



Chestnuts Primary School

'Encourage, Enable, Empower'

Tel: 01908 373748

email: office@chestnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk

www.chestnutsprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss Becky Skillings

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Katie Robins

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Sam Sear & Mrs Nicola Tearle

13 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware the government have given us notice that all pupils are to return to school in September 2020. We have been busily working through a plan for how to do this safely, ensuring we are meeting the guidelines that we have been provided with by the Department for Education. These can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> if you would like further information.

The plan for Chestnuts full reopening is outlined below. If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch with us and we will happily discuss this further. Please accept my apologies for the length of the letter but I wanted to give you as much information as possible to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to keep your children safe.

Group sizes

We will ensure that children remain in year group bubbles at all times. For the vast majority of the time, children will only be mixing with the other children in their class; however, there will be times, such as break, lunch, arrival and departure times, when they will be mixing as a year group. With 17 classes at Chestnuts it is impossible to get all of the children into school, supervised at break and lunch without mixing as a year group. Year 6 children are also split into 3 groups for their core learning and this can only be achieved by mixing the children within the year group. At no point will children in different year groups be mixing. We will not be holding physical whole school assemblies and by staggering the start and finish times of the day, the opportunities to mix will be greatly minimised.

Start and finish times

To reduce the number of people arriving at school at the same time, we will be operating a staggered start and finish time. We will ask you to leave your child/children at the gate and leave straight away, not waiting to wave them in. This is to ensure there are not large numbers of parents gathering outside the gates at any point. We ask that if there is a need to queue to send your child in, this is done with social distancing in mind, up the hill towards St Clement's Drive.

Start of Day:

8.30 - 8.35 - EYFS and Year 2 via St George's gate only

8.40 - 8.45 - Year 1 and Year 3 via St George's gate only



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Apollo Avenue Fairfield's, Milton Keynes MK11 4BA. The company number is 07698904 and is registered in England.



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8.45 - 8.50 - Year 6 via St George's gate only

8.50 - 8.55 - Year 4 and Year 5 via St George's gate only

End of Day:

3.00 - 3.05 - EYFS and Year 2 via St George's gate only

3.10 - 3.15 - Year 1 and Year 3 via St George's gate only

3.20 - 3.25 - Year 4 and Year 5 via St George's gate only

3.25 - 3.30 - Year 6 via St George's gate only

Children in Meadow, Orchard and Blossom will arrive with their year groups and be registered in their own classes.

If you have more than one child, please bring all children to the earliest time allocated to any of your children and then collect at the latest time. So for example, if you have a child in EYFS and Year 6, please bring all children to school at 8.30 and collect all children at 3.25.

We will not be opening the gate on Buckingham Road as the area outside school is small and unsafe for children to wait, or crowds to remain socially distanced. The path down to the playground is also too narrow to ensure the children remain a sensible distance from each other and for staff to be able to supervise them sufficiently. Please bear with us in the first few days whilst we establish the routines. We may need to adjust these plans once we have tried to get 410 children in and out of the school.

If you arrive late and miss your child's bubble time, we will ask you to wait on the grass area between the school entrance and the nursery entrance until all other children have entered.

Lunches

We have been unable to provide hot dinners since March. This was due to the fact that the catering team who provide our hot meals were not able to work under the current guidelines. This position has changed for September and hot dinners **will** be served to all children who require them. The lunches need to be ordered by the Wednesday of the week before and so, for September, lunches need to be ordered by the end of the school day on Wednesday 26 August. Orders must be placed through ParentMail.

If your child does not have a school lunch, then they may bring a packed lunch in with them; however, we ask that all lunches are packed in hard, plastic lunch boxes or disposable, paper bags.



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This will then allow you to thoroughly clean the lunch box each evening ensuring any transmission of viruses is minimised. Disposable paper bag lunches will be placed in the bin at school at the end of each lunch session. In an effort to reduce the carbon footprint, we ask that plastic bags are not used in September.

Children will eat with the class and will not mix with children in other year groups at any point. They will also play in year groups with set resources which will not be shared with other groups. Children will not be able to play football, due to the risk of the ball leaving their zone and therefore being touched by children in other bubbles.

Hygiene and cleaning

All children and staff will be expected to wash their hands more frequently. This will include when they first arrive at school. In addition to this, each classroom has constant access to hand sanitiser throughout the day. We have made arrangements for the school to have more frequent cleaning of all areas throughout the day, including common touchpoints such as door handles, banisters and toilets as well as a thorough whole school clean each evening.

Uniform

When we extended our opening to more children on June 1st, we requested that children did not wear their uniform, but instead wore clothes of their own choosing, as long as they were clean each day.

As we reopen to the whole school, the expectation is that all children will be in full uniform. The exception to this is on PE days when we request that all children come to school in their PE kit.

PE days for each year group are as follows:

EYFS – Friday

Year 1 – Wednesday and Thursday

Year 2 – Monday and Friday

Year 3 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 4 – Monday and Wednesday

Year 5 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 6 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Coronavirus Symptoms

Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and will be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents or carers.



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If someone tests negative, they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating and return to school. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

If someone tests positive, they should follow the ['stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection'](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school, only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should continue to self-isolate until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Teaching and Learning

We will be teaching a full, broad and balanced curriculum with the addition of sessions relating to mental health and wellbeing to ensure that children are ready for learning.

Children will resume their Read Write Inc. lessons in Years 1 and 2 but will only be mixing with other children from within their year group rather than across the phase.

