

# Ellington Infant School

Ms N Brown BA(Hons) PGCE NPQH  
Head Teacher

Tel: 01843 591638  
Fax: 01843 851552  
Email: office@ellington-infant.kent.sch.uk



High Street  
St Lawrence  
Ramsgate  
Kent  
CT11 0QH

29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to advise you that following yesterday's announcement our school will be partially opening from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. We will begin opening our Reception Classes only to those children whose parents responded 'yes' to our survey last week. Children will attend mornings only on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> being collected at lunchtime and then attending full days the following week. The school will close for deep cleaning at lunchtime every Friday afternoon. For the Year 1 parents who have told us they want their child to return to school they will follow a similar process the following week being morning only Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Your children have been put into 'Bubbles' with each Bubble having their own drop off and collection times. We will write to you next week to advise you of your child's Bubble, the times of their school day and where to pick up/drop off your child. We will also be sending a copy of our new Covid-19 Home/School agreement, please take time to read it. By sending your child to school we will presume consent to this agreement and that you have agreed to follow government guidance.

When your child returns to school;

- Please adhere to your child's drop off and collection times.
- Please do not congregate together outside the school or at the drop off/pick up points and try to observe a two metre distance between each other.
- Please try to respect social distancing rules when using the walkway into Year 1 playground and outside the school.
- Please follow the one way system and not enter the gate closest to your child's bubble class.
- Please enter the school by the gate leading into the Year 1 playground, follow the signs and exit by the gate nearest to the Fish and Chip shop.



- School uniform – at this time we do not expect the children to wear school uniform BUT we do expect clean clothes to be worn daily and children to change out of their clothes when they return home and those clothes then washed.
- All children should also wear trainers.
- Until catering arrangements have been confirmed with Caterlink (we will advise you when this is in place) all children are required to bring in a packed lunch, mid-morning fruit and a water bottle which will be taken home each day. Please provide all food items in a clearly labelled, disposable bag, no plastic lunchboxes.
- Aside from lunches, snack and water bottles nothing else should be brought from home.
- Within class the children will not be kept two metres apart but will have their own table and chair to sit at.
- Small toys or equipment and soft furnishing that cannot be easily cleaned will not be available to be used and have been removed from the class.
- Children will be instructed to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly and contact with others will be reduced as much as possible. However this will not be eradicated completely and there will be social interaction within the bubbles.
- Whilst there will be learning taking place the teachers will not be operating a normal timetable.
- Home learning will still be sent to all children who do not attend school.
- For all but the Key Worker group school will be closed on Friday afternoons.
- If your child is not coming in for any reason **it is important** you let us know as soon as possible.
- If a child is late you will need to phone the office when you arrive at the gate and a member of staff from that bubble will come and let your child in. Likewise if you are late collecting your child they will be with their bubble staff.
- The school office remains closed to all visitors with the exception of the emergency services. All communication will need to be carried out by telephone or email.

Obviously any of the details above may change at any point which I am sure you understand. However I am confident that these will be adequate to ensure a successful partial return for your child. I acknowledge that the measures we are putting in place seem alarming, we will do our utmost to ensure the school is welcoming to your child and your child feels cared for and nurtured during the time they are in school. The safety of children and staff has been our highest priority in decision making.

From Wednesday our phased reopening Risk Assessment will be available to read on our website and you will see that, following government recommendations, we have had to make extensive adaptations to our provision and resources. Reading the guidance and numerous reports issued from the government I believe that if as a school we are expected to put so many measures in place to reduce risk then clearly it is not absolutely safe for children to return. The stakes are so high that I would say to all parents of Reception and Year 1, if you have any doubt then keep them at home. Some of you have been in touch to say you would like to wait for a little while and see what happens next, I completely understand this and I will write to you again in three weeks to offer the chance for pupils in R, 1 to sign up to be part of a possible third return phase. The plans we have put in place are based on the number of children we have coming in. If these numbers increase without enough warning then our ability to manage the risk for everyone will reduce even further. For Key Workers who wish to return their child to school and have not already advised us, we require a week's notice to accommodate your child.

Until we are under way we won't know exactly how the school day will work in terms of teaching and learning in Reception and Year 1 so please bear with us. Our priority will be the well-being of the children, trying to keep them safe and ensure that the children are comfortable with what is happening around them.

It will be important that you help us as much as you can in terms of social distancing when bringing or collecting your children to and from school. Although I am sure there is no need to remind you of this it is a worrying time for the staff too. Every member of staff agreed to come back to school in an instant unless they had a specific reason not to concerning their own health or someone they live with. Of course I am incredibly grateful to them for this and I want to protect them and would ask that you respect social distancing when you drop off/collect your child.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your incredible support, I know you will continue to do so and it is hugely appreciated. In the meantime I hope you are enjoying the half term weather and coping with the ongoing situation as well as you can. I would like to see all our children return, even if on a part time basis before the end of term however I am unable, at the present time, to say whether this will happen, we will just have to wait and see. But let's face it, during the last 10 weeks we have become very good at that!

Take care, keep safe and keep smiling,

N. Brown  
Headteacher