

Thursday 27th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

We hope that you have all enjoyed the summer holidays. We are looking forward to welcoming back all of the children on Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

All risk assessments for our opening have been completed and approved. These are available for all parent/carers on the school website.

As shared prior to the holiday, children will return in class bubbles. Each bubble will remain together and where possible, bubbles will not mix.

Following my earlier correspondence, the start and end of the day times have been staggered for all year group bubbles. We ask that only one member of the family brings and collects children so that we limit congestion and the number of adults at the school gate. If your child is being collected by a friend or different family member, please let the school office know in advance.

A reminder of start and finish times for children across school:

Nursery bubble entry and exit via Nursery door 8.45am – 11.45am

Reception class bubble entry via Reception class door 8.45am exit reception class door at 3.10pm (one-way system in place)

Year 1 class bubble entry via KS1 stairs 8.40am exit via KS1 stars at 3pm

Year 2 class bubble entry via KS1 stairs at 8.45am exit via KS1 stairs at 3.05pm

Year 3 class bubble entry via KS2 yard and Year 3/4 door 8.50am exit via KS2 yard at 3.10pm

Year 4 class bubble entry via KS2 yard and Year 3/4 door at 8.55am exit via KS2 yard at 3.15pm

Year 5 class bubble entry via KS2 yard and Year 5 door at 9am exit via KS2 yard at 3.20pm

Year 6 class bubble entry via KS2 yard and Year 5/6 door at 9.05am and exit via KS2 yard at 3.25pm

Staff will be at different points to support the children. Procedures will be reviewed regularly and refined where necessary. We ask that you be patient with the new procedures until the routines are embedded.

**School Uniform: Children must return to school in September wearing their school uniform.** There is no need for children to wear clean clothes every day. Many of you may be buying new school uniform. Our own uniform with school logo is available to purchase from Little Gems in the Galleries. Our uniform consists of royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan, blue or white polo shirt, grey trousers/skirt/tunic, black shoes/trainers (no heels or open toes) or white/blue summer check dress. Children are not permitted to wear leggings. Similar coloured clothing can be purchased from many shops and supermarkets. Haircuts must not be extreme and must not be dyed or include shaved lines or patterns.

**Equipment**: Children can bring a school bag with them but no pencil cases, toys etc as children will be issued with their own stationery. Books and homework can be sent between home and school to support learning but please do not send any non essential items of items of any value to school. If you have any of our school reading books at home, please can you send them back to school.

**School meals**: Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the universal government scheme. Children in Key stage 2 who wish to purchase a meal for £2.30 can do so. Schools meals need to be paid on a Monday for the week at £11.50, preferably online so we don’t have to handle cash. Alternatively children can bring a packed lunch and water bottle clearly named. There is no requirement for children to bring a packed lunch in disposable containers.

**PE kits:** PE kits consist of Blackfell’s own t shirt with logo or suitable plain white t shirt and plain black elasticated shorts. Football strips are **not** allowed to be worn. Black plimsolls or trainers can be worn for P.E. lessons. Please send P.E. kits in to school on the first day of the school year and ensure that they are in school at all times as the children may have additional opportunities to take part in sporting activities as well as normal P.E. lessons. P.E. hoodies can be purchased to wear outdoors but are **not** to be worn as a school jumper.

**Jewellery**: As stated in our school prospectus, only watches are allowed to be worn by the children. If children have had their ears pierced during the summer break, please note earrings need to be removed for school to comply with our Health and Safety policy.

**Attendance:** Please be mindful that we are unable to authorise a request for leave of absence or holiday during term timeunless for exceptional circumstances. Forms are available from the school office or from our website. Absence taken in term time without prior permission from the school may result in legal sanctions for irregular attendance being taken against parent/carers by the Local Authority. If your child is unwell or will not be attending school, please contact the school office prior to the morning session. If your child is not at morning registration, you will be contacted by telephone/text inline with our safeguarding procedures.

**Breakfast Club**: Places must be prebooked with the school office. Please call school for further information. The cost remains at £2.50.

**After school clubs**: We will be only running essential after school care until 4.15pm at a cost of £2.50. Places must be prebooked.

Our **school website** will continue to be updated so please keep an eye on this closely.

**Our school office remains open through e mail and telephone call only.** Parent/carers can only access the school building by making an appointment. Contact the school office on 0191 9171665 if you need to make an appointment.

We are all really looking forward to seeing you all next Wednesday. School is open for a training day on Tuesday 1st September if you require any further information prior to the start of the new term.

Yours sincerely

Julia Watkins

Headteacher