



Coombe Bissett Primary

Newsletter 34 (Tues 9/6/20)

Special Edition



JUNE 15TH RETURN TO SCHOOLING FOR YR/Y1/Y6

On Monday 8th the Governing Body held another exceptional circumstances meeting to review the opening of the school on 15th June. Myself and the staff are overjoyed that the Governing Body decided to open for YR/Y1/Y6 from 15th June within the provision outlined below. We have missed the children so much and cannot wait to see them again. So, from 15th June until the end of term, assuming there are no further Govt announcements or no local flare-ups and there are no cases in school / no staff absences to limit our provision, the provision will be as follows:

- **Each group will be called a 'bubble' (e.g. YR bubble, Y1 bubble, Y6 bubble, Vulnerable/Keyworker bubble)** – staff and pupils assigned to a bubble will not cross bubbles unless in exceptional circumstances – e.g. first aid, behaviour, safety
- **Previously issued protocols will be followed with the exceptions of classes/staggered times below**
- **Vulnerable/Keyworker children will be schooled all week** – as has always been the offer since lockdown for every weekday except bank holidays
- **Y1 and Y6 will return to their 'bubble' full time except for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons when the school is closed to all children except Vulnerable/Keyworkers.** This is so that teachers can have their legal provision of dedicated planning time and time to communicate with Y2 to Y5, for whom they are still providing homeschooling
- **YR will return for mornings only from 15th June.** This will be on a fortnightly evolving timeframe, but will be reviewed weekly so as to give a week's notice to parents – meaning that as of 29th June YR could, potentially, return full time **except for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as with Y1 & Y6.** This is to protect their wellbeing as their style of learning most especially will be most distant from the schooling they will receive during this period
- **Parents can choose to keep their children off school from YR/Y1/Y6 and Vulnerable/Keyworkers and no action will be taken by the government.** Indeed as a caring school we fully support parents being able to 'dip-in and dip-out' of schooling during this period
- As we are legally required to keep registers from re-opening **we do require any parent of YR/Y1/Y6 and Vulnerable/Keyworker to inform us each day of their child's attendance or absence** (giving reason if absent) – this is just as normal
- **Homeschooling will continue to be provided for ALL children** regardless of what year group they are in (unlike some schools who will not provide homeschooling for YR/Y1/Y6 from this point)

Please remember – as stated previously - that whilst the school has made every reasonable change to make things as safe as they can be the school cannot guarantee that children / staff / parents will not contract Covid-19. The school, staff, leadership and governors cannot and will not be held legally or emotionally accountable for anyone contracting Covid-19. Parents will make their own decision on whether or not to send their child to school.

ESSENTIAL BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT – AMAZING NEWS FOR OUR LOVELY SCHOOL

“Amazing news to share with you.....

The school has received a very substantial grant to remove all the old Asbestos panels within the ceilings of the school building. This work is expected to begin before the summer holiday, at the end of this month, ready for the return of pupils in September. We have detailed plans in place to allow the function of education to continue for the

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few weeks left of the term with as little impact as possible in our wonderful village hall. At this time with low numbers of children attending the school it could not be a better time to undertake the work, which will mean the building being completely closed for the duration of the work and on your return in September, a shiny new school interior!

I would like to assure you of the systems in place to avoid risk to health over the years which has meant restrictions to the use of the buildings fabrications, coupled with regular contractual checks, risk assessments and visible labelling of the panels. With the removal, the school will finally be able to easily change the new light fittings, use the full height of the hall and organise learning displays. We are also hopeful of additional improvements to the interior fabrication should funding allow. The positives will most definitely outweigh any short-term disruption. Should you have any further questions please do contact me direct or via the school office.
Caroline Welfare, Health and Safety Governor”

FULL RETURN FOR ALL PUPILS BEFORE THE END OF TERM

Today the Govt announced that their hope to return all primary aged children to school before the end of term was not feasible, and that ‘flexibility’ would be given to schools to make the decision on any return for year groups beyond YR/Y1/Y6 and Vulnerable/Keyworker.

Guidelines on bubbles in schools and shielding must continue to be followed.

This means that virtually every school up and down the country simply cannot make such a return feasible.

With our small building, our limited staffing, and the bubbles guidelines we simply cannot open for these year groups. It would mean the financial ruin of the school with Marquee hire costs and Supply teacher costs of £45,000+. None of this has changed as a result of the Essential Building Works – it would be the same costs either way due to bubble guidelines. **So the decision has been taken that we will NOT open for Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 until September at the earliest**, and this may change based on Govt guidelines, incidents, staffing. Secondary schools will not be opening till then for all year groups at the earliest either.

The school will review this position over the next 5 weeks, but even 1 week would mean £10,000+ costs – and this is an amount this school simply does not have without redundancies being made – which would mean less staff available to support your children for the whole of next year and beyond. Something we would not want.

We understand and empathise with parents concerns and predicaments. Many of our staff are parents too, struggling equally with home schooling their children as well as supporting homelearning for their pupils. This is very upsetting for all staff who were looking forward to welcoming all children back to school. However, we will continue to support children and parents with our homelearning provision through our connectedness curriculum.

Enough resources have been previously purchased and issued to enable children to do their homelearning. Staff will continue to feedback weekly on core subjects for those not in school. We look forward to September when it might be possible to welcome all pupils back to school.

Together, with care and commitment, we will get through this.

STAGGERED STARTS AND ENDS OF THE DAY – FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

Following Govt Guidelines we will be staggering drop-off and pick-up times as follows:

Group	Drop-off	Collection Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Collection Tuesday and Thursday
YR	Village hall carpark YR outdoor learning area - following arrowed route (in along the walk bridge, out through the outdoor play space) 8.55-9.00am	FROM 29TH JUNE ONWARDS Village hall carpark YR exit – social distance on the playground 3pm	Village hall carpark YR exit – social distance on the playground 12noon
Y1	Village hall carpark	Village hall carpark	Village hall carpark

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	Elm door from playground 8.45-8.55am	Elm door – social distance on the playground 3.10pm	Elm door – social distancing on the playground 12.10pm
Y6	Staff carpark via side door 8.40-9.00am FROM 29TH JUNE ONWARDS VILLAGE HALL 8.30-8.40am	Staff carpark via side door 3.15pm FROM 29TH JUNE ONWARDS VILLAGE HALL 3.20pm	Staff carpark via side door 12noon FROM 29TH JUNE VILLAGE HALL 12.20pm
1:1	Staff Carpark and through hall door 9.30am FROM 29TH JUNE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK NEXT TO SCHOOL GATE 9.30am	Staff carpark and through hall door 2.30pm FROM 29TH JUNE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK NEXT TO SCHOOL GATE 2.30pm	n/a
Vulnerable / keyworker	Village hall carpark Hall 8.30-8.40am	Village hall carpark 3.25pm	Village hall carpark 3.25pm
Taxi / early drop off	Staff carpark 8.20am Enter through the hall door and go to their dedicated classroom FROM 29TH JUNE VILLAGE HALL NEXT TO SCHOOL GATE 8.20am	Taxi at staff car park at 3.15pm FROM 29TH JUNE VILLAGE HALL NEXT TO SCHOOL GATE 3.15pm	Taxi at Village hall at 3.15pm FROM 29TH JUNE VILLAGE HALL NEXT TO SCHOOL GATE 3.15pm
Late pick-up	(between 3.15 and 3.45pm) Village hall carpark	Exit through their door – parents picking up at that door but maintaining social distancing 3.45pm	Exit through their door – parents picking up at that door but maintaining social distancing 3.45pm

STAFFING & CLASSROOMS OF BUBBLES

Staffing of bubbles is confirmed as follows. This is the school at full staffing capacity. A staff absence will result in the closure of a bubble during that period of absence.

Year group	School Classroom	Village hall Classroom	Adults in school	Homelearning provided by
R	Oak	Right side / patio / part of hall	Mrs Forster & Mrs Shearn	Mrs Macaulay (shielding) & Mrs Bowers (shielding)
1	Elm	Hommington room and back room	Mrs Crossland & Mrs Parkinson.	Mrs Crossland
2	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mrs Crossland
3	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mr Wyatt
4	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mr Wyatt
5	n/a	n/a	n/a	Mrs Gillett & Mrs Pascoe

