



Blackthorn Primary School

Waingrove, Northampton, NN3 8EP

Headteacher – Mrs B. Williams

head@blackthornprimary.net

Tel: 01604 407254

website: www.blackthornprimary.net



NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY
ACADEMY TRUST PARTNERSHIP

Friday 28th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The staff are eagerly anticipating our return to school next week and we are very much looking forward to seeing the children in their new classes. The school has put in place a significant number of steps in order that your child is safe in school and the teachers can focus on giving every child the best education. The following letter details these steps so that parents and carers have a good understanding of how the school are working to minimise the risk of Covid-19 and what you can do to support your child during this time.

Tuesday 1st September – Training Day

Wednesday 2nd September – Training Day

Thursday 3rd September – School Opens to ALL children

Staggered Start and End to the School Day– In order to support parents and children to social distance on the playground, you will be sent a text message, on either Tuesday 1st or Wednesday 2nd September, confirming your child/children's start and finish times. It is important that your child's school day is not shortened as well as the need to keep social distancing possible, therefore we ask that children are dropped off and picked up at the time slots given.

Children will be given the following time slots:

Surnames beginning with the letters	Time to arrive in class...	Collection times...
A – H	8:30 to 8:35	3:05 to 3:10
I – P	8:35 to 8:40	3:10 to 3:15
Q - Z	8:40 to 8:45	3:15 to 3:20

Your child must be on time for school. If your child is late, this creates a risk as your child will need to come through the school office, therefore not directly into their own bubble. If lateness occurs more than once, you will be invited to a meeting with Mrs Williams to discuss how good attendance can be ensured and the school's safety measure adhered to.

On the playground we ask that only **one adult** drops off and picks up. In order to keep the site as safe as possible, we ask that all adults maintain **social distancing** at all times.

Transport – The government guidance is that children travelling to school on public transport should wear facemasks and where it is possible to travel to school by other means



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this is preferable. We understand that you may only be able to bring your child to school on the bus, therefore we hope that you will take all necessary precautions on your journey and your child washes their hand, as all other children will do, once they arrive at school.

Here is a brief overview of key safety measures and ways the school will operate in September to support your child's learning:

Safe Bubbles – Your child's class will be part of a 'bubble'. Bubbles mean that we can limit children's interactions across the school and so reduce the risk of possible infection. It also means that all the teaching resources and staff within the bubble can concentrate on your child enjoying the very best learning. During breaktimes and lunchtimes, your child will stay in these bubbles to play. Your child will not spend time with other bubbles during the school day.

Here are the bubbles in our school:

Bubble 1 – Nursery and Reception

Bubble 2 – Years 1 and 2

Bubble 3 – Years 3 and 4 including Woodland Room and Nurture Staff

Bubble 4 – Year 5

Bubble 5 – Year 6

Organised Classrooms – The children have desks facing forwards and special packs of equipment prepared for your child's learning. This means they will be ready to learn and removes the need for sharing essential equipment.

Curriculum – The children will return to a full and rich curriculum with all the subjects taught. From your child's first day back at school on the 3rd September, we will be teaching the children how to access online learning and developing your child's computing skills as a priority. Our homework will mainly be online homework from September, as we are determined to equip our children to be successful 21st century learners.

What if I or my child need to talk to someone?

We are not able to hold meetings on sight until further notice, however we will do everything we can to ensure that communication between families and school is effective and supportive. Please phone the school office if you have any queries and a member of staff will be in contact with you.

Speaking to the teacher first thing in the morning can mean that the lesson needs to stop, which is difficult for the class. Therefore, if you need to speak to a member of teaching staff, please speak to the support staff in the mornings on the playground or arrange to speak to the class teacher at the end of the school day.



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Our family support team will be available on the playground before and after school, however we ask you to be mindful of social distancing and where possible to speak to staff by phone call. Meetings and visitors to school are not possible until further notice. Staff will be on hand within bubbles to support individuals. The well-being of the children is a priority for us at all times.

