

Brambleside Primary

Newsletter

Friday 3rd September 2021

Issue 1

HELLO & WELCOME BACK!

A warm welcome back to all of our students and parents at the start of this new academic year. In particular a big hello to our new Foundation Stage parents and children who are starting with us full time on 13th September. Welcome to the Brambleside family!

Staff changes

We'd like to warmly welcome some new staff members to Brambleside School, who will wonderfully compliment our team of dedicated staff.

Below, from left to right: Mr Wellard, EYFS Teacher, Mr Palmer: Year 3 Teacher, Miss Sutherland, Teaching Assistant, Mr Runnicles, PE Apprentice.



Note from our Headteacher

Dear parent/carers,

Firstly, I hope that you managed to have a restful summer break. It has been a very positive start to the academic year.

As you are aware, the summer saw significant easing of restrictions relating to the pandemic. There has also been extensive government guidance on the safe return of children to school. Features of last year, such as bubbles, have ceased at present, although they may be reintroduced if the thresholds for an outbreak are met. Please find overleaf a summary of revised guidelines issued by the Department for Education relating to various key points regarding isolation etc. Please take a moment to read the points to follow:



Brambleside's Senior Management Team:

*left: Michelle Eaton-Brown (SENDCo),
centre: Mr Brown (Headteacher),
right: Mrs Goosey (Deputy Headteacher)*

Dates for your Diary

9 Sept – Year 4 swimming starts
13 Sept – EYFS new intake start school
8 Sept – Year 5/6 Girls Football Trials
9 Sept – Year 5/6 Open Football Trials
13 Sept – Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Trial
27 Sept – Individual student photos



Positive Covid-19 result

If a person has a positive test result or have covid-19 symptoms they are required to self-isolate immediately.

Other household members do not need to self-isolate if they are:

- Double vaccinated
- Under 18 years of age
- Part of a Covid Vaccine Trial
- Medically exempt from vaccination

Mask-Wearing

Mask wearing is now a matter of personal choice in most settings. However, with the more transmissible variant, many settings actively encourage mask wearing to continue. In light of this, any parents/carers or members of staff who wish to continue wearing their mask when on the school premises will be supported to do so.

One Way Systems

These were introduced last year to minimise face-to-face contacts and proved very successful at reducing congestion around the site and made members of our community feel safe. For these reasons, the one-way system will continue this academic year.

Bubbles

These are no longer a requirement in educational settings this academic year.

Surface Transmission

Concerns over surface transmission have lessened since last year, with most evidence indicating it to be a theoretical rather than an actual risk. Despite this, the school will continue with enhanced cleaning protocols, encouraging of regular handwashing and the provision of hand-sanitising gel will remain.

Ventilation

Effective ventilation within schools is seen as one of the most effective control measures for aerosol transmission. Carbon dioxide monitors, which will indicate whether ventilation needs to be increased in a room or area, will be in school within the next couple of weeks. Whilst the weather remains reasonably warm, maintaining ventilation through opening of windows and doors is straightforward. As the winter sets in we will be in contact with you about how we will sensibly maintain good airflow alongside a comfortably warm working environment.

Outbreaks

Those of you who had children with us last year will be aware that we had a few Covid cases resulting in isolation of close contacts. All our evidence indicates that the vast majority of cases came from the community, rather than being transmitted within school. Now that those under 18 will no longer have to isolate as close contacts, there are contingency plans drawn up to manage an outbreak within school, should the following threshold be met:



- 5 children, pupils, students, or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period;
- or 10% of children, pupils, students, or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period (e.g., 3 cases in a class of 30), whichever is reached first.

OR

- If a pupil, student, child, or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19, this could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern.

If the threshold for an outbreak is met, additional control measures may be introduced, in consultation with the local Public Health England team. These will be communicated with you at the time.

We are committed to making the school as safe as possible for everyone and I hope these protocols reassure you and your child.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support,

Drew Brown

Headteacher

