

# PORTISHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Learning and achieving together

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Return to School

We are delighted to be welcoming you all back to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### School Attendance

As was the case with the return to school in September normal pupil attendance expectations will be reintroduced nationally including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age.
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.
- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus. **If this applies to you please contact the school if you have not done so already.**

### March Reopening

We have uploaded videos to our Facebook page as a reminder of the drop-off and collection arrangements, one-way system onsite and wearing masks.

The school will be following these 12 basic principles outlined in the DFE guidance for schools.

#### Prevention

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.
- 3) ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 4) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

Numbers 1 to 7 must be in place in all schools, all the time. Number 6 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

In specific circumstances:

- 8) ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.
- 9) promote and engage in asymptomatic testing, where available.

Response to any infection:

10) promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

11) manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.

12) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

Numbers 10 to 12 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

**Changes to the school, our routines and expectations will include:**

- School uniform policy will be back to normal and all pupils should wear this with black shoes.
- Lunchtimes will be 45 mins to support staggered breaks but the amount of lesson time for all pupils will be exactly the same as a normal school day.
- If your child is travelling to school on a bike or scooter you will need to park this on the way to the classroom, you will not be able to double-back. Please follow this process in reverse for collecting. **Please avoid using public transport wherever possible.**
- No toys, comforters or personal belongings.
- Pupils must bring a named water bottle to prevent cross-contamination.
- The classrooms must be well ventilated so you may wish to layer up your children and they must arrive with a coat every day until the weather warms up.
- Additional hand washing and hygiene.
- Classrooms with all desks in rows facing the front.
- Children can bring in essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, stationery and mobile phones. Bags are allowed.
- Children will have their own pens and pencils.
- Children will not need to bring PE Kits into school as we will be asking them to come dressed for PE on their set day (timetable attached).
- There will be a strong focus on wellbeing, establishing routines and catch-up during the remainder of the term. These priorities are mutually supportive.

In order to keep everyone safe there are lots of things that we are continuing to be doing in school. Some of the key measures will be:

- We are using the principle of year group bubbles as this works best with our limited entrances to the building, however children will spend the school day largely in class bubbles.
- Staggered start and finish times (please see timetable).
- A one-way system of entering the school site and leaving.
- A one-way system inside the building.
- School entrances will be signed.
- Lunches will be eaten in the classrooms for most classes.
- No use of the ICT suite but children will have access to tablets that can be easily wiped.
- A school based janitor to carry out additional cleaning across the school throughout the entire school day.
- No non-essential visitors allowed onsite.
- No external trips.
- One of the changes that your children will notice is that adults in school will be wearing face coverings on a more regular basis including any adult working one-to-one or with a small group where 2m social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Our school based staff are self-testing twice a week to reduce the risk of asymptomatic viral transmission.

- Due to the importance of social distancing we recommend that all of our children are dropped off and collected by an adult to keep them safe as they enter the school site in order to protect the integrity of the bubbles, and also to keep them safe on the way to and from school.
- One adult to drop children off (you may bring siblings with you where there is no other option, however you will not be able to drop them off outside of their allocated times) and pick up.
- Play equipment will be out of bounds.
- No peripatetic music lessons.

We advise parents that, where possible, they should limit the number of settings that their child attends. Please contact the office if you would like to discuss this.

### The School Day

Class	Arrival Time	Home time
Whale	8:45	3:05
Octopus	8:45	3:05
Turtle	9:00	3:20
Seal	9:00	3:20
Seahorse	8:30	2:50
Penguin	8:30	2:50
Anning	9:00	3:20
Campbell	9:00	3:20
Brunel	8:45	3:05
Scott	8:45	3:05
Peake	9:00	3:20
Fossey	9:00	3:20
Moore-Cabin	8:30	2:50
Darwin-Cabin	8:30	2:50
Parks	8:30	2:50

### Behaviour

The school will be mindful that it may be challenging for some pupils to return to school. We will consider any behaviour on merit and in context and will endeavour to be as understanding as possible. Where a pupil's behaviour may compromise their safety or that of their bubble then the school will take a course of action that ensures all pupils and staff are safe. The addendum to our behaviour policy will remain in place.

**We are going to need your support in the following areas to ensure this next phase works effectively. You can help us in the following ways:**

- To enter the school site all adults must wear a face covering. We respect that there will be some exemptions to this and those adults are asked to drop off and collect their children from the school office within your bubble's drop-off and collection windows.
- Do not send children to school under any circumstances if they or anyone else in your household, support bubble or childcare bubble are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus.
- Arrive punctually at drop off and pick up to support the staggered approach with everything that you child needs for the day. If you arrive late your child will need to be brought to the office. This should be by exception for all families, we expect everyone to arrive punctually. There can be only one adult in the

welcome area at any time. Children will not be able to be sent to the office at the end of the day so please arrive punctually at pick up.

- **The office will be closed, all contact with the school from parents should be communicated through email or telephone call.**
- Enter the school site following the one-way system and adhering to social distancing guidance.
- Parents, carers and children should not gather at the school gates, everyone should leave the site immediately after drop off and collection.
- Please ensure that your emergency contact details are up to date.

We continue to review our arrangements in line with the school's needs and any updated DfE guidance.

### **Medication in School**

Please ensure that you have returned any required medication to school.

### **In the event of a child or adult displaying Covid19 Symptoms:**

Our procedure will be that if anyone in the school becomes unwell with COVID symptoms they will be sent home and advised to follow the guidance below which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household, support bubble or childcare bubble (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days from the day after when the symptomatic person first had symptoms or the positive test date, if they did not have any symptoms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Children will be brought to the school's meeting room where they will be safely supervised until they are collected.

In the event of a confirmed coronavirus case:-

- We will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).
- We will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.
- The school will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.
- The health protection team will work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take.

### **Quarantining**

If you have recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area you are required to quarantine for the same period as above

### **Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff**

Households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age pupils will now have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing in order to be able to test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Please find below the link to the guidance which provides information on who can be tested and how you can get a test.

[Link to rapid lateral flow testing guidance](#)

All of our letters can be accessed from the 'News & Events' menu on our website. We have a separate page on the 'Parent Zone' tab called 'March Reopening' with key information including timetables and PE days for your reference.

This is a fantastic step towards normality for our children and families. We are really excited to be coming back together as a school community for the first time.

It is really important that we continue to work together to minimise the risks of further disruption to our children's education. A big thank you for all of your support for the school and help with home learning during this challenging time. Your messages of thanks and acts of kindness have meant the world to us.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable start back to school.

Kind Regards,

Richard Riordan

Headteacher