



COVID19: Beckers Green Parent Information Pack

February 2021



As you are aware, the government guidance has been received and we are delighted to confirm that we are able to welcome all children back to school on the 8th March 2021. We are really pleased that all our children will be together again as we have missed you all.

The purpose of this communication is to outline, to all parents and carers, the measures that school leaders and staff will be taking to – as best we can – to maintain the safety of your children and our school team. It is also intended to give you an insight into how life at school will change for pupils whilst government COVID-19 measures are in force. The government guidance reinforces our message that it is important to get all our children back to school. It explains:

“Now, the circumstances have changed. The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased our NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, and we are clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within schools. Returning to school is vital for children’s education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children’s cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children’s future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later. The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. We know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families. Lower academic achievement also translates into long-term economic costs due to having a less well qualified workforce. This affects the standard of living that today’s pupils will have over the course of their entire life. For many households, school closures have also affected their ability to work. As the economy begins to recover, we need to remove this barrier so parents and carers can return to work.”

The government have produced leaflets and films below for parents of children in primary school. The leaflets can be found here:

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools-/resources/leaflets/>

The film for primary school pupils can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiefaCf2fvY> .

Systems of control

This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into ‘prevention’ and ‘response to any infection’ and are outlined in more detail in the sections below.

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
 - 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
 - 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
 - 4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
 - 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
 - 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.
Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.
Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.

Response to any infection

7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community

9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

We are also now testing staff twice weekly using lateral flow tests.

Handwashing

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. Schools must ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future.

- There will be enough hand washing or hand sanitiser 'stations' available so that all pupils and staff can clean their hands regularly
- We will ensure supervision of hand sanitiser use given risks around ingestion. Small children and pupils with complex needs should continue to be helped to clean their hands properly.
- We will build these routines into school culture, supported by behaviour expectations and helping ensure younger children and those with complex needs understand the need to follow them.
- We would encourage children to bring in their own hand sanitiser – clearly labelled with their name – to reduce queuing time to wash hands.

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important, so we continue to have tissues and bins available in the school to support pupils and staff to follow this routine. As with hand cleaning, schools must ensure younger children and those with complex needs are helped to get this right, and all pupils understand that this is now part of how school operates.

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.

Class bubbles

Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. They have been used in schools in the summer term in recognition that children, and especially the youngest children, cannot socially distance from staff or from each other and this provides an additional protective measure. Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate and keep that number as small as possible.

However, the use of small groups restricts the normal operation of schools and presents both educational and logistical challenges, including the cleaning and use of shared spaces, such as playgrounds, dining halls, and toilets, and the provision of specialist teaching.

In this guidance for the Spring and Summer term, maintaining consistent groups remains important, but given the decrease in the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resumption of the full range of curriculum subjects, we will change the size of the bubbles within our system of controls and increase the size of these groups to class or year group bubbles. EYFS (the Antelopes and Bears classes) will operate as a joint bubble to allow full use of the outdoor area.

We intend to reopen our Breakfast Club after Easter having monitored infection rates for the last 3 weeks of the Spring term. If you used Breakfast club in the past you may continue to bring your children to school at 8.30, but only if absolutely necessary. After Easter we hope our Breakfast Club will return to normal operating hours.

Our intervention room, used for speech and language and English as an additional language support, will be operational. Screens have been purchased and will protect both staff and children.

Social Distancing

In the classroom allocated to your child's 'bubble', children will be required to only use their allocated desk. The classrooms have already been set up and all desks face the front. The children will be given a zippy wallet with their own allocated stationery. As a school, we are limiting the sharing of equipment and whenever equipment must be used, it will be thoroughly decontaminated, after use, by an adult.

The shared cloakrooms will be in use but will be carefully monitored by adults to ensure bubbles do not mix when using them. Children will be encouraged to hang items quickly and move on into their classrooms to avoid any extended contact first thing in the morning or afternoon. We would like Year 5 and 6 to come to school in PE kit on the days they have PE timetabled as we will not have the space for girls and boys to change separately.

If it is felt that your child frequently and wilfully contravenes social-distancing expectations thus endangering themselves and others, the school reserves the right to request that they no longer continue to attend Beckers Green, whilst government COVID-19 measures are in place.

What Does My Child Need?

EYFS and KS1

- Water bottle
- Sun hat (if needed)
- Coat (if needed)
- Packed lunch (if needed)
- Reading book
- Reading record

KS2

- Water bottle
- Sun hat (if needed)
- Coat (if needed)
- Packed lunch (if needed)
- Reading book

- Reading record
- Hand sanitiser – clearly labelled

We ask that children limit what they bring into school to only these items to avoid contamination between home and school.

