

Love God, love others

Let your light shine



**THE BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND (AIDED)
INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS' FEDERATION**

BELIEVING, CELEBRATING, SUCCEEDING

EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER: MR. A. ORLIK

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER: MS. E. INGRAM



21st May, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Plans to re-open initially for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

I hope you and your families are staying safe and keeping well. This has been an immensely difficult time for the whole country. The Blue Coat children and their families have been in our thoughts throughout this period. The Blue Coat staff have been working hard to keep in touch with all the children through the home learning opportunities (Purple Mash, Blue Coat You Tube channel and work packs) and phone calls home.

You will be aware that the government has stated that it is hoping schools will be able to re-open for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children from Monday 1st June. We have been working to prepare for this possibility. The government has indicated that this will only happen if it feels that it is safe to do so. We will not know that we will open on 1st June until public announcements confirming this much closer to the planned date. With that in mind, this letter details our plans for how the children's return will work if it happens on 1st June. The government has published information for parents/carers about their plans for schools to re-open. This can be found online: www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june

Please be aware that the plans for our provision going forward are constantly under review and will be revised in response to the constantly changing situation locally and nationally.

The key principles for our plans are:

- to ensure that all children, staff and the wider community are as safe as possible;
- to provide an opportunity for as many children as possible to access support and education in school;
- to maintain an environment where everyone in school can feel cared for as well as having access to pastoral support in response to recent traumatic events with someone they know and trust;
- to maintain home-learning support for children if/when they are not in school.

Year Group Provision

Due to robust but necessary safety measures and to take into account the children's needs and well-being at this time, we will be adopting a careful, phased approach. Unfortunately, we do not have the space or staff to accommodate all the children in the year groups returning at the same time, so there will be a new timetable in place and children will have certain days when their pod (their group-maximum 15) will be in school. The home learning materials will be maintained for the children to use when they are at home.

This is how the provision will look for each year group:

Year Group	Timetable Arrangements	Lunch Arrangements
Nursery Bumblebees	<p>Morning Nursery will attend from 8.30am to 3.30pm Monday and Tuesday</p> <p>Afternoon Nursery will attend from 8.30am to 3.30pm Thursday and Friday</p> <p>30 hour place Nursery children will attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday</p> <p>This is a very different format for the Nursery children and it has been designed for safety reasons to enable them to receive their provision in full days whilst avoiding different pods using the same space in the same day. We will make sure that the children receive lots of high quality support to help them adjust to this different format.</p> <p>Nursery children will need to bring a packed lunch on the days they attend.</p>	<p>All Nursery children will need to bring a packed lunch from home.</p>
Reception	<p>Each Reception class will be split into two pods. Half of each class will attend on Monday and Tuesday, the other half on Thursday and Friday. The children will be with their own teachers and teaching assistants who they know well. On the days when the children are at home, they will be able to access learning opportunities through the home learning tasks set by their teachers.</p>	<p>Packed lunches will be provided by the school for all Reception children. (Your child can bring a packed lunch from home if you wish).</p>
Year 1	<p>Each Year 1 class will be split into two pods. Half of each class will attend on Monday and Tuesday, the other half on Thursday and Friday. The children will be with their own teachers and teaching assistants who they know well. On the days when the children are at home, they will be able to access learning opportunities through the home learning tasks set by their teachers.</p>	<p>Packed lunches will be provided by the school for all Year 1 children. (Your child can bring a packed lunch from home if you wish).</p>
Years 2, 3, 4 and 5	<p>School remains closed to these year groups for the time-being. The children's teachers will continue to set home-learning opportunities through Purple Mash, the Blue Coat You Tube Channel and work packs.</p>	
Year 6	<p>Year 6 children will be organised into 6 pods. The whole year group can attend Monday to Friday. On Wednesday afternoon, the Junior School is closed for cleaning so the Year 6 children will leave at the end of lunchtime on Wednesdays.</p>	<p>Year 6 children will need to bring a packed lunch or pay for a school packed lunch (£2.30 per day).</p> <p>Children entitled to free school meals will receive a school lunch each day.</p>

Safety

In line with government guidelines to ensure safety, the following measures will be in place:

- systems are in place to ensure that all areas are rigorously cleaned throughout the day with deep cleans taking place in the middle of the week (the Infant School will be closed on Wednesdays all day and the Junior School on Wednesday afternoon for mid-week deep cleaning);
- to ensure children and adults are always spaced as safely as possible, children will be kept in the same group of 15 or less throughout the school day; these groups will be referred to as 'pods';
- pods will use one classroom throughout the day, playtimes will be at different times so that children in different pods will not come into contact with each other;
- each pod will eat lunch in their own classroom;
- there will be different start and end times as well as different entrance points for each pod to minimise the possibility of too many people gathering in any one place;
- all children will have access to high quality care and support through the teaching team in their pod.

Arriving and Leaving

Children will need to enter and leave through allocated gates (see plan) at specified times. Please see the table at the end of this letter detailing the following for your child: pod name, teacher, days they will be in school, time to arrive, time to leave and gate to use.

It is vital that these timings are followed and that you make sure that your child will be safely collected at the time specified.

Parents/Carers

To maintain safety, parents and carers will not be able to enter the school sites at all. Staff will be at your child's entrance and exit gate to supervise their safe arrival and departure.

Communication with you is very important, however, I hope you understand that we are unable to allow parents/carers access to the offices at the moment. Parents/Carers can give straightforward messages to staff on the gates. Alternatively, all queries can be made by telephone (Infants: 01922 720740 Juniors: 01922 720921) or email (postbox@bluecoastfederation.co.uk). Your child's teachers can continue to be contacted through the year group email addresses.

Clothes

Children should wear their own clothes (not school uniform). They will need to wear a clean set of clothes each day. Please make sure that your child's clothes are suitable and practical for a day in school. Shoes need to be suitable for the children to wear outside at playtimes and for all types of activity. The children will **not** need PE kit in school for the time-being.

Items children should and shouldn't bring each day

Children should bring	Children should NOT bring
Small backpack or a carrier bag School reading book to return Their own reading book to use in school Named water bottle to take home and wash everyday Healthy snack Packed lunch (unless they are having a school one)	Their own pencil case (everything they need will be provided) PE Kit

Lunch

Please see specific lunch arrangements for your child in the table above. *If your circumstances have changed, you can apply for free school meals. Applying online is quick and lunches can start to be received almost immediately; (search for 'Walsall Free School Meals' online).*

Before and After School Club (Blue Coat Plus)

For the time-being, our Before and After School Club (Blue Coat Plus) will remain closed. This is to keep occasions of contact between different staff and children minimised.

Sickness

If your child is unwell, they must not come to school until they are fully recovered.

If your child, or anyone in your household, is displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a continuous cough, a loss of smell or taste) then the whole household including your child must self-isolate at home for 14 days in line with government advice. Please keep us informed if anyone in your home develops symptoms of COVID-19 or has a test confirming that they do have COVID-19 as we will have to inform Public Health England straightaway.

General Timetable

Every day that your child is at school will be planned to provide high quality care and education. There will be plenty of flexibility within the daily routine to respond to the children's needs as necessary and appropriate given the exceptional experience we have all faced over the last couple of months.

Each school day will start with an assembly, an opportunity for reflection and pastoral care. During the morning your child will receive reading, English and maths lessons. There will be breaks and opportunities to go outside throughout the day. In the afternoon there will be further pastoral care as well as two learning activities related to other parts of the curriculum.

Full details of your child's personal timetable and arrangements

If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year6, full details of your child's days and times in school have been sent to you separately. We look forward to welcoming them back to school soon.

If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. A. Orlik
Executive Head