



Avonwood Primary School

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

14th July 2020

Dear parents and carers

Welcoming Back All Our Children in September

As we come towards the end of the academic year I wanted to thank all parents, children and staff for how the school community has worked together over the past few months. It has probably been the greatest challenge that any of us have faced as teachers and I am exceptionally proud of how we have all responded to the situation. I am particularly pleased that we have managed to provide a strong online curriculum for children and I would like to thank parents for all the encouragement they have given them during the lockdown to continue with their learning.

The very good news is that school will be returning for all from 7th September. This means that every year group will be able to attend, every day. This is vital for children's education and wellbeing and is something that we know will be welcomed across our school community.

Following the publication of the Department for Education's (DFE) guidance for reopening schools, we are now finalising our risk assessment so that we can reopen for everyone in line with the government's and scientists' advice. Key to this will be ensuring that everyone in school follows excellent hygiene practices and that we are careful about the number of different people that children come into contact with at school.

Our plans for September are as follows:

Class Organisation

Classes will go ahead in bubbles of 30 from September with the normal class teacher in charge of the class.

Welcome Video

Last week we emailed you the link to a short welcome video from the new class teacher to share with your child.

Avonwood Primary School
Harewood Avenue
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH7 6NB
t 01202 398451

Executive Principal: Richard Tutt

Headteacher: Chris Jackson

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Classroom Setup

Children in EYFS will find their classrooms as set up as normal with the resources and equipment you would normally expect to find in a foundation classroom. We will remove any unnecessary equipment but they will broadly look like normal. In all other years children will have a designated space at a table complete with a pencil case and basket to store resources. These classrooms will be more minimal than normal but will still look and feel like primary school classrooms. Children of all ages will be able to mix within their bubbles but with care to limit close interaction only where necessary.

Back to School Social Story

Miss Sloane has produced transition social stories for each class. These are on the website under year group pages. Please find time to read this to your child as it should hopefully help reassure them about any worries they may have. The first few days back at Avonwood will include lots of opportunities for circle time and well-being activities.

Summer Transition Pack

When you attend mentor sessions this week you will take home a summer transition work pack. We have been conscious to only set short tasks but completing these will prepare the children for September. Please also continue to do normal activities like reading stories and writing together as this really helps keep children on track over the summer break.

Structure of the School Day / Curriculum

In our experience from delivering provision to EYFS and Year 1 in the summer term, children benefit from the structure of a normal school day. Whilst we will adapt our curriculum to offer more outdoor time and well-being activities, children will be undertaking as normal a school day as possible. We plan to also be flexible in our approach to support children depending on the way they present and their individual needs too. Our brilliant TA's are going to play a really important role in helping children settle back in to school. Your children will also return to having the support of our specialist teachers in Music, PE and MFL.

Interventions

If your child currently receives an intervention as part of their school week then some of these will resume in September. The staff taking these interventions will be taking appropriate steps to maintain social distancing so these can go ahead.

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Uniform Arrangements

As per Government guidance, we ask that children wear their normal school uniform and this should be washed as per your normal routines. On days when PE is timetabled we ask for children to come into school wearing their full PE kit and trainers. This means no PE kit needs to be stored in school. A copy of the PE uniform list can be found on our website. A reminder to junior school age parents (Years 3 to 6) to purchase the official Avonwood compulsory PE t-shirt. During colder weather they must arrive wearing navy jogging bottoms and a navy jumper / hoody.

Lunch Arrangements

A simplified hot school dinners menu will recommence in September. They will be served to classrooms to avoid the need to sit in the hall. If you do send in a packed lunch then staff will carefully spray the lunch box with disinfectant before placing it on our lunch trolley. Please make sure the lunchbox is wipe clean so this can be done easily. I will review the hot meal menu with the catering team early in the new term.

Bags

Children should bring rucksacks and book bags to school as normal.

