



## Great Bardfield Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Alison Kerrell

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### **Back to School**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school next Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September. We are also pleased that we can all be together on the playgrounds, at the start and end of the day, and that parents and carers can return to being on the school site as normal.

I know that there will be lots of questions about returning to school so please find what I hope will be the answers below. Our new Reception parents should follow the special arrangements that we have put in place for their child for the first few weeks of term please.

#### **The start and end of the day.**

The side gate will be unlocked at 8.40am every morning and children from Year 1 to Year 6 should line up at the designated spots on the playground. Children should be supervised by their parents at all times but Year 6 can walk to and from school themselves.

Just before 8.50 we will blow a whistle and then parents should say goodbye. A second whistle will indicate that the school day has started. I will greet the children and then they will move in to their classrooms led by their teacher (or LSA). The side gate will close at 8.55am.

At the end of the day Pixies and Unicorns can be collected from the back playground and Dragons from the middle playground at 3.05pm. Pegasus are also collected from the middle playground but at 3.10pm. Leprechauns and Phoenix can be collected from the front playground at 3.10pm. We ask that parents move quickly between classes if they have more than one child to collect. Details of school clubs/ tutoring will follow in a few weeks and the different arrangements for drop off and collection will be explained then.

If your child is attending the onsite Before and After School Club, they will be dropped off and collected by the club staff. We ask that parents using the club, follow their guidance for drop off and pick up and in particular access to the school site.

**Please remember that at the start and end of the day that children are not permitted on the playground equipment and that children must be supervised at all times.**

Parents are welcome to come to the office with any questions they may have. For safeguarding reasons, we ask that parents do not cut through the entrance hall to access the rear of the school at any time.

If your child is late, please bring them to the office where they will need to be signed in.

## Lunch and Break times

We intend to return to our normal Lunch and Break arrangements. The children will all be eating their lunch in the hall and playing together outside. There is no longer a requirement to separate the children unless we need to follow our Contingency Plan (please see the Covid section below).

If your child is in Reception or Key Stage One, they are welcome to order a free school lunch or bring a packed lunch. If your child is in Key Stage Two they can order a school lunch at the very reasonable cost of £2.40 per day or they can bring a packed lunch. If your Key Stage Two child has a school lunch, we ask that parents settle this through Parent Pay. The office can send parents a link to set this up on an app if you don't already have it.

## Assemblies

We will be returning to our normal programme of whole school assemblies and we are especially excited about our Friday Celebration Assembly. This will be at 2.15pm and everyone is welcome. Our Reception children won't join us for this assembly until after half term in October. We hope to have our annual Harvest Assembly and our Nativity Play and Carol Concert in December and we also hope to host our usual Macmillan Coffee Morning.

## Covid Management Arrangements

We will be following the latest guidance from the DFE:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>.

The priority of the DFE and of our school is for children to be in school as far as is possible. We will no longer isolate groups of children unless we are advised to do so in the event of an outbreak (please see below). We will undertake a robust Covid Risk Assessment.

In school we will continue to follow a rigorous hygiene and cleaning regime. Sanitiser and tissues will be readily available for everyone and we will be encouraging regular hand washing. Staff will no longer be required to wear face coverings and children will be able to mix freely during the school day. Sports Clubs will resume as normal for pupils in the middle of September.

**If your child has any symptoms of Covid, they must remain at home and parents should book a PCR test. If a child develops symptoms of Covid during the school day we will isolate the child and will contact parents. We ask that parents collect their child as soon as possible. If a child has been sent home with symptoms of Covid, they must have a PCR test and result before returning to school. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.**

If your child tests positive for Covid 19 then they must follow the isolation guidance from the NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/> . **Your child will need to isolate for 10 full days.**

The school will no longer identify the close contacts of a child or adult in school who has tested positive for Covid 19. This will now be carried out by NHS Track and Trace. Parents may be contacted if their child has been identified as a close contact and they may be advised to take their child for a PCR test. In this instance any child identified as a close contact must still come to school unless they have symptoms or test positive for Covid.

If someone in a child's household tests positive for Covid 19 there is no need for the child to isolate. They should still attend school but if they develop any symptoms they must remain at home and take a PCR test. They can return to school if this is negative. **The result of a PCR test will always be taken over the result of a Lateral Flow Test.**

If five or more people in a class (children and staff) test positive for Covid within a 10-day period, this will be classed as an Outbreak. In such a circumstance we will put in place our **Contingency Plan**. This will be finalised and shared with the school community next week. If we have an Outbreak we will put in place more rigorous Covid measures and will isolate the class bubble. Children will still be expected to attend school unless they have symptoms or test positive for Covid, with a PCR test. It will only be in the most extreme circumstance that a whole bubble (or more) will be isolated.

**All pupils who are isolating because they have tested positive for Covid 19, and who are well enough will be offered and encouraged to engage with Remote Learning via Seesaw or Tapestry.**

I understand that the majority of children will be very excited to be coming back to school next week and that most parents will be keen to get back to a normal routine. However, I am also mindful that some pupils and parents may be facing a lot of anxiety with the new guidance and a return to a regular school operation. I am happy to answer any questions if you would like to email the school office.

**Two important dates for your diary:**

A Welcome BBQ for everyone to meet and mingle on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September from 12-3pm and we will be opening the swimming pool for the last time this year.

I would also like to invite all parents and carers to a Welcome to the New School Year meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. I will give a short presentation outlining our goals for the forthcoming year, there will be an opportunity for questions and answers and we will serve light refreshments. You will also be able to visit your child's classroom and have a brief chat with their teacher.

I sincerely hope that the forthcoming school year will be our best yet and that everyone will thoroughly enjoy and make the most of all the wonderful opportunities that our great school has to offer.

Kind regards

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

