



26/8/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you are all safe and well. We are looking forward to the return of the children next week on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.

Last term, we shared much of our planning for September. We are pleased to be able to share plans in more detail.

In making our preparations for a full return, we have aimed to protect and prioritise the health and well-being of pupils and staff, teaching and learning, the curriculum and the routine of a 'normal' school day. However, to ensure that these priorities can be fulfilled whilst adhering to the guidance, there will be some significant changes to school life which I will outline.

### **Health & Safety**

We are expecting that all children will return in September, as the government has outlined that attendance is compulsory. However, we know that there may be some parents or children who feel anxious about returning: if this applies to you, please contact me via email [dbrown@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:dbrown@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk) so that we can address any concerns prior to our return.

Currently, the government guidance states that face masks do not need to be worn in education settings.

From September, it is absolutely essential that you **do not send your child to school if they are ill. We ask that you inform the school office of your child's absence.**

If a child becomes unwell or is showing signs of Covid-19 in school:

- They will be removed from the lesson and isolated
- Parents will be contacted to collect their child and advised to get tested
- Results of the test should be shared with the school
- The school will follow Government and PHE guidance if we have any confirmed case amongst staff or children.

As I previously explained, the government guidance states that children need to be kept together in bubbles to minimise interaction and reduce contacts as far as possible.

To further support the minimisation of contact between classes, the school site will be organised into 'zones' in September with each class having a designated academic and recreational area. Most lessons will take place within their classroom; however, wherever necessary and possible, children will be escorted to lessons requiring specialist areas by their teacher.

Breaks and lunchtimes will be well supervised for all year groups, and a strict regime will be in place for respiratory hygiene, handwashing and sanitising, and children must be prepared for this to become part of normal school life from September.

### **The School Day**

We have tried to avoid staggering start and arrival times at school to relieve pressure on families. As before, **the classroom doors will be open from 8:40 to 8.50** to encourage a 'steady flow' of people. We ask **one parent/adult** to take children to the classroom door and **leave site as soon as possible**. We understand that many of the older children walk to school



themselves so they do not require an adult to accompany them. Any late comers should report to the school office.

We are limiting the number of visitors we have onsite. If you wish to come into school, we request that you email or telephone the school office if you wish to make an appointment.

Children's collection times will be from 3:15. Collection points will be from external classroom doors. With the exception of the following classes (as it is difficult to socially distance outside their classroom doors).

**3CS Top Playground** (the playground by Cleveland Ave)

**4BF Bench under the cherry tree** (by the main office)

**6AK Bottom Playground** (the playground by the shops)

As we are limiting the amount of movement within the school building, **please inform the school if you wish for your child to meet them somewhere other than their external classroom door.** For example, the older sibling may have permission to walk around the building to the younger siblings' classroom door.

As there are areas of the school site which are 'pinch-points' and it would be difficult to maintain social distancing if people pass each other, we have a **one-way system** around the school. You can enter and leave the school site via any gate.

Please see enclosed map for classroom locations and the direction of the one-way system.

### **Behaviour**

We will be expecting all children to engage fully with their learning, follow the instructions of adults and adhere to Covid-19 protection rules. We are committed to establishing a safe, disruption-free learning environment for children in September, and will robustly enforce the changes to our policy in order to ensure that the return to school is a positive experience for all.

### **Wrap around care**

Premier Sports will be offering a before and after school club. Please see the attached link if you are interested

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/10192/?location=Nn16>

### **Uniform**

The government are encouraging all schools to return to their normal school uniform policies from September. Therefore, from September, children should arrive in school uniform – all details of our uniform policy can be found here:

<https://www.brambleside.northants.sch.uk/index.php/information/school-uniform>

The government recommends that uniform should be washed 'as usual'.



## Equipment

It is recommended that all children have a suitable waterproof bag or book bag for school.

Due to strict guidelines about the sharing of equipment, coupled with the need for children to be ready to learn, children in Years 1 – 6 a simple, pencil case (like this <https://www.whsmith.co.uk/products/whsmith-assorted-small-clear-pencil-case/0000035117254.html>) containing:

- a black pen (we use Bic Cristal Original black pens in school)
- a pencil
- a pencil sharpener
- a rubber
- a 15cm ruler
- Glue stick
- A set of colouring pencils
- Highlighter

It would be very helpful if all items were labelled.

Please contact us if you experience any difficulty in providing these items.

Children in Reception will be provided with equipment in class.

PE kits should be brought to school on Monday and taken home on Friday to be washed.

## Food and drink

All children should bring a named **water bottle** to school. This should be taken home to be washed daily. All children from Year 3 can bring a snack to be eaten during morning break.

As government guidance states that schools should minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing, lunches will be eaten in classrooms. **Any lunchboxes brought to school should be taken home at the end of each day.**

After much deliberation, **Coombs will**, until October half-term, **be offering a packed-lunch meal**. All sandwiches will be made daily in the school kitchen. Options will be available on [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com). NB New Reception children will not be on this system until September 2020. If you require any further information about school meals or school milk, please contact the school office.

## Medicines

Please send any medicines to the office. Any questions please email [office@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:office@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk)



### **Remote education support**

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, schools are expected to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education. The DfE has produced a quality assured list of remote education resources which includes the use of Oak National Academy resources. It is our understanding that following pupils returning to school in the autumn term, laptops and tablets will be distributed directly to schools affected by a local coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. These will be available for disadvantaged pupils in years 3 to 11 and clinically extremely vulnerable children from all year groups unable to attend school. These devices will be owned by the school and provided to children and young people who would otherwise be unable to access remote education.

### **Queries**

If you have any further questions, please contact me using [dbrown@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:dbrown@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk) and I will respond as soon as I can.

All that is left to say is a huge thank you to each and every member of our community: children, staff and parents, for the collective effort and support given to one another during this time. Let's hope 2020-21 is a more 'normal' academic year!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Drew Brown

