

Banham Primary School

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Banham Primary School

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4th September 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Please find below the updated details regarding the school opening on the 7th September. Many of the details remain the same as my letter dated 21st July.

It remains the Government's intention that **"all pupils in all years groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the Autumn term"**. What this means is that all children on the school roll are expected to be in school from 7th September 2020.

The Education Secretary expressed his views in an open letter to parents that can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/116423535060106/posts/3227940467241715/?extid=gaER7yblqOfil5x&d=n>

The updated guidance for parents and carers from the DFE can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

I would like to reassure you that the school and the Trust have followed all available guidance from the DFE and Local Authority in order to open the school.

Please refer to the information found on the Local Authority website which may help with returning back to school:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/back-to-school>

School organisation:

It is the intention that all class groups are to remain separate from each other and not to mix i.e. to remain in their 'bubble' as far as is possible throughout the school day. This will include staggered playtimes and lunchtimes.

The intention within each 'bubble' is that the school experience will be as normal as possible with the exceptions of increased hand washing, limited use of some resources for hygienic reasons and

lack of contact with others within the school. This approach will comply with the DFE guidance around enhanced personal hygiene and minimising contact with others.

Unfortunately we are not able to resume the BASC from the start of term. However, we recognise that many of you rely on that provision, even more so as you return to work as opposed to working from home. It is important to us to get this back as quickly as possible and I assure you that we are looking at this provision and we hope within the first few weeks of term to restart this.

The school day will unavoidably feel a little different and look different but staff will endeavour to continue to make Banham Primary School a warm and welcoming place to learn and have fun.

A typical morning will look like:

- Children line up outside the school at their entry/ exit to the school supervised by staff at staggered times to avoid families congregating together:
8.45 Swifts – cloakroom entrance. 8.50 Skylarks school main entrance door to the playground. 8.55 Wrens- Staff entrance at the front of the school. 9.00 Robins – playground entrance. **Please do remember to socially distance whilst around the school site and not to congregate around each entrance.**
- If there are siblings then children can enter the school at the same time but using their own individual entrance to their classroom. This will minimise waiting times within the playground.
- All children to enter the school buildings unaccompanied. Parents/ carers can raise queries via telephone or email with the office or via Class Dojo. There will be no impromptu parent/ staff meetings. In order to aid social distancing in and around the school could we ask only one parent to accompany children to and from school.
- Children will not be required to wear a face covering or face mask in schools as this is not recommended.
- Children are required to be in school uniform everyday. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods different from normal.
- Children can bring a snack into school if it is in a wipe clean bag or container. The EYFS/ KS1 fresh fruit scheme should restart in September.
- On those sunny days in September especially, please apply sunscreen to your child in the mornings before attending school as we intend to use the outside spaces for learning as much as possible.
- Children will then place their belongings in the cloakroom/ classroom, enter the classroom, wash hands with soap and water and then sit down at a reasonable distance apart from each other. Children and staff will wash their hands at key times throughout the day for example before snack, after going to the toilet, before going outside, on their return from outside etc. this is in-line with PHE advice. Handwashing is to be undertaken inside each classroom in order to aid supervision of this for younger children.
- All hard surfaces within classrooms and touchpoints will be sanitised between sessions by available staff for example, tables etc.

- Toilets – as a small school we do not have separate toilets for each class group so we shall continue with shared toileting facilities across KS1 and KS2. (Robins have their own toilets). These will be monitored and cleaned throughout the school day in addition to the rigorous cleaning at the end of each day.
- Break times will be staggered to use the playground and field. Timetables will be in use throughout the school.
- Packed lunches and school hot lunches will be eaten in classrooms.
- There will be ‘virtual’ assemblies across the school.
- Parents to collect children at: 3.10 Robins and Wrens. 3.15 Skylarks and Swifts. All children will exit via their individual entrance/ exits.

