



BELLE VUE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Lawnswood Road
Wordsley
DY8 5BZ

Tel 01384 818615

21st May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Proposed plans for return to school – a joint letter from Mr Porter and Belle- Vue Governing body

As always, we hope you are all safe and well. It has been an incredibly challenging time for us all individually and indeed as a school community. It has been lovely to hear that staff have been keeping in touch with our pupils through various means and it has lifted their spirits.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to all our staff who have worked extremely hard to meet the challenges we have faced as a school since lock down. It has once again highlighted what a fantastic team we have here at Belle -Vue.

As a result of the Prime Minister's announcement regarding the reopening of primary schools to particular cohorts and the further guidance issued from the local education authority, we have been working with staff, the senior leadership team and the Governing body to plan for a phased return to school.

After much discussion and planning, our approach to re-integration will have at its heart the **health and safety** of all our staff and pupils.

The following is a brief explanation of our approach.

At this point we must stress that these plans have been made as our leadership team monitor the current situation, pupil numbers and guidance from the local education authority. Our plan will need to be amended if this should change – we respectfully ask that you work with us at a time when daily assessments need to be made to keep everyone safe. The Government have to prove that key criteria have been met before enabling schools to return. Our understanding is that the date for this is Thursday May 28th 2020.

We intend to approach it with a graduated response with small numbers returning each day. Our priority will be as follows (in order and in line with DfE and Government guidelines).

- Vulnerable pupils
- Key worker children
- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 6

In light of this approach if you are a key worker requiring a place for your child, we would be grateful if you could contact the school by phone or email (info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk) as soon as possible with the following details:

Your child's name, Year group and the days they will be in school. **IN ORDER TO HELP US PLAN AND ADHERE TO OUR SAFEGUARDING POLICY COULD YOU PLEASE BOOK YOUR CHILD IN EVERY FRIDAY BY 3.00PM FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK.**

This return to school has posed a number of different questions from parents and we hope to address them below. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us. We will update our website with other FAQs if necessary.

When will pupils begin the phased return to school?

Monday 1st June

The vulnerable and key worker pupils that have attended since lockdown will remain our priority and return as normal. Places will be available from Monday to Fridays. However, any child attending this group **will not be allowed** to join their own year group once these pupils return. Pupils will remain isolated with those they have already spent time with in their 'bubble'

Tuesday 2nd June / Wednesday 3rd June /Thursday 4th June

On **Tuesday 2nd June**, 6 Reception pupils per base will be admitted. Parents of these children will be contacted. These pupils will return to school in alphabetical order.

On **Wednesday 3rd June**, the rest of those children in Reception who are returning will be admitted and again parents will be contacted.

This will allow our staff to ensure that this return is as easy and stress free for the pupils as possible. It will also allow staff to ensure that we can 'try' through games and activities to encourage social distancing.

Friday 5th June

SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON **FRIDAY 5TH JUNE** TO ALLOW FOR DEEP CLEANING AND ALLOW STAFF AND GOVERNORS TO MAKE ANY CHANGES NEEDED TO ENSURE WE ABLE TO REMAIN AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE

KEY WORKER GROUPS WILL STILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL

Monday 8th June

School will then welcome back our Year 1 pupils. Again, 6 pupils per bubble will be admitted from Mrs Cooke's and Mrs Pincher's classes in alphabetical order. Parents will be contacted.

All Reception children will be in school.

Tuesday 9th June

Further pupils from Year 1 will be invited to return. Parents will be contacted.

All Reception children will be in school.

Wednesday 10th June

All Reception pupils will be in school.

All Year 1 pupils will be in school.

Year 6 to return to school - as they are the oldest group, Governors felt that social distancing issues will be less of a concern so we will be receiving **all** Year 6 pupils from **Wednesday 10th June 2020**.

Thursday 11th June

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be in school

Friday 12th June

SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY 12TH JUNE TO ALLOW FOR DEEP CLEANING AND ALLOW STAFF AND GOVERNORS TO MAKE ANY CHANGES NEEDED TO ENSURE WE ARE ABLE TO REMAIN AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE

KEY WORKER GROUPS WILL STILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

What if my child is in Nursery?

Governors have made the decision **that Nursery children will not be returning** to school for the foreseeable future due to demands on space placed by EYFS numbers.

How will my child's day be organised? What provision has been made to keep them safe?