Water Bottle and Sun Cream

Please continue to send you child into school with their water bottle. This will be placed on their allocated desk. During sunny weather we ask parents to apply an all-day sun cream before arrival to school. If you wish to send in additional sun cream then you may but we ask it is clearly labelled. This will live on their school desk next to their water bottle. Children need to be able to independently apply this.

Equipment

All children are being provided with their own clear pencil case complete with useful equipment such as colouring pencils and white board markers. Miss Keates wrote home last week asking for a £4 parental contribution towards purchasing these pencil cases. The deadline for making this payment is Thursday 16th July. This removes the need to share these tactile resources. **Please do not send children in to school with any other items or different pencil cases.**

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Toilets

We are fortunate that every classroom opens on to a set of toilets for that specific class. Therefore the toilets will only be shared with the 30 children in that bubble. Cleaning staff will monitor them throughout the day.

Travel

Where possible please cycle, walk or scoot to school. If you drive and park on site, please try to leave a space between yourself and others. Social distancing has to come first so please do not park inappropriately for reasons such as running late for work. As always, if you are unable to park safely on site then please find a safe place to park off site.

Car Park

Due to the need to extend the width of some pathways I'm afraid reduced parking will be available on site. Please plan ahead with this and utilise the car park a short walk away in Kings Park. Drop off timing is key so please do not let the known lack of on-site car parking be a reason to be late. With 570 children attending school in September please avoid using the car park unless absolutely necessary.

Teacher Communication

Please keep playground teacher communications to a minimum. If you need to discuss something then please request a phone call or email the year team using the email addresses found at the link below:

www.avonwoodprimaryschool.org.uk/about-us/year-groups

Drop off and Pick Up

I cannot emphasise enough how important it is that parents support us by making pick up and drop off as safe as possible. Start and end times have been staggered to help keep class groups isolated. Specific drop off and pick up times for year groups are published at the end of this letter. By doing this it helps keep each bubbles as safe as possible from the risk of infection. **Therefore it is vital that parents follow our guidance and do not socialise with families during drop off and pick up times.** Given how proud I am of our community this is a tough message to give as naturally we all want to catch up and say hello. However given the circumstances the following steps are in place:

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- Unless it is unavoidable due to understandable childcare issues, children should be dropped off and picked up by just one adult with no siblings on site.
- Children should walk alongside, holding your hand where possible. Children must not run on ahead or play with other children on site before school.
- The Senior Leadership Team will be present on the school gate but at a safe distance. Please respect our safety by staying socially distant from staff at all times.
- When dropping off there are clear markers on the playground. Please remain 2m apart from other families at all times.
- You are welcome to say hello to the teaching team but please request a phone call if you need to have a more detailed conversation.
- At drop off and pick up staff will remain in the doorway and parents are asked to remain behind the drop off markings.
- Punctuality is key for this to work as planned.

During drop off and pick up times please do think of others and be patient.

Late Arrivals

It is really important that parents try harder than ever to make sure children are on time to school at the specified drop off time. If the gates are closed please call the office (01202 727910) and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will open the playground gate and take your child to their class. **The office is closed so please do not bring late arrivals into our reception office.**

Early Pick Up

If you need to collect a child earlier than their allocated collection time then please contact our office team in advance (01202 727910) to organise this. We need advance warning to make sure a member of staff is available to open up the gate and provide access to pick up. Access is not available via our front office as this will be closed. Therefore early pickups are logistically difficult and should be avoided where possible.

Different Sibling Start / End Time

If you have siblings with different start or end times please do not worry. Staff will be in their classrooms ready to accept siblings from 8:30am. Early collection is also possible but please approach classrooms sensibly (e.g. remaining 2m from other parents) so that the sibling can be released early and safely.

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School Office

The school office is closed to public access. Please make phone or email your primary method of communicating with the office team. Our public toilets are also closed so please plan ahead with this in mind.

