

Bishops Down Primary School & Nursery



Parent & Guardian Update During School Closure no. 7

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this finds you all well and you are enjoying the sunshine.

This week all available staff have been in school making preparations for the possible wider opening of the school to yr N, R, 1 and 6. It has been a monumental task! We will be putting video clips of the classrooms on the website (or Tapestry for the Early Years) when we hear that we will definitely be opening, so children can see how the school will look when they return.

Parents of Year N, R, 1 & 6 that have indicated that they will send their child when we open, will have received a Parent Guide and a Pupil Guide to explain the changes to our routines and ways of working. All parents can see these guides on the website, in 'recent letters home'. At present, we understand that the Government will inform us on the 28th May if we are to open the 1st June, we will of course in turn inform you as parents. Parents who are key workers have also received a guide; this is also available on the website.

To provide a brief overview:

Year 6 will be split into 5 'bubbles' utilising the year 6 rooms, year 4 and 5 classrooms and the therapy room. Nursery, Year R and Year 1 will each be split in two. Nursery will be in both classrooms in Garden House. YR in the year 2 and 3 classrooms. Year 1 in their classroom and the library. All year groups will also have their own allocated outdoor space. The key worker group of children from years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will use the Beehive rooms. All bubbles to use the outside classroom doors.

We have staggered start and end times for classes and a one-way system across the car park established in order to maintain social distancing.

The children and staff in each bubble will not mix with other staff or pupils. This means that if we have a confirmed case of Covid-19 then the whole 'bubble' stays away from school, in isolation. The staff that do have to cross bubbles, for example midday supervisors, senior leaders and first aiders will wear PPE.

Every room in the building is being utilised, which sadly means that we cannot take Key Worker children from Yr N, R 1 & 6 into wrap around care. The 2m social distancing rule is dictating our numbers and keeping the 'bubbles' separate, means we cannot have mixed age Beehive. Yrs 2, 3, 4 and 5 can use wrap around care as they are in a mixed bubble all day, every day using the Beehive rooms.

It is important that I inform you at this point, that if a member of staff is ill (not Covid-19 related), we cannot run the bubble. In the plan to open for Yr N, R, 1 & 6 every member of teaching and support staff is being utilised, we have no 'spare' staff.

Here are examples of classrooms we have already set up. You can see that in Yrs 1 & 6 tables and chairs are named, and are 2m apart and Nursery looks very bare, this is because we can only use easy to clean resources; soft toys and furnishings have been removed. We will be utilising outside space when we can.



We really appreciate your understanding and support at this challenging time. All staff are looking forward to seeing the children again.

You will receive notification on the 28th May regarding the possible wider opening.