PE kit home to wash.

### **Will my child be with their friends?**

Children will be with others from their year group. As not all children are coming back into school, it is not possible to guarantee that every child will be with their friends. Staff have made decisions about the grouping of children based on their knowledge of friendship groups and appropriate staffing.

Owing to the current government guidance regarding groupings, it will not be possible for either children, or adults, to change groups.

We will let you know which adult your child is with and the other children in their group, prior to them coming back into school.

### **What will a typical school day look like?**

The government has asked schools to prioritise mental health and wellbeing over learning and this will be the case at The Blake School.

Schools will be given flexibility to provide education as they see fit during Term 6 and will not be penalised for not delivering the full curriculum.

Staff will be providing a structured day, which will include opportunities for learning, especially in relation to English and Maths. However, given the unfamiliar and unusual circumstances, staff will be planning flexible days, which allow time for activities focused on physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

## **What should my child bring into school with them?**

In order to reduce the risk of transmission we want to minimise what is brought into school and taken home each day.

We ask that your child brings nothing in with them except a lunch box (if they are bringing a packed lunch from home), a water bottle and either a coat or sunhat!

Please apply long lasting sun cream before your child leaves home in the morning, sun cream should not be brought in and cannot be applied in school.

## **What steps will be put in place to reduce transmission?**

Every endeavour will be made to ensure that groups of children do not mix with other groups. Staff will work consistently with one group of children. Our outside area will be zoned to allow for groups to make the most of the fresh air and opportunities for exercise, without mixing with other groups of children.

Good hygiene practices will be encouraged including regular handwashing. Government guidance following the cleaning of the building is being adhered to. Additional cleaning of surfaces, including tabletops and door handles will take place during the day as well as overnight.

There will be no 'whole school' gatherings, such as Collective Worship. Use of any shared areas will be timetabled to ensure no mixing of groups; surfaces in shared areas will be cleaned in between each group's use.

A one-way system for moving around the outside of the site will be put in place in order to aid social distancing at drop off and pick up times.

We are aware that the highest risk in terms of transmission is between adults. Please spend as little time on site as possible at drop off and pick up and use email or the telephone to contact the school.

## **If my child is eligible, must they attend full-time?**

School will offer full-time provision to any child that wants it. However, there will be no penalty if a child does not attend school every day, even where they could do so.

School will close at 12 noon on Friday.

No child with any of the symptoms of Covid-19 should attend school. All existing self-isolation requirements remain in place.

## **Why will school close at 12 noon on Friday?**

Staffing for each of the groups cannot be changed, we cannot move adults between groups to cover. Teaching staff are entitled to weekly planning time and it is not possible to provide this without another adult going into the group. Being closed on Friday afternoons will allow all teachers to have planning time.

The time will also be used for there to be a deep clean of the school.

## **Can I change my mind about my child attending school?**

Yes, assuming that we have staffing capacity and spaces in the appropriate year groups.

If you have not completed the online form indicating that your child may want a place after half-term, a place has not been allocated to them. If you have not already completed the form, or you change your mind, it will be necessary to agree a return date for your child before they can be welcomed back.

If, in the future, you wish your child to come into school, please contact the school office and someone will be in touch with you to discuss this.

Under the current government guidance, if, at any time, we have more requests for places than we are able to accommodate in school, we will allocate places as required by the government. Children of key workers and those who are considered vulnerable will be offered places first. Remaining places will then be offered starting with the youngest children.

## **What will happen if my child has an accident in school?**

Children will be cared for by the adults in their group. As necessary appropriate first aid will be given. In order to protect children and staff, any staff administering first aid may wear some items of PPE. We will continue to inform you if your child has bumped their head.

## **What will happen if my child becomes unwell whilst in school?**

As now, we will call you immediately to inform you of this. Your child will be taken away from their group and will wait in a separate room with a member of staff until you are able to collect them. For their own protection, the member of staff waiting with your child will wear some PPE.

We would ask that you do not send your child into school if you have any concerns that they may be unwell, whether or not this is with symptoms of Covid-19.

Please advise the school as soon as you are able if your child is unwell. You **must** email the school office ([office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk)) by 7.30am if your child is unwell, so that we can make a decision as to whether a group will need to close until testing has taken place.

## **What will happen if there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus in the school?**

Government advice will be followed. At the moment, the advice is that every child and member of staff in the group in which the child or adult has become unwell will be required to stay away from school for a period of 14 days.

Any individual who has received a diagnosis can return to school after 7 days if they are well, but this will be dependent on there being staffing available for them.

Parents are asked to check their email prior to coming into school each day. If a member of staff, or a child, has become unwell overnight, it will not be possible for that group of children to come into school that day, or until test results have been received. If a child or staff member within a group tests positive for Covid-19 then no member of the group will be permitted in school for the next 14 days. We will advise you of the date your child's group will re-open.

If there are multiple cases of Covid-19 within the setting, or track and trace data shows increased numbers of staff have been exposed to the virus, it may be necessary to close the school. Government advice will be followed.

## **Will children in the eligible year groups be disadvantaged if they do not attend school?**

No. Families will make decisions about whether or not to send their children into school based on a wide range of factors, every family circumstance is different.

