



St Benedict's Primary School

ST BENEDICTS ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM
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Headteacher: Mrs Armine Williams



10th July 2020

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to be able to welcome you back to school. School attendance is again mandatory from September – your child must attend school unless they are unwell. We have thought long and hard about what we need to do to make St Benedict's as safe as we can for you and your child so some of our usual routines may have changed, especially how you drop off and collect your child. We appreciate that for some parents our new arrangements may be a little inconvenient and you may have to walk further than previously, but the Government have asked us to keep year groups as separate as possible which means we have to be clear about entrances into school.

Next year, your child's class teacher will be Mr Annetts, Mrs McCall or Mrs Matharu and they will be in the Portacabins. Your child needs to return to school on **THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER**. You will need to drop off your child **between 8.35 and 8.45am**. Please bring your child to the small gate by the portacabins on Heather Road. Please note, PARENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED INTO THE BUILDING. Please ensure you are using social distancing at all times and keep space between yourself and other parents. You may then exit from the gate on St Benedict's Road.

- We would like your child to be in school uniform, as per Government guidance. This can only be obtained online: www.brigade.uk.com/index.php. There is a full list of uniform requirements on our website – please note that uniform will no longer be available to buy in school. You may purchase items other than sweatshirts or polo shirts from any shop you choose.
- Your child will need to bring their own bottle of water with them – they can be refilled during the day. This ensures children will not be sharing a cup with another child. Please note, ONLY water will be allowed – all other drinks will be returned to you.
- Your child may now bring a book bag to school: these are also available online. Please make sure it is emptied each night – it should not contain work that has been sent home or any old letters from school
- Your child will be provided with a lunch as previously. They may be eating either in their classroom or in the dining hall.
- If your child has a paid for lunch, please put the money into an envelope with your child's name and class on the front. **Please note, the cost of a meal is now £2.40 per day, £12.00 per week.** Your child can bring the envelope into school and it will be collected immediately.



- Your child will be asked to follow a strict routine of handwashing – as soon as they enter school right up to just before they finish for the day.

Please collect your child at **2.45pm** from the same gate that they were dropped off at. Again, please ensure you are distancing yourself from other parents at all times.

For your information:

1. The school building allows us to keep year groups separate as far as possible – each year group will form their own ‘bubble’
2. Each year group has their own toilets and allotted playground space
3. Each year group has their own entrance and collection points – please help us by staying 2 meters apart from other parents at all times
4. Lunchtimes will be staggered to ensure children only mix with their own ‘bubble’
5. We have cleaners who will be on site all day – regular cleaning throughout the day will happen in all areas
6. We have hand sanitisers throughout the school that your child will be encouraged to use on a frequent basis
7. Tables and chairs will be arranged to face the front as far as possible
8. We would prefer your child to bring their own pencil case to school as this will ensure children are not sharing resources. This should contain: a writing pencil, a small selection of colouring pencils, a rubber, a sharpener and a glue stick.
9. There will be no assemblies until further notice, as per Government guidance
10. As per guidelines, **only 1 adult** from your household should bring your child to school.
11. Please do not allow your child to mix with other children on the way to school.
12. Although unlikely, if your child has an appointment, please keep them at home that day – children can only be dropped off or collected at the times given
13. Staff will only be wearing PPE (a mask, an apron, gloves and possibly a face shield) if they need to apply first aid to your child or if your child is showing virus symptoms
14. Children are not required to wear masks – if you choose to send your child with one, you will need to ensure they can take it off and put it on themselves safely as staff cannot do this for them. Staff are also not responsible for reminding your child about when they should be wearing it.
15. **PLEASE do not be late in dropping off or collecting your child. You will be putting the children, staff and parents at risk by doing so.**

No parents will be allowed into the building, including the office, to ensure we can isolate the children. If you need to contact us, please telephone the School Office on 464 6420 and we will be able to help you.

If your child is taken ill during the school day, we will contact you and inform you of how to collect your child. If they are showing symptoms of COVID 19 (a persistent cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste and smell), we will require you to get them tested for the virus. We can give you details of this if your child is taken ill. Your child will not be allowed back into school until we have seen written proof of their test result. If it is negative, they may return as soon as they are well. If it is positive YOU MUST INFORM US STRAIGHT AWAY. Your child, your family and all of the children and staff in that bubble will need to isolate at home for 14 days.

If another child receives a positive test in your child’s bubble, we will inform you immediately as you will need to take necessary steps to isolate. We will provide further information if this occurs.



Please be aware – these are the arrangements we have in place at the present time – we are subject to Government and Local Authority guidance and things are subject to change at any point. We will give you as much notice as possible if this happens.

We fully appreciate how difficult this whole time has been and I would like to thank you for all of your continuing support. We are doing our best to ensure we can move forward and we hope to be able to offer you all of the support we have been able to give you previously.

Best wishes,

Mrs Williams
Headteacher

