

Bellfield Primary School

15th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a 'super' first week back. I cannot praise the children enough for their enthusiasm, courage and determination to achieve their very best. The school is a happy and lively place again and this has filled us all with joy. Thank you for doing your part each day by following our new safety measures for drop off and pick up times/entrances and exits. I understand it has been a challenge at times but feel that our new routes are helping to ease congestion and ensure we can get the children in and out of school as safely as possible.

Just a reminder that all children need to be in before **8.50am** as this is when we close the school site. Nursery and Reception children must be in by **8.40am** as this is when we lock their area to ensure it is safe for the day. All other children **MUST** be in by **8.50am**.

We have reviewed our end of day timings for the Nursery children. After a really positive first day for our new 3 year olds, we will now be starting to send children home from 3.15pm – 3.25pm. Please continue to collect your older children first and then make your way to wait on the playground area. I ask that you do **NOT** stand directly outside the Nursery window as this can be upsetting for the younger children to see you as they are trying to get ready to go home. Please help us by waiting on the foundation stage concrete playground area until the staff are ready to see the children out at a time. Thank you for your support.

Safety first

If your child is in Year 5 or 6, please remind them about being safe when waiting at the carpark gate in a morning. Some of the children have been coming on their scooters and riding them on and off the road. I have been out several times last week to remind them to remain on the path and stand as close to the fence as possible. This is not only for their safety but also to ensure that children arriving at the main school gate can pass safely without having to go onto the road. I have been to speak to the classes about them being safe, but would appreciate your support with this matter.

Medical appointments

We appreciate that sometimes children will have medical appointments during the school day and fully support this. We are asking that you provide us with proof of all appointments, prior to going. In order to make this possible, now that we are asking you to not use the school office, we are asking that you send appointment letters and texts via Seesaw to your class teacher. If you have a text message appointment, please send a screen shot. Class teachers will then send a copy to the office so that we can update our attendance records accordingly.



Attendance/Punctuality

As you are aware, attendance at school is very important, especially after the children have had so much time at home due to the current pandemic. We are really aiming to have 'excellent' attendance this year and need your help with this. We have already made a fantastic start with last week's school attendance being a whopping **98.9%**. **This was a fantastic start to the year, well done everyone.** Please try to take holidays out of term time to ensure this does not affect your child's learning. We know this is not always possible, but please be aware that we will not authorise any holiday and all absences of 10 or more sessions (5 days+) will be referred to the Local Authority who may wish to issue a fine.

It is also important that your child arrives at school for the start of the day, lots of reading/spelling and arithmetic work happens first thing in a morning, therefore it is imperative that your child is here. We want all children to achieve to the best of their ability and know with your support this will be possible.

Online learning

As mentioned in the last newsletter, all classes will be uploading work on a weekly basis. The aim is for children who are off school, either due to illness/Covid related issues, will be able to access some of the basic skills work that they would be completing in class. You can also use this work as a way of reinforcing learning or so that you can see what work your child is being expected to complete. It is there if you need/want it, but is not compulsory.

What if... Parental information help sheet

This sheet aims to answer some of the questions you may have around what to do if you, your child or anyone in your household has Covid-19 symptoms or if someone in your household has had a confirmed positive test.

This information states the **most common symptoms** to look out for in your children and is taken directly from the latest information published by the NHS. If you are in any doubt about symptoms then ring 111 or your own GP.

If your child has:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
or
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
or
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal **then further action is needed.**



Please use the attached table to see what action to take

What to do if:	Action to be taken:	Your child can return to school when:
....my child has coronavirus symptoms	Do NOT come to school Contact the school daily Self-isolate Get a test as soon as possible Inform school of the outcome immediatelythe test comes back negative.
....my child tests positive for coronavirus	Do NOT come to school Inform the school immediately about the result Self-isolate for at least 10 days Keep in contact with the school daily.when they feel better after their 10 day isolation. They can return to school even if they have a cough or loss of smell/ taste. <i>These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.</i>
....somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms	Do NOT come to school Contact the school daily Self-isolate Household member to get tested as soon as possible Inform school of the outcome immediatelythe household member tests negative.
....somebody in my household tests positive.	Do NOT come to school Contact the school daily Self-isolate for 14 daysthe child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
.... NHS test and trace have identified my child as a "close contact" of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	Do NOT come to school Contact the school daily Self-isolate for 14 daysthe child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
....my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	DO NOT take unauthorised leave during term time Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel Provide information to school as per the attendance policy <u>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</u> Do NOT come to school Inform school of return date Contact school daily Self-isolate for 14 days from day of return	...the quarantine period of 14 days self-isolation has been completed.
...we have received medical advice that my child should resume shielding. <i>(Shielding was paused on the 1st August, should cases rise on a local/ national level and a local lockdown be enforced, you will be contacted to alert you, that your child should resume shielding)</i>	Do NOT come to school Contact the school office Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again.	...government guidance lifts restrictions and shielding is paused, your child can return to school

Have a great week!

Miss Howard