- School will be operating a 'bubble' system. These bubbles will allow us to keep small numbers of pupils together and reduce cross contamination of resources, rooms and adults they come into contact with. There will be no more than 15 pupils in each bubble.
- Children in each bubble **may not be with their own teacher** and may be working with teaching assistants instead, under the supervision of teachers recommended guidance. Once allocated a bubble they will **not mix** with any other children. We will be placing children in bubbles to best suit the individual pupil.
- Regular hand washing will take place during the day and there will be hand sanitising stations placed throughout the school.
- A cleaner will remain on site throughout the day to ensure that as many surfaces, door handles etc are cleaned as frequently as possible.
- Break and lunch time will be staggered to ensure pupils remain within their bubble. Outside spaces will be sectioned off to allow space for individual groups.
- Desks will be spaced as far apart as possible BUT due to limited space this **may not be the recommended 2 metre distance**.
- Staff will continue to send out work for those who remain at home.
- EYFS pupils will have limited access to resources and any soft toys, furnishing and intricate toys will be removed from EYFS bubbles.
- We will endeavour wherever possible to give all children some time outside. If the weather is fine this may include eating their lunch.
- The older pupils will, wherever possible, have access to ICT equipment which is easily cleanable. Any other work will be completed using loose paper. Children will not be allowed to share **ANY** equipment for hygiene reasons.
- All children returning to school will NOT be required to wear school uniform. This is to ensure that own clothes worn can be washed upon return from school each day.
- If a pupil or staff member in a bubble displays any of the COVID-19 symptoms, including a loss of smell or taste, the rest of the group must self-isolate for the 14 day period and these pupils and staff will be asked to remain at home. We will also notify Public Health England and the local education authority to gather advice.
- Wherever possible, we are going to try to enjoy the grounds of our school, utilising our outside classroom etc. Therefore, would you please ensure that sun cream is applied before attending school.
- Pupils will not be allowed to play in the school grounds before the start of the day. For those pupils arriving in Reception and Year 1 – please encourage your child to move to their room on arrival to school and leave immediately they are dismissed.

CHILDREN WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORM.

Whilst we endeavour to minimise contact, we cannot guarantee that pupils will be kept 2m apart throughout the day.

Will staff be wearing PPE?

The latest guidance tells us that staff do not need PPE. At Belle-Vue **we will** be providing PPE equipment (Visors / masks) for staff if they wish to use it. Lunchtime supervisors will also have access to this in a pack to use should they need to come close to your child.

What time will school be open?

In order to reduce the volume of people around the school grounds we will be open for arrival to school, **anytime between 8.45am and 9.15am** at which point school gates will be locked. School will then reopen **for collection of Reception and Year 1 pupils between 2.30pm and 2.50pm. Year 6 pupils will remain in their bubbles until 3pm.**

Key worker pupils will remain in school in their bubble until 3.15pm

What provision will there be for key worker children?

If your child is in another year group that is not in school and you are a designated key worker, we will be running a provision from Monday to Friday for children when needed. This will be booked as usual weekly and no later than Friday of each week. Any child attending this group will NOT be allowed to return with their class mates if they are in either EYFS / Yr 1 / Yr6. These pupils will remain in their own bubbles.

What provision will there be for lunches?

The school has made the decision to not have cooked meals at this time. We will offer 'grab bags' for Reception and KS1 children instead of the universal free school meal that they have been receiving over the last few years. Year 6 pupils will be required to bring packed lunches to school. We would also ask that pupils DO NOT bring any water bottles to school. Water will be provided during the school day in plastic disposable cups. Could we kindly ask, that wherever possible, pupils bring their lunch to school in disposable containers and bags. A 'grab bag' will be provided for any child in Year 6 entitled to Free School Meals.

What will be the arrangements for dropping off and collection?

We are currently working the logistics of this and will contact you in due course either by app message or via our web site. It is essential that the provision put into place for the entrance and exit to school is adhered to. Parents who do not follow our clear attempts to protect the school community will be asked NOT to bring their child to school.

What is different for parents?

- Parents **will not be allowed** in the school building. If there are any concerns or queries, please contact the school office by telephone or email.
- There will be **no breakfast or after school club**
- Parents must ensure safe social distancing on school grounds **AT ALL TIMES**.
- Only **one adult** will be allowed to drop off or pick up at a given time
- The school may ask you to collect your child via a particular route, this may include our Seaton Place entrance.
- Could we also ask that parents try to walk to school with their child to limit the number of cars in the car park. This will allow parents to observe social distancing easier.

- Some of the youngest pupils have been away from school and staff for a while now and may become distressed on entry to school. We reserve the right to assess the situation and ask that you take your child home as social distancing will make our normal routine ways of dealing with upset (consoling them etc.) extremely difficult.
- Our behaviour policy will be adapted along with other key policies. Any incidents of biting, spitting (very, very rare at Belle Vue) will lead to your child being sent home.

We will obviously try to make this as happy and as 'normal' as we possibly can, but we also have to recognise the enormous challenge the pandemic has put on schools **particularly around the social distancing for our younger pupils.**

We have appreciated the comments returned by parents on the survey and your obvious concern. We hope that this letter will go, in some way, to allay some of your perfectly natural concerns. Although we would love to see all our pupils in the designated phases returning to school, we are fully aware that for some of you, it poses too much of a risk. Please be assured that we will continue to support children who are not attending school via our online learning. **No legal action will be taken** should your child not attend school.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to those parents, past and present who have emailed or text sending the school their love and best wishes. Alongside that, staff have really appreciated the chocolates, biscuits, little hug tokens and conversations via phone calls they have had with you. Even when we are not here physically, we have a very special community.

Stay safe and well all of you,

Best wishes

D.Porter & Belle- Vue Primary governing body