



10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a wonderful summer. It has been lovely to see all the children return to school, the staff are ready for another super year. Children have settled into their new classes; we are extremely proud of them. We would like to say a big 'Hello' to all our new children in Foundation Stage 2. They have settled into full-time School without any difficulties; I know Mrs Raw, Mrs Rennardson, Miss Gibson and Miss Bennett have had a fantastic week with them.

This year we are looking forward to returning to some 'normality' but this will be gradual and dependent upon the local and national picture. Further information regarding Covid measures will be found within this newsletter.

Current situation regarding Covid-19 and the safety measures in place

The national picture continues to see a rising number of daily cases and we will therefore be continuing to take extra precautions whilst trying to make sure school life is as normal as possible. Our trust and the local authority have issued further guidance over the summer.

Some of the steps we are taking include:

- We continue to ask that parents do not enter the school grounds in a morning and that ALL children, except our Nursery children, are encouraged to walk into school independently. (This includes our Reception children. Miss Finnerty is on the gate to take any messages or help any children that are upset. Please do not come to the classroom door.
- We ask that on an evening you collect your child/ren and leave the site as quickly as possible to help with congestion. We appreciate that it can be crowded on the playground and this is why we have moved Year 3 and 4 over to the back of the playground.
- Anyone who has any symptoms of Covid will be asked to stay off school and take a PCR test. NHS Test and Trace will talk over all situations where there is a positive test and advise you of the next steps.
- Anyone who has tested positive will need to isolate.
- Children will no longer be kept in school bubbles unless we are advised to do so by local or national government.
- We will be continuing with good hygiene measures of regular hand washing/sanitising – all rooms have hand sanitizers on entry to the room and children and staff are asked to use them when entering a room.
- We will continue with our enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff areas are cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Water bottles – children need to bring their own clearly labelled bottles. Children will take these home each day to be washed and refilled with fresh water.

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What happens if there is a positive case in the school community?

We will write to you to let you know that there has been a positive case and that your child may have had contact with them. The wording of the letter will be as follows:

Dear parents/carers

There has been a positive case of Covid-19 in the school community and your child has been identified as a close contact.

Schools are no longer expected to identify the close contacts of cases of Covid - this is done by the national Test and Trace system. Test and Trace may be in touch with you in the coming days if your child is identified as a close contact by them, but as a school we will not pass personal contact details on to the case/s to share with Test and Trace.

Children who are close contacts of someone with Covid 19 are no longer required to isolate, but they are advised to get a PCR test, and they are a higher risk of developing Covid 19 in the days after the contact. They do not need to isolate while they wait for the result, unless they have symptoms.

Your child should continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms of Covid 19 or are unwell. If they do develop symptoms, please keep your child at home and book a PCR test for them. The three main covid symptoms remain a temperature or 37.8 degrees or higher; a new continuous cough; a change to or loss of taste and smell. However, the most commonly reported symptoms of the Delta variant include headache, sore throat, tiredness, and cold-like symptoms, so please be aware of these as well and seek testing if you are in any doubt.

PE

Just a reminder that PE lessons will start next week for all year groups. You will have been informed by your child's class teacher, via Seesaw, which day this is going to be. Please remember, children need to come dressed in their PE kit on their day. They will remain in their PE clothes for the full day. Whilst the weather is still warm children should be wearing black shorts and a white or yellow t-shirt. Once the weather starts to get colder children need to have plain black jogging bottoms, a plain black hoodie or zipped tracksuit top and a white or yellow t-shirt. (NO bright coloured tracksuits/joggers/hoodies please). Children need to be in trainers on their PE day. If your child struggles to tie shoelaces please aim to send them in trainers with alternative fastenings, the class teachers do not have time to tie 30 pairs of shoelaces during a day! Thank you

Year group	PE Day
Reception , Year 1 and Year 6	Friday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 3 and Year 5	Tuesday
Year 4	Wednesday

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Jewellery

Many children have had their ears pierced over the summer holiday. Please be reminded that we have a strict NO jewellery policy. This is to protect your child from any potential dangers. This also includes no watches/bracelets/necklaces etc. If your child has had their ears pierced, they will need to be removed for school or replaced with the plastic spacers.

Express yourself Fridays

This year we are going to be encouraging children to 'express' themselves and show their personalities in different ways. We are very mindful that whilst children are at school they are asked to follow rules/routines and wear a uniform to be the same as everyone else. This can sometimes hinder children in being free to show who they really are. We are keen for our children to express themselves and show their individual personalities. Therefore, the first Friday of every month will be 'Express yourself Friday.' Children and staff will be able to come to school dressed, as they like, with a few exceptions. (NO high-heeled shoes/boots, no bellies on show, clothes need to be sensible for them to work in all day) If your child wishes to wear their football kit, come dressed as a fairy/princess/superhero, bright rainbow clothes etc. then they will be able to on the first Friday of each month.

We know that Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, usually have their PE on a Friday, so on the following dates the children in these two classes will have an additional daily mile PE session at another point in the week, as we do not want them to miss out on being able to express themselves.

Dates this term for Express Yourself Friday:

Friday 1st October

Friday 5th November

Friday 3rd December

Independence and Resilience

The last 18 months have been challenging for everyone and we have seen how resilient our children have been when faced with home learning, concerns around Covid-19 and adapting to new routines in school.

At Bellfield, we feel very strongly about helping our children to become independent and resilient learners. This will be something that we are going to work hard on this year and would like your support. In our assembly on Monday, we talked about what it means to be independent and resilient. Each year group has been given a set of challenges for the year to help them become more independent. (For example: walking around school independently, putting on and taking off their coats, ensuring all equipment is ready on their desk, tidying up after themselves as well as many other challenges)

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You could think about challenges at home that would encourage your child to be more independent. (*Getting dressed in a morning without help, packing their school bag, carrying their bag to school, putting their shoes away when they get home, helping you to set the table ready for tea, washing up the pots after tea, bringing their clothes to the washing machine, the list is endless*).

We are also going to be focusing on 'resilience.' We have talked about what 'resilience' is and how you can become are more resilient learner. This will be the focus for some of our assemblies this term. You can help by encouraging your child at home. When they are finding something difficult, encourage them to 'stick at it', when they are faced with a difficult or challenging situation, encourage them to rise above and be the best they can be.

Our aim is that our school community is a place of independence and resilience.

Finally, well done to all of our children for coming back to school and working hard this week. As always, I am very proud of our school community. Thank you for being patient with the new entrances and exits.

Have a wonderful weekend; hopefully the weather will remain sunny!

Thank you for your continued support

Stay safe

Miss Howard

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