Children will continue to wear their school uniform, which ideally would be washed on a daily basis, thereby limiting the risk of cross contamination.

Entry and exiting school

At the start and end of the day, we kindly request that only one parent/carer accompany their child/children to school. To minimise the risk of cross infection, **pupils will be allocated differing start and pick up times.** It is imperative that the correct entrance is used and that pupils arrive at the specified time. We have arranged this in family groups so that you do not have to wait around to drop off or collect a sibling.

Please monitor your child's temperature in the mornings and any child who has a temperature of over 38 degrees will need to self-isolate and be tested. School has a digital thermometer and those children who are suspected of having a temperature will be scanned.

All pupils will enter the school by the external door of their respective classroom. Our site team have worked hard to demarcate the school. We need to promote a one-way route around the school but plenty of staff will be available to help you navigate this to begin.

If your child is in Year 5 or 6 we would encourage them to be left at the school gate and allow them to enter the school site independently. Staff will be on the gates to support this.

Times:

Breakfast club start time in class (with prior approval from Mrs Smyth)	8.30am
Staggered start times (you will be emailed with your times)	8.40am
	8.50am
	9.00am
Staggered finish times (you will be emailed with your times)	3.00pm
	3.10pm
	3.20pm

Curriculum

We intend to deliver a full curriculum and will continue to use a topic approach to inspire learning. We will however give even greater emphasis to basic skills with 2 phonic sessions a day for EYFS and KS1 and KS2 will experience spelling, reading skills sessions and maths meetings every day on top of timetabled English and maths. Assessments will take place in the last week of term to identify gaps in learning. Clear methods for catch up have been planned and identified. Parents' evening will take place the week before the Easter holidays and will be virtual. Look out for communication from the school office to book your appointment.

School Lunches

Children are requested to bring their own refillable water bottle.

All children will be able to order a school meal and the menu will be on our school website and facebook page. Key Stage 2 school meals will be charged to their dinner account as normal, or of course, they can bring in a packed lunch.

Lunches will be consumed and breaks taken in these specified 'bubble' areas. EYFS will be eating their lunch in the dinner hall and this will be thoroughly cleaned after use. Children will spend half of their lunch hour in their classroom and half of their time in their own allocated zone outside. Equipment is available for each bubble which will be cleaned daily. On return to the classroom, children will wash their hands.

Cleaning

We have increased the allocation of hours provided for our in-school cleaning team. This will allow them to thoroughly clean classrooms/ rooms used at the end of the school day. On a Friday the team will complete a weekly deep clean of the school site. Throughout the day, staff will frequently clean high-contact areas such as taps, doors and light switches. All internal and external doors will be wedged open to minimise the need for pupil and staff contact.

Parent Contact

We need to protect all staff including the office staff so the school office will remain open only for urgent enquiries. If you have any queries, you must telephone or email the school. All parent/ teacher communication will be conducted by telephone/email or using a virtual platform.

Response to any infection

We will require parents and school staff to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process and we will also contact our local Public Health England health protection team for advice if we have a positive test result. We need to ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

The government will ensure that it is as easy as possible to get a test through a wide range of routes that are locally accessible, fast and convenient. We will release more details on new testing avenues as and when they become available.

We will ask parents and staff to inform us immediately of the results of a test:

if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

if someone tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 10 days.

Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community

We will take swift action when 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 health protection team 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 us in this situation to guide us through the actions we will need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 10 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

Close contact means: direct close contacts

- face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home. To support them in doing so, we will keep a record of pupils and staff in each group, and any close contact that takes places between children and staff in different groups.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 10-day isolation period they should follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'.

They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.

- if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 10-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'
- Although we should not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation, we will invite parents to share this information with our school to keep others safe. All parents and staff tested so far have been willing to share their negative test result and we would hope parents will continue to share such information.

Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

If we have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, we would be advised that we may have an outbreak, and we will continue to work with our local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group.

As we will be implementing controls from this list, addressing the risks we have identified and therefore reducing transmission risks, whole school closure based on cases within the school will not generally be necessary, and will not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.

In consultation with the local Director of Public Health, where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary, in line with routine public health outbreak control practice.

Final note

We are really pleased to be reopening our school at this difficult time. The staff have really missed the children, the learning and each other.

We know school cannot be the same as before COVID 19 and there are many changes that have had to be made to adjust to these new times. However, what has not changed is that we are excited to be together again, learn together and be a community together.