What happens if a child or member of staff is unwell?

If a child is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms while in school, they will be taken to a designated room away from others while the parents/carers are contacted. A member of staff will need to wear PPE to support an unwell child. The child will be collected from school and asked to self-isolate until a test is carried out to confirm if they test positive or negative. Tests can be booked easily and results are currently returning within 24 hours. Adults who feel unwell in school will leave the site, self-isolate and book a test in the same way. All areas that the symptomatic child or adult had occupied will then be deep cleaned.

If a child or adult in your child's bubble is sent home after displaying symptoms of Covid-19, a letter will be sent home that day informing you. If a child or adult in your child's bubble is contacted by Track and Trace services, your child will be sent home with a letter that day informing you. Likewise, if a child tests positive for Coronavirus parents and carers will be contacted that day.

Anyone who does not take a test will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

If you or a member of your household are symptomatic and require testing, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

The school will support every child who is self-isolating with home learning as the expectation is that they continue their lessons from home during this time. Further information to support parents with how we have evolved home learning will follow shortly.

Behaviour Expectations – We are very proud of the behaviour of our children at Blackthorn and we will continue to set high expectations of them on their return in September. Attached is a copy of our Home School Agreement. Please talk to your child/children about it and return it signed as soon as possible. Hard copies will be available on the playground and from in front of the school office for collection and signing.

Handwashing and Hygiene – Regular handwashing and a strict cleaning regime will continue at the school. School uniform must be worn, however the government has relaxed the expectation that it is washed everyday so long as it is clean.



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PE Lessons – On the days when your child has PE, they will be allowed to come to school wearing their PE kit for the day. This will mean that children do not need to change for PE in school. We recommend that children have a white t-shirt, black tracksuit bottoms (PE will be outside whenever possible) and trainers for PE. A school jumper should be worn which can be removed for PE. PE kits can only be worn on these days and full smart school uniform will be expected on all other school days. Mr Stevens is very much looking forward to getting sports started again at school in a safe way, so please remember to wear the right kit for PE days.

PE days are as follows:

Mondays – Year 4 PE

Tuesdays – Reception have PE in the morning and Year 3 in the afternoon

Wednesdays – Year 1 have PE in the morning and Rowan Class in the afternoon

Thursdays – Hazel Class have PE in the afternoon

Fridays – Year 2 have PE in the morning and Year 5 have PE in the afternoon

Attendance – The government have made it clear that all children must attend school in September and that the school will follow its usual Attendance Policy. If you are concerned about your child returning, we urge you to contact the school to discuss any questions you may have. We are here to support families in every way we can and want to hear from you. To contact us during the school holidays, please email info@blackthornprimary.net or, on our return on the 1st September, call the school office.

Breakfast Club will be available to support families and ensure good attendance. Please book via the school office. The children in Breakfast Club will be separated into the bubbles that they spend their time in school in and bubbles will not be mixed.

What do parents and carers need to do to help their child before the 3rd September?

- Return the signed Home School Agreement as soon as possible.
- Check that the school office has the correct contact details for your child/children.
- Reassure your child that school will look and feel different, but that the staff are really looking forward to seeing them again and they will be able to talk to each other and enjoy learning together again.
- **Check that you have received your time slots for school starts and ends of days. Please phone the office if you have not received a time slot by 2pm on Wednesday 2nd September.**
- Make sure your child has smart school uniform and school PE kit to wear each day and that it is cleaned regularly.



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- Make sure they only bring what they need to school, including a water bottle. There will be no need for bags other than a lunch box and a book bag/plastic wallet.
Please note that lunches cannot be dropped off at the office any more.
- Contact the school office via phone or email with any queries.

Don't forget we have a special video available on our school's website from the 1st September which gives you and your child a guided tour of what the classrooms look like and some familiar smiling faces from the staff!

Should the government make any changes to their plans for schools, we will be in contact. Thank you all in advance for your support. If you have any questions that have not been covered in this letter, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Becca Williams
Headteacher