PPE

As per Government guidance, staff and children should not wear PPE to school. There is scientific guidance that inappropriate use of PPE can be more harmful than the potential benefit of wearing this. Staff will be in their normal work attire. Please do not send your child into school with a mask or other PPE items without first discussing this with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. I would also ask parents to think really carefully before wearing masks on site as there is no guidance that these are required in open public spaces like our playground and could cause unnecessary anxiety and fear.

Possible Corona Virus Diagnosis in School

If a child becomes unwell at school with a high fever, new continuous cough or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), a first aid trained member of staff will take them to one of our designated medical rooms. This member of staff will put on a pair of gloves, apron, face mask and goggles. We will take care to make sure this happens in a careful, kind and compassionate way. Should we have concerns that this child has symptoms we will call you and ask for immediate timely collection. *They will be expected to self-isolate for at least 7 days and you should arrange for them to have a COVID-19 test, notifying school of the outcome asap.*

Please make sure your contact details are up to date and that you are accessible throughout the day. Timely pick up in this situation is essential.

Should we experience a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our school community, we will work closely with our local health protection team to ensure the situation is managed quickly and effectively. Using NHS Test and Trace data, they will advise us on what next steps – if any – we will need to take as a school. We will be putting in place stringent control measures as per the DfE's guidance in order to minimise the need for larger groups of children to self-isolate should there be a positive case within school.

In the event of any large number of students having to self-isolate or in the event of a local lockdown that means we are required to close the school, we will immediately revert to the online learning that has been working well this term. We very much hope that we do not need to return

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to any form of lockdown but, if we do, we are confident that we will be able to continue with all learning.

It is essential that everyone – children, parents and staff – continue to follow the NHS guidance and that they do not come into school if they are experiencing any symptoms. Thus, we would ask every parent to keep any child displaying symptoms of COVID-19 at home and immediately inform the school. Likewise, if any member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, please keep your child at home and inform us as soon as possible.

Medicines

If your child normally has medicine in school then please provide this in a clear and, labelled plastic bag to the class teacher on the first day back. We can only accept medicines for children where we already have medical care plans in place such as epi-pens, inhalers and diabetes kits. They will be stored inside a lockable cupboard in each classroom.

Site Appearance

When you arrive on Monday 7th September the site will look the same as normal but with some modifications to keep everyone safe.

- Gates will be marked clearly to identify the way in and out for each year group:
 - EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will enter and exit via the large gates at the end of our drive near the front office.
 - Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 via the gate at the top opposite the disable parking bays.
 - Year 3 will enter their dedicated block via the gate the opens onto the car park.
- Floor markings will be installed to identify designated playground spaces for each year group with buffer zones between each classroom.
- Floor marking spots will be installed outside each classroom identifying where to stand when dropping children off.
- A line will be installed in front of classrooms (or the red daily mile line used) as a threshold that parents should not pass.
- Signage has been installed regarding social distancing and hand washing.
- Anti-bac gel stations will be placed in key locations.
- Wider paths have been organised and one way systems to enter and exit the site clearly marked.

These alterations are being completed with care taken to make sure the balance between safety and compassion are right. I will endeavor to share images of the site over the summer holidays so that you know what to expect.

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Attendance

We know that all children will require some degree of catch up after the disruption of the past few months. It is therefore essential that every child attends every day from the beginning of term so that we can quickly get back to normal curriculum content. Attendance will be required at school and will be monitored as it has been in the past. Unauthorised absence will be treated as such and followed up accordingly.

Clubs

You will be relieved to hear that Energy Kidz are planning to relaunch their wrap around care from the start of term. They will be expected to run as per Government guidance, supporting the school in mitigating risk of spread between bubbles where possible. We hope to compliment this by opening wider clubs (football, mindfulness, science etc) later in the Autumn term. Whilst they will look to reduce risk, they will cater for children from more than one bubble so will implement strategies to mitigate rather than eliminate the risk of contamination between bubbles. I would encourage parents to speak with Energy Kidz to be sure you are happy with the way they intend to run this external club.

Energy Kidz breakfast club will run from Avonwood Hall and the after school club will operate from Avonbourne canteen.

