

Banham Primary School

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Banham Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Matthew Gamble

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to the start of the new term and I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer holiday!

I am sure that you are probably aware of the updated guidance from the DFE/ Government regarding the start of the new school year, however if you have missed it it can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

In summary many of the covid restrictions have now been lifted in order to enable more children to attend school without the need for isolation of school/ class bubbles following a positive PCR result from a child or member of staff.

From the start of September there will no longer be any bubbles, unless we are directed by Health of England to reinstate them.

The NHS Track and Trace service are responsible for investigating close contacts for children and staff, not the school, so we will be following their advice if and when they contact us.

If you are contacted by Track and Trace then please arrange for a PCR test to be carried out as soon as possible and let us know the result. If the PCR test is positive then an isolation period of 10 days will still need to be followed.

The school has the right to refuse attendance for any child who it believes is displaying symptoms of Covid 19 in order to protect other members of the school community. We would appreciate your support in adopting a cautious approach to potential cases whilst waiting for the results of a PCR test.

During the school day we will continue to ensure that children are washing their hands/ using sanitiser at regular intervals and we will be monitoring the ventilation across the school. The DFE will be supplying schools with CO2 monitors at some point during the Autumn term.

In order to reduce the possibility of transmission between children, families and staff we have elected to keep a number of measures in place which will be reviewed again at half term.

At the beginning and end of the school day we will continue to use the separate entrances and exits for the children where they can be collected/ dropped off by parents and carers. We would like to continue to minimise the number of parents within the school building and this is a great opportunity for the children to develop their independence and this worked very well last year.

For Robins children this will be at the school gate to the playground.

For Skylarks children this will be the main pupil entrance to the school from the playground.

Wrens children will use the staff entrance from the front of the school and Swifts children will use the Swifts cloakroom entrance.

School will be open from 8.45.

For any school queries please contact Mrs Beal, the school secretary by telephone, clasdojo or email in the first instance.

BASC will resume from the mobile classroom and Mrs Davies can be contacted at basc@banham.cee.coop full details can be found on our school website.

Staff will continue to clean key touch points throughout the school day.

On days when the children have PE they can continue to come to school in their PE kit.

Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering around the school grounds please do respect the wishes and feelings of parents/ carers and staff who wish to wear them and who may wish to maintain social distancing.

There have been a number of recent articles in the National press where prominent scientists have advised that there will probably be an increase in the number of positive covid cases when schools reopen and we can all play a small part which will contribute to the safety of the school community and beyond.

I am sure that you are all looking forward to the start of an exciting new school year, as are we, and we look forward to sharing many exciting things with you throughout the year.

Take care and stay safe!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gamble