In Year 6, children will have specialist teachers for reading, writing and maths and will be mixed within the year group for these sessions but in regular groups of 20.

Children in EYFS will have full access to all of the learning opportunities throughout both the indoor and outdoor classrooms.

In Key Stage 2, music and language specialist teachers will be joining the classes but will remain at the front of the class whilst teaching, 2metres from pupils at all times. During these sessions, support will be provided by teaching assistants and class teachers.

All other classes will be taught in class groups at all times.

All children in Years 1 to 6 will be provided with a draw string bag. In this bag they will each have their own personal set of resources to use each day (pencils, rubbers, scissors, rulers, etc). This will reduce the need for children to share resources. Where resources are needed by several classes, these will all be cleaned and stored for 48 hours before being used by another class. In EYFS, the resources will be shared by all children for one day, and then cleaned and stored for 48 hours before being used again.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance for pupils returns to being mandatory for September 2020. This means that, unless medical evidence is provided, all children need to return to school. We will resume the monitoring of attendance and request that all parents contact us should their child be unwell and unable to come to



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school. This can be done via email, telephone or ParentMail. We do anticipate having some children absent from school with Coronavirus symptoms at times and request that you contact us as a matter of urgency should this occur.

Break times

We will be introducing staggered break times throughout the morning. Children will be allocated a zone on the playground and the field that they may play in. These zones will be allocated to year groups and the children will be allowed to play freely.

Children in Year 1 will also be able to access an outdoor play session in the afternoons.

Children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 should be provided with a fruit/veg snack for mid-morning by the Government. We have not yet had this provision confirmed; however, we do believe this scheme will be continuing.

Those children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) may bring a healthy snack to eat during their morning play.

Possessions

This term we have not allowed children to bring anything into school with them. This restriction is being lifted for September and the children will need to bring the following items into school with them:

Reading book - we will store these for 48 hours before issuing to another child

Reading record - we will stamp to say we have seen them and so minimise the touching of the children's records

Water bottle - will only be touched by your child. Please ensure these are washed each evening.

Plastic lunch box, which can be given a thorough clean at home each evening, if not choosing the hot dinner option or providing lunch in a paper bag.

Please do not allow children to bring any toys to school.

Bikes and scooters may be ridden to school, although we ask that children wear a suitable cycle helmet.

Breakfast Club

We will be starting breakfast club again. Children will be able to arrive between 8.00am and 8.05am each morning. They will need to be dropped off at St George's Road gate. Children will then be taken up to the front playground where they will line up in year group lines, avoiding mixing with other year groups. The children will then be taken to one of their year group classrooms. Whilst in the classroom, they will be provided with a dried breakfast (e.g. croissants, scotch pancakes, breakfast bars, fruit) and a glass of milk. Unfortunately, we do not have enough staff or resources to make toast



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and serve cereal in the classrooms and we need to avoid the mixing of children from different year groups. If you would prefer your child to eat breakfast before coming to school, but still access the breakfast club provision, then please feel free to do so.

To ensure we have enough staff available to support the children in each year group it is essential that ALL children who require a place at breakfast club, book and pay for that place before the 11am deadline on the Friday before. Bookings will be available through the ParentMail App. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept children that are not booked or paid for in advance.

Afterschool clubs

We will begin to run some after school clubs in the new academic year, although these will be limited to year groups to again avoid children from different year group bubbles mixing. Further information regarding the clubs on offer will be sent out to you all in September via ParentMail.

Transport to School

Following on from the survey regarding methods of transport to school, we will be contacting those families who use public buses separately with advice on safe travel to school.

If you drive to school, please consider safe parking and driving in the area around school. If at all possible, please consider using the parking spaces further down St Clement's Drive and walking the final part of the journey.

Face coverings

Although the rules on wearing face coverings in shops has recently changed, the Department for Education continue to recommend that children do not wear face coverings in school. If children arrive wearing a face covering, they will be supported to remove it safely. Staff will generally not be wearing face coverings in school.

Trips and Visitors

Unfortunately, the Department for Education guidance remains that all residential trips should not take place at present. We have therefore cancelled both the residential for Year 5 and Year 6. We will attempt to rebook these for later in the year if this is possible.

Day trips may begin again, although even more rigorous risk assessments will be put in place with a particular focus on mixing with other groups, hand washing and hygiene. At this point, we are unable to guarantee that any trips will take place in the autumn term.

In previous years, we have asked for a voluntary contribution of £30 for all trips and visitors throughout the year. Thank you to those of you who have made these contributions. If you have, we will carry £10 over into the new academic year towards any trips that we are able to run. We will not



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be asking for £30 in the new year, as we are unsure of what trips we will be able to run. Instead, should we be able to participate in any trips or have any visitors in school, we will ask for a contribution per event.

Communication

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the full reopening of school, then please do get in touch with us. The only email address that will be monitored throughout the holidays will be office@chestnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk. Please do not use the year group emails or the admin email.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and well done. Thank you for your ongoing support of Chestnuts and well done for the amazing things you have achieved with your children in these very unusual times. I wish you all a safe and happy summer holiday and look forward to seeing each and every one of you in September. If you are leaving the Chestnuts Community, then I wish you luck and happiness in the next phase of your child's education.

Should the government guidance change, or we see a need to amend our plans, we will continue to contact you throughout the holidays, as necessary.

Take care and stay well.

Becky Skillings
Headteacher



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