Home learning will continue to be provided, but because they are all now teaching full time in school, staff will not be able to respond to emails as quickly as they have been to date. Staff have been asked to respond to any emails within a week, though they may do so in a shorter time frame.

## **What is happening about school meals?**

Our school kitchen will be re-opening and until further notice will provide packed lunches only. Children will be given a choice of ham, cheese or tuna for their sandwich filling.

Any child who wishes to have a school lunch can request one, the normal school lunch charge of £2.20 will apply.

Children who are in school and who are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals (Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2), will also be asked if they would like to have a packed lunch in school free of charge.

Children who are in school and who are entitled to benefits related Free School Meals will be asked if they would like to have a packed lunch in school free of charge. For these children, a decision must be made to either have a packed lunch, or to continue to receive the voucher. It is not possible to have a packed lunch on only some days of the week and continue to receive vouchers.

The families of children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 who are entitled to benefits related Free School Meals, or who are in other year groups but choose not to send their child into school, will continue to receive vouchers as they are doing now.

If your child is bringing in a packed lunch from home we ask that it contains only containers and packaging that they are able to open themselves. Lunchboxes should contain everything that a child needs to eat their lunch e.g. a spoon for yogurt.

## **Will fruit be provided for children in Reception and Year 1?**

It will not be possible for the school to provide this during Term 6. If you wish your child to have a mid-morning snack, please send them into school with a piece of fruit.

## **My child has additional needs, will they continue to be supported?**

Staff are committed to providing support to all children at this time. However, current government guidance places restrictions on staff and pupil movement around the site and the equipment that is available. It will not therefore be possible for children to access some of the breakout spaces, or shared areas that they were able to earlier in the year.

We have made some changes to our Positive Behaviour Policy in order to support staff managing challenging behaviour at this time. You can see a copy of the revised policy on our website. Owing to restrictions on staff movement, we are unable to move children to be with other staff, or to carry



on their learning in a different environment. For the safety and wellbeing of everyone on site, if a child's behaviour cannot be successfully managed within their group, using all the strategies that staff have available to them, it will be necessary to move to a period of Fixed Term Exclusion.

We have created a new set of expectations for this time, which we are sending out with this document and you can find on our website. Please do talk these through with your children so that they are clear about our behaviour expectations.

Staffing has been carefully planned and detailed information has been shared between staff in order to ensure that children's needs are understood and appropriately addressed within their group. Staff will continue to be able to access advice from Rebecca Patchett, SENCO. Children will be enjoying flexible learning within in small groups, which we anticipate will enable them all to continue to flourish within our setting.

## **What are the arrangements for dropping children off and collecting them?**

For the good of the whole school community, it is important to ensure social distancing at drop off and pick up times.

We are therefore introducing a one-way system around the school, which we would ask you to adhere to. Signage will be in place around the school site to help you. The usual Reception gate will be open for children accessing the Reception and front Year 1 classroom. Children accessing the classrooms at the front of the school should come in through the single gate near the hall. Children accessing the classrooms at the back of the school should come in through the gate on the field. The double gates at the front and back of the school will be exit points – for some parents this may mean that you have to walk right around the school building before exiting.

If at all possible, we ask that only one person brings your child to and collects your child from school.

We are introducing staggered drop off and pick up times. Please respect these times and try not to arrive early (or late)! If you have more than one child, please drop them all off and pick them all up at the earlier time.

If your child is in Reception, or they are attending school because they are 'vulnerable', or you are a key worker please arrive at school at **8:45am** for drop off and arrive at school for a **3:00pm** pick up.

If your child is in Year 1 or Year 6 please arrive at school at **9:00am** for drop off and arrive at school for a **3:15pm** pick up.

Please wait, socially distanced, outside of your child's classroom and your child will be sent out to you. Once your child has come out, please do not wait on the playground, but leave the site as quickly as you can.

If you are more than 5 minutes late i.e. after 8:50am or 9:05am, your child's class door will be locked. Children arriving late must be taken to the main front door of the school for **9.15am**, please wait outside until there is no-one waiting in the office area.

In order to maintain social distancing staff will not be available to chat on the doors, either at drop off or collection. If you want to pass a message to the adults looking after your child, please either email or call the office and a message will be relayed without delay. Please do not come to the reception hatch.

### **How is it best to communicate with the school staff?**

In order to reduce the number of people on site and therefore reduce the risk of transmission, we are asking that parents do not come into the school building (including into the main reception area), except in an emergency or if invited to do so by a member of the staff team.

If you have any questions or concerns, either about your child, or about provision, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us either via email [office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk), or using the school office number 01993 702840. As necessary, messages will be passed on to the relevant member of staff as quickly as possible.

Staff will also use either phone or email to contact you, if they have any concerns about your child.

### **Emergency arrangements**

At this time, any staff or child illness may mean that it is not possible to have one group of children in school. If your child is unwell, you must email the school office by 7.30am. Staff will also advise the school by 7.30am if they are unwell.

We will provide as much notice as we can if it is not possible for a group to be open on any given day. Please do check your email prior to setting off for school in order to check for any message regarding group or school closure.

If a group is closed, we will also place notices at the school entrance points to advise of this.