

Principal
Miss. D. Givens
B.A.(Hons) Q.T.S



Burtens Way
Smith's Wood
Birmingham
B36 0SZ

Tel: 0121 779 8050

Dear Parents & Carers,

7th May 2021

Following a very successful first 3 weeks of return after the Easter holidays, I am writing to let parents know of the schools plans to begin a return to some 'normality' for our pupils over the next few weeks. The school has had no confirmed cases of Covid since returning after Easter and consequently, no bubble closures have had to occur. In light of this, and the fact that the next stage of the road map is due to be announced on May 17th, we have been considering ways in which we can begin a gradual return for our pupils to year group bubbles, as opposed to class bubbles only.

We feel that this is an important step to take, both for academic reasons and also social and emotional reasons for our pupils. Whilst the pupils have coped with the changes in school remarkably well, showing high levels of adaptation and resilience, we are mindful that they would benefit from the opportunity to play with other friends in their year group and to take part in lessons which are closely tailored to their ability levels. However, we also need to keep at the forefront of our minds, the situation which is still in existence relating to Covid.

In order to make a move back to year group bubbles, we are proposing a gradual return, over the next 3 weeks of the remainder of this half term, with the hope that after half term, we will be able to return as year group bubbles.

We will still be keeping in place all of the safety measures in school, in terms of staggered drop off and pick up times, as well as separate areas for eating and playing for year groups initially, but are aiming to begin a gradual return to pupils being able to learn and socialise with all the peers in their year group and not just their class.

The before and after school club reopened successfully in the 2nd week after Easter and pupils have been enjoying being able to mix safely in this provision, with pupils outside of their immediate class.

The steps for a gradual return to year group bubbles will be staggered over the next 3 weeks and will be as follows:

➤ **Week beginning 10th May**

- Pupils will return to working in their ability sets, in their year groups, however, they will still be seated with pupils from their class. This will give them the opportunity to receive some education alongside peers from the other classes, albeit at a social distance.
- Breakfast club will move to the main halls, with KS1 pupils in the small hall and KS2 pupils in the large hall. There will be dedicated tables for each class to sit at, and the children will continue to enter for breakfast club through the current gates they are using, where they will hang their coats and bags up before making their way into the halls. Pupils will be supervised in and out of the halls.

➤ **Week beginning 17th May (in line with the next stage of the National road map)**

- Outdoor play areas will allow pupils from different classes to share the space. This will allow the pupils the time to socialise outdoors, with peers from their year group. As you are aware, outdoor socialising has been allowed for groups of up to 6 people for the last 4 weeks, with the number for outdoor socialising increasing from May 17th and we feel that our pupils can be given the opportunity to be able to replicate this during their playtimes.
- Pupils will be called through the gates, and dismissed in year groups, as opposed to individual classes. As this dismissal is outdoors, we feel that it will then be safe for pupils to undertake the short walk into school, and dismissal from school, with the peers from their year group.

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Registered in England & Wales – Registration number 09065312
VAT number 189285257

Registered office is situated at Burtens Way, Smith's Wood, Birmingham, B36 0SZ



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- **Week beginning 24th May**
 - Pupils will have the opportunity to participate in after school activities in a whole year group outdoors, as opposed to just with peers from their class.
- **After half term**
 - Trips to outdoor provision, for year groups to begin after half term
 - Pupils to mix across their year groups throughout the day, including eating lunch in their year groups, mixing in after school clubs and participating in trips and visits as a year group.

We will keep this under constant review, and if at any point, we feel that the gradual changes are not working, then we will revert back to the measures which we currently have in place. However, we are confident that if we do this slowly, and in a measured manner, then we will be able to begin to reintroduce pupils back to the way we were working before Christmas.

Please note, if your child accesses breakfast club, then please ensure that they are ready to enter the gate during the period of 8.30am to 8.35am from Monday 10th May. We are needing to be stricter with the times for breakfast club due to the need for supervision, both in the halls and also at the gates. We will no longer be able to offer a breakfast club entry from 8.35am-8.45am, pupils will now need to access in a 5 minute window, from 8.30am-8.35am.

To ensure that our school site continues to remain as safe as possible for all, I would just like to remind parents and carers of the points below:

- If your child, or any member of the household is displaying any symptoms, or is waiting for a test result, please do not send your child to school, or come onto the school site. This also applies to anyone who has been in contact with someone who is waiting for a test result.
- In line with Government guidance, attendance at school is now mandatory; please ensure that you bring your child to school each day. The school cannot authorise absence for pupils where parents are choosing to keep them at home.
- Staggered drop off and pick up times & entry points will continue and breakfast club provision will be offered to all year groups, but from an 8.30am start from the 10th May.
- Continue to maintain social distancing from other members of the school community while you are waiting for drop off and pick up.
- In cases where a child is needing to self-isolate for 10 days, or a year group bubble needs to be closed, then the school will issue guidance on accessing remote learning for those identified pupils. We continue to have a comprehensive package for remote learning available for pupils needing to self-isolate and will ensure this is available from the first day of self-isolation of needed.

We will continue to make every effort to limit contact and transmission in school, whilst beginning the return to some levels of normality for pupils. Please rest assured that if we do need to close a bubble, we will continue to ensure that the education provided to pupils is of the highest quality remotely and will communicate with you promptly.

We have had a very positive start to this term and are beginning to look forward to some normality returning to schools over the next term. As always, if you have any queries, or questions, please call or email the school and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for all your ongoing support for the school.

Yours sincerely,

Miss D Givens (Principal)

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