

Barnes Farm Junior School

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1 March 2021

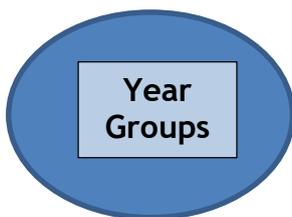
Wider Opening Arrangements March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to inform you of the school's plans to welcome back our full cohort of pupils on Monday 8th March 2021 following the Government's announcement on 22nd February. These plans are based on the national [guidance](#) and ensure that we implement a full range of protective measures. The plans aim to **minimise contact** whilst delivering as **broad and balanced a curriculum** through **full-time education** as we can.

Whilst we are excited about welcoming all of our pupils back, our provision is still governed by the need for strict hygiene and other protective measures; school will still **not be back to normal**.

Key Information



We are still organising our school into 4 bubbles wrapped around each year group. This will allow children to play with everyone in their year group at break and lunchtimes. Most of their time inside will be based in classes. Bubbles must not mix so that in the event of a positive case of Covid-19, Public Health England may advise only that bubble to close (rather than the whole school) or even just the class.



In order to minimise contact between bubbles, we are still directed to stagger the start and finish times - teaching time will be the same for every year group. Please plan to walk to school or park in the main Asda car park to minimise congestion outside school.

Year Group	Arrive	Depart
3	8:35-8:40am	3:00pm
4	8:40-8:45am	3:05pm
5	8:45-8:50am	3:10pm
6	8:50-8:55am	3:15pm

The one-way system will also be reintroduced with the entrance through the car park (just like in November/December 2020)



We do not underestimate the challenges that children and their parents have faced over the past few months. Your experiences will have been all very different and are unique to your family. In order to best manage this return, we will be focussing primarily on your child's welfare over the coming 3 weeks along with planning opportunities for them to demonstrate how much learning they've retained since they were last in school. Please continue to use remotesupport@barnesfarm-jun.essex.sch.uk to keep in touch.



Attendance



Full-time attendance and punctuality is expected. We understand that children may have been in very different routines at home however, we are confident in the measures we are putting in place to mitigate the risks, and therefore expect every child to be in school full-time to receive their right to an education. Please use the [StudyBugs App](#) (free) to report any child's absence. Talk to us

early about any anticipated attendance issues so that we can work together to resolve them too.



Covid-19 Symptoms

Anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or has someone in their household who does, **must not attend school**. This means if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you must not send them to school. **If you are in any doubt, please do not send your child into school.**



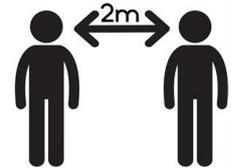
You must engage with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to get a PCR test and you should inform your child's school of the results of that test. Keep in touch with us 24/7 using covidcontact@barnesfarm-jun.essex.sch.uk to report any Covid related issues **even at the weekend**.

Differences in school

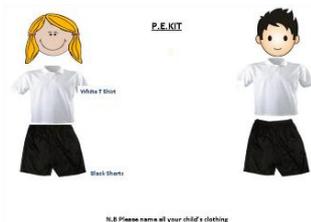


Whilst schools are fully opening, the rest of society is still very much locked down. Please follow the guidelines responsibly, particularly around meeting others.

Our staff have been directed to try and maintain 2m between adults and children (as well as between one another) whilst inside. This means that our usual level of pastoral care may not be possible and staff may appear more 'distant' - we are working in difficult times so please be tolerant of this.



PE Days



Year 3	Mondays + Thursdays
Year 4	Tuesdays + Wednesdays
Year 5	Tuesdays, Wednesdays + every other Friday (12 th March)
Year 6	Mondays, Thursdays + every other Friday (19 th March)

Children can attend in their PE kit on these days. Full uniform is expected on other days but children can wear trainers if they have outgrown their shoes (until shops reopen).



Remote Learning



In the event of any child/bubble needing to self-isolate then our remote education plan will be activated. You can find it [here](#). If you received a laptop during lockdown, please return it to the main school office at the beginning/end of the school day where there will be a quick-drop box available. In the event of needing to self-isolate and your child needs access to a laptop again, please email remotesupport@barnesfarm-jun.essex.sch.uk and we will process your request swiftly.

Other Key Headlines

- Children in class will be sat in front-facing rows to minimise the risk of transmission - they can bring in their own water bottle, snack and sanitiser gel
- Handwashing will still be routinely used throughout the day
- There is no need for children to wear PPE in school
- Regrettably, no before and after school clubs will operate this term
- The Infant school will be running the Early-Birds and Night-Owls wraparound care
- Hot lunches will be available in the hall each day at the same price of £2:25
- World Book Day will be on Thursday 11th March - dress up as a favourite book character!
- Mindful Monday will be on 22nd March and held in school.
- Our full risk assessment will be published on our website shortly
- Parents and carers can only enter the school building by prior appointment. Please use the quick-drop box on the gate to deliver letters or return forms

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross McTaggart'.

Ross McTaggart Headteacher