Catch-Up Strategy

You will be aware the Government plans to provide schools with a small top up fund to support catch up work. This may take the form of extra resources, small intervention groups or after school tutoring. Our strategy will heavily depend on the way the children present in September. I hope the strong online offering and high parental support during lockdown will have mitigated the extent that some children may have regressed. I will of course write to parents in the autumn term with details of exactly how we intend to support all children.

Parent Social Media Feeds

Over the summer break I completely understand the need for parents to share thoughts and concerns regarding this complex matter. All I ask is that everyone is kind and considerate to the viewpoints of other parents and staff. These are unusual times for everyone so it is easier than ever to misunderstand a well-intentioned opinion. When using sites such as WhatsApp, please think before you post and take care to only share factual information. I endeavor to run Avonwood in a very open and transparent manner so please speak to us where possible to avoid confusion. Your understanding in this area is much appreciated.

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Team Effort

I am incredibly proud of the ongoing combined team effort that has made the past few months a success. Now we move into this new phase of whole school reopening this team spirit is going to be key. I expect my staff to take responsible steps to protect their bubbles of 30 by following Government guidelines when in and out of school. Therefore I fully expect parents to do their best to reduce the risk of infection spreading within these protected groups. I'd ask those families planning to utilise child minders or externally run clubs to consider what measures can be used to protect the integrity of school bubbles. If we all play our part then this new way of operating will work in a safe and measured way.

We know that children thrive best when they have routine, consistency and stability around them. We will therefore be doing everything we can to ensure that, wherever possible, school life is as close to what they are used to as possible. Thus, all of our existing policies and expectations on issues such as behaviour, attendance and uniform will be in place as normal with updates as required to reflect adherence to safety and hygiene measures.

Your efforts to home school have been outstanding but for most children school continues to be the best place for them to learn. The steps my team have put into place minimise risk to the safest level available within my powers. Before opening my detailed risk assessment and plan will be personally signed off as fit for purpose by Sir Jon Coles, CEO of United Learning.

Finally, we know that some children will feel apprehensive about returning to school after such a long time away – this is natural and normal. In welcoming back some EYFS and Year 1 this term, however, it was gratifying to see the smiles from the children as they met back up with friends and staff and to hear the positive feedback from parents about their experience of the return. In September, we will of course be taking particular steps to ensure that our pastoral support for each child provides the right reassurance and allows time and space for any remaining worries or concerns to be addressed so that each children is able to enjoy being back at school.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding over the past few months. Everyone at Avonwood is looking forward to welcoming our children back. We know that there is a great deal to do and that the year ahead may still be subject to some interruptions. But we are entirely focused on making sure that in every lesson, every day, every child continues to be happy, learn and thrive. Should you have further unanswered questions then please send me an email. I can't describe how much I am looking forward to seeing all children back at school in September.

Have a great summer and we will see you all soon!

Mr Jackson, Head Teacher

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Drop off and Pick up Times for September 2020

Year	Class	Drop Off Time	Pick Up Time
Year 1	Owls	08:55	15:05
	Foxes		
	Squirrels		
Year 2	Bears	08:50	15:10
	Deer		
	Otters		
Year 3	Silver Birch	08:45	15:15
	Elm		
	Willow		
Year 4	Ospreys	08:40	15:20
	Eagles		
	Hawks		
Year 5	Atlantic	08:35	15:25
	Pacific		
	Arctic		
Year 6	Everest	08:30	15:30
	Olympus		

Notes:

- Siblings may be dropped off anytime from 8:30am.
- Siblings may be collected anytime from 15:00
- Punctuality is key
- EYFS families should please stick to the times published in their transition welcome packs

Weekly PE Lessons

Year 1 – Wednesday
Year 2 – Monday
Year 3 – Wednesday
Year 4 – Tuesday
Year 5 – Friday
Year 6 – Thursday

Please can children come to school on the specified day each week wearing their full PE kit. Year Teams will be in touch in September as there may be an additional day each week when PE kit should be worn to school.

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