General points to consider

- When travelling to and from school please remember to adhere to social distancing guidelines, this is also applicable when in the school grounds at all times. For example wait for others to enter or exit gates before you move through, if using bike racks operate a ‘one in, one out’ approach, when waiting to drop off or collect children please ensure that your child and yourself observe these guidelines at all times. **Please do not be offended if a member of staff reminds you or your child if they feel that this is not being observed.**
- Children will not need to bring pencil cases to school as resources will be available for them to use. We would like to minimise the amount of personal belongings in school for example additional bags and equipment
- PE kits – children can come to school in their PE kits on the day. They may need a change of clothing as well. PE will be non-contact based.
- Personal water bottles will be allowed in school.
- Class teams will be able to change children’s reading books which can be sent home. When the books return to school they will need to be quarantined for 72 hours prior to being returned back into the correct colour scheme or being sent home to another child.
- Parents can send in hand moisturisers for personal use only, please could we ask that they remain in school all week. Please email the office as your permission also including the brand name. If it is a prescription cream then a form can be emailed to you to complete.
- PPE is available for staff to use, and will be when deemed appropriate, for example when dealing with first aid i.e. vomit or where a child has a toileting accident or where a child/ adult shows potential coronavirus symptoms. This could include disposable gloves, disposable aprons, face masks and face shields. Any use of PPE will of course be explained appropriately to the child when necessary.

What happens if someone at school develops symptoms?

If someone develops symptoms, however mild, they will be asked to go home. The school will not routinely check temperatures of all children; as outlined within the current DFE guidance. The person with symptoms should isolate for ten days, and their household for fourteen days. Everyone who is in school will be able to access a test as per the new DFE guidance.

If they test negative, they can return to school. If they test negative but show any symptoms, however mild, they should still isolate for seven days, and their household for fourteen days.

If the test is positive, the rest of the class group (children and staff) will be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

We will follow all available protocols and be advised by the local health protection team if there are cases within the school. The DFE are also arranging to send out 10 home testing kits to every school before the start of term.

What will we teach?

The curriculum will look and feel a little different for the first few weeks as we spend time re-establishing routines and relationships across the school as well as supporting any anxieties or worries that there may be as Social, Emotional and Mental Health will be a large focus across the whole school.

We will then begin to establish where the children are academically, of course acknowledging that children and families will have had very different experiences since schools were closed back in March and that some children may have gaps in their learning or knowledge, whilst others have been able to successfully consolidate and even build upon this.

This will be a primary focus for all schools over the coming weeks and months and there is no clear route to follow as all children will have different starting points. What I would like to reassure you is that every effort will be made by every member of staff to ensure that all children have the opportunity to once again thrive as learners and work once again towards meeting their potential.

There will be a new EYFS curriculum from September as we have taken the decision to become an early adopter of the new EYFS curriculum and baseline assessment process this year. This gives us a good start for the academic year 2021 when these become mandatory. Robins will become an EYFS classroom only in order to implement the new curriculum and will also bring the school in line with both Bunwell and Thompson who already have EYFS only classrooms. We anticipate that there will be 16 children in Robins Class who will be supported by Miss Hales and Miss Humphreys as class teachers and by Mrs Rout as classroom assistant.

The added benefit of this approach is that all children will spend two years in KS1 and lower and upper KS2 classes which means that they will have access to the same curriculum and experiences as their peer groups. It is anticipated that there will be 31 children in KS1, 15 year 1s and 16 year 2s taught by Miss Sanders and Mrs Squirrel and supported by Mrs Driver.

Skylarks Class is anticipated to have 34 children in September as we shall be joined by a new pupil in Year 4 taking the numbers to 15 in year 4 and 19 in year 3. The decision has been taken to employ an additional teacher to support teaching and learning in the mornings for Skylarks Class due in part to the numbers of children within the class. Mrs Travis will be joined by Mrs Alston as class teacher and they will be supported by Mrs Davies and Mrs Goymour.

In Swifts it is anticipated that the class numbers will be 28 with 14 in each year group. Mrs Stanley will remain as class teacher supported by Mrs Ludkin. They will be joined by Mrs Martin for 4 days a week and by Mrs Goymour for 1 day a week for specific additional pupil support.

Best wishes and I hope that you all remain safe and well,

Mr Gamble