



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Birchley

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you all with the arrangements in place for the children who are accessing our Keyworker School. (From week commencing 15th June) Numbers have risen steadily over the last couple of weeks and as a result of the increased numbers the Keyworker children have now been placed into three smaller, protective, work bubbles (Y2/Y3 bubble, Y4/5 bubble and Y6 bubble). Each bubble has its own classroom base and its own nominated staff members. The bubbles have a nominated playtime and lunch break. The children will spend the day in these bubbles and will not mix with other children. Although, we will do our utmost to follow government guidelines:

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES IN SCHOOL WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT TO THE 2M DISTANCING ADVICE FOR ADULTS. SCHOOL WILL WORK WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE QUOTED BELOW,

'...early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 meters apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out below:

- **avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms**
- **frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices** (This will be taught again during the first week that the children return to school and the children will be reminded on a regular basis.)
- **regular cleaning of settings**
- **minimising contact and mixing** (This will be achieved through our protective bubbles which prevent children from having contact with children from other bubbles.)

As from Monday 15th June, school will reopen to our Reception and Year 1 children, as part one of our phased re-opening plans and in line with government guidelines. Our Reception and Year 1 parents have already received a detailed letter to support their children's return to school.

These children will be kept in their own protective bubbles - based in their own classrooms - with their own identified staff - with their own start and finish times and their own break and lunch times. They will be part of a completely different school and have no contact with children from the Keyworker School.

In order to ensure that the Keyworker School children are kept separately from the Reception and Year 1 children, can we please ask the following:

- All Keyworker children **MUST** be dropped off between **8.45am** and **9.00am** at the school main entrance. If you are later than this, you will meet our Reception children, who have a slightly different start time, and we are really keen for this not to happen.
- All Keyworker children **MUST** be picked up between **3.20pm** and **3.35pm.** Please do not arrive any earlier in order to avoid contact with our Reception children who are being picked up at 3.00pm.
- All parents are responsible for ensuring that they remain 2m apart when dropping off and collecting children.

Points to note:

- Our ABC Club is running as normal. Children will be kept in their bubbles once inside the club. Places must be booked in advance. Entry is via the Junior Hall door (as normal from the 15th June). ABC is open from 7.30am – 5.30pm every day. The children will be taken from ABC to their bubbles.
- Our school kitchen is open as normal. If your child would like a school meal, please let the office know. Meals are being served in a lunch box in order to avoid the use of cutlery and trays.
- In order to reduce the movement of equipment to and from school, can we please ask that children leave their bags at home. Those on packed lunches can bring their lunch in either a throw-a-way bag or plastic lunchbox.
- The children need to bring in their own bottle of water every day and a snack. No toast is available.
- If your child has their own pencil case, they can bring it into school, but it must be left in school until the end of term.
- Children do not need to wear uniform. They can wear their own clothes that are suitable for school and the weather. Trainers are a better option than sandals as the children will be spending more time outside.

Keyworker registers have now been created in response to the parental confirmations received last week. If you have not booked your child into the Keyworker School, please do not assume that a place is available. Places must be booked in advance in order that numbers can be monitored. Please note that numbers are restricted and once bubbles are full, children will be placed on a waiting list, until numbers reach a level that makes opening a new bubble viable. If you require further information, please ring or email the school.

Take care everyone and stay safe.

Kind regards



Mrs Andrea Hymers
Headteacher