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6	Ash	Hall or Marquee	Mrs Gillett & Mrs Pascoe (job share) & Mrs Williams.	Mrs Gillett & Mrs Pascoe job share
Vulnerable / keyworker from Y2 to Y5	Hall	Hall	Mr Wyatt & Mr Basinger-Adams	Y2 – Mrs Crossland Y3 & Y4 – Mr Wyatt Y5 – Mrs Gillett & Mrs Pascoe
1:1	Elm and Library	Hommington Room	Mrs Parkinson – breaks from Mrs Crossland (so that Mrs Parkinson can have breaks with Mrs Crossland covering...on these instances...Mon = Mrs Massie will cover Elm, Wed & Fri = Supply will cover Elm)	Mrs Macaulay & Mrs Bowers LA external advisors Mrs Masie (SENCO)
Jobs lists	n/a	n/a	Mrs Shearn (until her return) Mrs Mould (shielding)	Mrs Macaulay & Mrs Bowers to do additional jobs list tasks
Symptomatic pupils	Ebble	Tent on field	Staff from that bubble	Those pupils displaying symptoms will be isolated in the Ebble room until they can be collected
Store Room	Fir	Fir and Ash	n/a	Fir class will be used as a store room for all the furniture removed from other spaces to make social distancing feasible
PPA & additional release to allow planning / feedback for homelearners	Staff room and/or Cedar room	Cedar room, Kitchen space in Village Hall	Mr Wyatt will have PPA on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from Mr Basinger-Adams who will cover the Vulnerable/Keyworker bubble at that time Mrs Crossland will have PPA on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons Mrs Gillett will have PPA on Tuesday afternoon Mrs Pascoe will have PPA on Thursday afternoon	

FULL RETURN PLAN AND ESSENTIAL BUILDING WORKS PLAN

Governors have decided not to bombard parents with full details at present as there is plenty to digest and prepare for. Parents have had sufficient information regarding bubbles, health and safety, learning in school in previous newsletters – the basics of these have not changed. These full detail plans will be issued at the end of the week once final details have been received from contractors.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Have all risk assessments and provision been updated for the return? *Yes, the full Return plan details these.*

Have all risk assessments and provision been updated for schooling in the Village Hall? *Yes, the full Essential Buildings Works Plan details these. Indeed, additional measures will be installed such as increased height gates.*

Is there enough space at the village hall for the bubbles? *Yes, there is more than enough space for bubbles, but to make it more comfy we are considering hiring a professional events Marquee to go on the field for increased accommodation.*

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Will there be enough toilets in the Village Hall? *Yes. We may also be hiring some porta-loos for staff and Y6.*

Will my child be 2m socially distanced from others? *No, this is simply not possible when following the Govt guidelines of 15 in a bubble. But the Govt say the children (not staff) are at a very low risk. All children will, however, be kept apart – at their own workstations and at play as has been previously detailed in newsletters. This will be very odd for the children as they will not be able to sit together, learn next to each other, share equipment, play together.*

Can my child in YR/Y1/Y6/ Vulnerable&Keyworker come to school some days and not others? *Yes. We fully support parental decisions – but we do require parents to let us know about attendance / absence (and reasons for absence because we have to keep registers as a legal requirement*

Can my child have a school packed lunch? *Yes, see limitations issued in previous newsletters.*

When will Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 be able to return? *The Govt have announced that schools will not be expected to return all children as it will not be feasible – giving schools the flexibility to decide. We do not have the physical space or the staffing available to return all children whilst maintaining guidelines of bubbles and so children in Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 will NOT be returning until September, at the earliest.*

Will staff do all they can to make it fun at the Village hall? *Yes, there will be no difference from the normal school building. There will be lots of outdoor learning, lots of creativity and the connectedness curriculum.*

Will my child be able to learn effectively? *Yes, they will have the same resources they will have in the school building under these guidelines – except keyworker/vulnerable children will not have access to a digital device. Staff will not have the internet and a smartboard. We will go ‘old-school’ and have fun teaching Maths and English using an ‘old’ whiteboard – just as we still use today in fact. This will be very good for the wellbeing of those children who, during homelearning, have had increased learning in front of a digital device. This would have been our plan anyway regardless of being in the school building or not, following our SWAN approach. The ‘connectedness curriculum’ will also be taught during this period, which does not require ‘technology’.*

How will I contact the school when they are based at the Village Hall? *Email as normal, telephone as normal – phone lines are being diverted. Please remember that the office will only be staffed from Wednesday to Friday – so if urgent please keep trying, if not please email. It is unlikely the school will respond to your emails during the day.*

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