



County Bridge Primary School
Anson Road, Bentley,
Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 0DH
Email: postbox@countybridge.walsall.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs R Patel



Thursday 4th March

Dear Parents/Carers

I will begin with a huge 'THANK YOU' to you all for working so hard to support the teachers with the 'Home Learning' during the past couple of months. You have been amazing! Lockdown 1, in the summer, was difficult enough but the winter lockdown has been worse with only dark nights and the cold weather to embrace. As a school, we are so grateful to the parents who have continued to motivate the children to support the work of the school. I know that this has been a 'big ask' but this will stand the children in good stead as they return to school. I want you to know that all your efforts have been truly appreciated. The coronavirus pandemic has challenged us all to find new ways of safe working and I am truly grateful for the support from the whole school community.

A special well done to our lovely children who have worked exceptionally hard throughout - they have been excellent role models to the children in their class, always giving 100%.

You will have seen from the Prime Minister's announcement that all schools will be opening in FULL to ALL children from Monday 8th March. At County Bridge, this means the school is open for every child from First Steps Nursery to Year 6. The staff and I continue to set safety measures in place to ensure children, staff and parents' safety and wellbeing is our number one priority and remains at the heart of everything we do.

I have really missed our wonderful children and look forward to seeing them all again! I expect that by now they will have received the little message from their teacher - hopefully, this will have brought a smile to their face. Re-engaging our young people into full time learning with fun and smiles will be our very first task, next week.

In line with the government guidance documents for schools, below are all the measures that we will continue to have in place from Monday 8th March.

- Children WILL need to be wearing their usual clean school uniform every day.
- Classes will be in a 'Bubble' and the children will remain, as much as possible, with the same group of children and staff. 'Bubbles' across the school will not be able to meet or mix together. Social distancing will be a priority throughout the whole school.
- Start and end times will be staggered, for different classes, to limit congestion but also to allow the children into school, safely and quickly.
- The children will be dropped off at the main school gate by their parent. Only one parent will be allowed to bring their child/children to school to ease the congestion and minimise the spread of infection. As soon as the child is dropped off or collected we will ask, respectfully, for the parent to leave.
- Where a parent has multiple children in different year groups, ALL the children will be dropped off at the earlier time and collected at the later time. For example, a family with



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children in Year 2 and Year 6 will drop off their children at 8:30am and collect at 3:20pm. This is to avoid parent/children waiting for prolonged times at the school gate. Once the children are collected, parents are respectfully asked to leave the school area quickly and avoid the temptation of chatting to other parents as this will cause a congestion.

- Teachers will meet parents at the start and end times so parents/children **MUST** be on time please. We ask that parents do not arrive earlier than their time. **PLEASE NOTE THE STAGGERED START AND END TIMES BELOW:**

BUBBLES	START - Drop Off Time	END - Collect time
First Steps	12:15pm	3:15pm
Nursery	8:30am	11:30am
Reception	8:35am	3:05pm
Years 1/2	8:50am	3:10pm
Years 3/4	8:40am	3:15pm
Years 5/6	8:30am	3:20pm

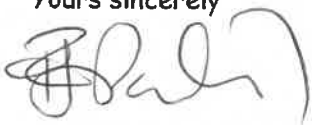
- Secondary aged pupils will NOT be able to accompany their parent into the school to collect their siblings. As much as we would like to see our lovely former pupils, we want the minimum number of people on school premises to limit the congestion around school, particularly in areas around Year 2 classroom and the Year 3/4 mobiles.
- Children (Reception to Year 6) will need to bring a healthy snack for break time, such as a piece of fruit or a cereal bar. They will also need to bring a bottle of water, daily. There is no need to purchase a water bottle every day - the same bottle can be filled each day. Toasts and juice will not be available for purchase.
- Our fruit suppliers will be delivering from next week so Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be provided fruit from Tuesday 9th March. It might be worth sending a small piece of fruit for Monday's break.
- As usual, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a free school meal.
- Children in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6, who are not entitled to a free school meal, will be allowed to bring a healthy packed lunch from home. Parents will continue to have the option to pay for a school lunch for their child/children if they are not entitled to a free school meal. Money will need to be sent in an envelope, for the whole week, with the child's name on the front and then handed to the teacher by the child.
- The younger children, in Early Years, can be provided with spare clothing and these can remain in school.
- Every adult and child will have temperature checks undertaken in school and they will be asked to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. All visitors to the school will also follow these guidelines.
- Seating in classrooms will be altered so children will be seated side by side and not facing one another.
- Every child will have their own writing resources provided by the school and these will not be shared with any other child.
- Parents will need to provide their child with their personal supply of tissues. Children must not bring resources, such as large, over-sized school bags, pencil cases, etc., from home. However, book bags and PE kit can be brought into school and PE kit will need to go home on Friday to be washed ready for the following week.
- Ensure children have layers of clothing on to keep warm as windows will remain open throughout the day for increased ventilation.
- All soft furnishings and toys, which are difficult to clean including soft toys), are removed from the classroom.

- Break times will be staggered so a maximum of two 'Bubbles' will be outside at any one time. The playground is segregated, at lunchtime, so 'Bubbles' do not mix together.
- Each 'Bubble' will have their own games equipment for break and lunchtime.
- Lunch times will be staggered and some children in Years 1 to 6 will have their lunch in their classrooms.
- There will be no more than one 'Bubble' for the majority of activities undertaken in school. The only time we may have two 'Bubbles' together will be in clubs and assemblies. Assemblies and after school clubs will resume in the week beginning Monday 22nd March. Social distancing will still be our number one priority.
- Extra cleaning of toilets, doors, door handles, tables, etc. will be undertaken throughout the day.
- Parents will need to call the office if their child is absent from school on the first day of absence.
- Parents will need to call the school immediately if their child is presenting with Coronavirus symptoms. Coronavirus symptoms (as listed in the government guidance) are
 - *A high temperature
 - *A new, continuous cough
 - *A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste
- If a child presents with any of the coronavirus symptoms (listed above) while they are in school, a phone call will be made home urgently and a parent will be asked to come and collect the child immediately. The parents will be asked to get the child tested.
- If the child with the symptoms tests negative, then they will be able to return to school and all staff and children members of the 'Bubble' will continue with their learning as per normal.
- If the child tests positive, they will self-isolate for 10 days and all staff and children members in the 'Bubble' will be sent home and asked to isolate for 10 days. If anyone else in the 'Bubble' develop symptoms, then they too will also need to be tested and will need to isolate for 10 days, measured from their first day of symptoms. Please note that the period of isolation has now changed to 10 days.
- Parents MUST notify the school of the outcome of a child's test as soon as possible so school take the appropriate action with the staff and children in their 'Bubble'.

I am aware that the above guidelines is an extensive list of rules for us all to follow during these tough times but we must adhere to these strictly for everyone's protection, wellbeing and safety. I am certain that with school and home working well together, we can make sure all our children can return to school safely and continue their learning and wellbeing in the best way possible.

Please do not hesitate to email me (postbox@countybridge.walsall.sch.uk) or give me a call if you have any questions, worries or concerns. I will be happy to help in any way I can. I cannot wait to see all my lovely children back in school on Monday and will be ready, with our staff, to welcome them back. Have a restful weekend all and see you on Monday 8th March!

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Patel
Headteacher



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