



Great Bardfield Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Alison Kerrell

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that you are all safe and keeping well in the difficult circumstances that we continue to find ourselves in. It is hard to believe that we have been dealing with the challenges of Covid for nearly a year now! Hopefully, there is an end in sight with the 'Road Map out of Lockdown', that the Prime Minister announced yesterday.

This Lockdown seems to have been tougher than the others with the dark, cold winter days and a feeling of helplessness at times. Yet again, parents and carers, you have worked so hard to support the children while trying to manage the daily routines that you have at home. On behalf of all of the governors, teachers and staff I want to thank you sincerely for all of your efforts and resilience with managing your child's Home Learning. We have received so many kind messages of support and appreciation over the last few months; they have meant so much and have kept us all buoyant!

It was fantastic to hear yesterday that all of the children will return to school from the 8th March. Once again, will use DFE guidance, to create and maintain as Covid safe an environment as possible and we will be guided by a robust Risk Assessment.

The plans we put in place in the autumn term worked very well and we will be returning to these:

- The key to keeping everyone Covid safe, continues to have an emphasis on preventing the spread of the virus through social distancing. Children will be in 'Class bubbles' not social distancing from each other but contact with other bubbles will be avoided. Pupils will face forwards in lessons rather than sit side on.
- Adults can cross between the bubbles but must maintain a two metre distance from each other and from the children wherever possible.
- We will ask you to continue drop off and collect your child at the same designated point around the school grounds at the same drop off and collection times. Details of these can be found in the attached poster, on the school gates and on the website.
- As was the case in the autumn term and this term, parents are not permitted on to the school site without an appointment.
- Lunch times and Break times will be staggered and carefully managed so that groups don't mix. We will be serving our normal full menu.
- Children will have a class assembly once per week with me and also one with their teacher. I will visit each class on Friday to give out certificates. Sadly, we will not be able to have a whole school Celebration Assembly until more restrictions are lifted.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- We will be able to offer socially distanced sports clubs for each class bubble. For the three weeks up to Easter these will continue as they were in the autumn term these can be booked online for your child's bubble. We will then change the bubbles around after Easter. For the rest of this year only, as part of Covid Catch Up, the school will fully fund all of these sessions. The link is: <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/6689/?location=cm7%204rn>
- Teachers clubs will not run at present. However, teachers will run tuition sessions for some children in the summer term to support with closing any gaps in children's learning. Parents will receive an invitation for their child to attend these.
- PE with Premier Sport will continue to be taught in the school week and Mrs Metson will return to deliver music.
- Children will return to school in their school uniform and other equipment such as PE Kits etc should come in to school as normal. There will be no restrictions on bringing essential items for learning in to school or sending things home. The children will be able to share books and equipment within their bubble as they usually would.
- Attendance from the 8th March is mandatory. Therefore, if a parent chooses not to send their child back to school, without a valid reason eg: the child needs to shield, they may be subject to a penalty notice from the Local Authority.

I fully appreciate that for many of you this will be a worrying time and the thought of sending your child back to school may be an alarming prospect. We will continue to operate a rigorous hygiene programme of hand washing and sanitising. Areas will be thoroughly cleaned between each bubble and we will undertake a Deep Clean of the whole school once per week. It will not be necessary to take the children's temperatures when they arrive at school.

In line with our stringent Covid procedures we ask that if your child is unwell and particularly if they have a persistent cough, high temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell that you do not send them in to school. If your child has these symptoms, please book a Covid test as soon as possible. If we have any concerns about a child being unwell, we will contact you to come and collect your child immediately. In the case of a Positive Covid test it will be necessary to isolate the whole bubble for 10 days.

To keep everyone safe, it is very important that parents follow the Government rules for Covid. It is imperative that at Drop Off and Collection parents wear a face covering and maintain social distancing please. There should be no gathering outside the school gates or on the green opposite.

Once again, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to you all for the amazing job you have done with Home Schooling-it has been another long road! There is a glimpse of light at the end of the tunnel. Let's all move forwards to the summer term together.

Kind regards

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher