

'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

## Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

School Lane, Bunbury, CW6 9NR  
01829 260524 or 261332

RCSAT Executive Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Badger

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1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/carers

I hope you have all had a fantastic summer and enjoyed time with family and friends. We are all looking forward to welcoming you back to the start of the new school year on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

As we return we enter a new phase of national COVID management. As you can imagine, we have had many discussions about how September will look and this week we received further guidance from the Government.

There have been some changes over the holidays and I know that this may be raising a few questions for you. Below I have tried to summarise how we 'manage' things as we move forward and repeat some of the key information I sent out at the end of last term.

The focus now is moving forward and stopping children's education being disrupted by COVID. We have to accept vaccination rates are high now and that self-isolation rules have changed. Therefore, if your child is well, they need to be in school. This is best for their social, emotional and academic well-being and is what we are required to ask of our parents/carers from September.

### When will my child return to school?

All children will return to school in the autumn term. Term will begin as planned on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**. All children will return to school on this day and attendance at school is mandatory.

### How will my child be taught?

Children will no longer be required to stay in discrete bubbles for their learning and play. Predominantly all children are taught in their year groups, however, we are now able to offer some cross over with other classes to support pupils in areas such as phonics and spellings. We will though, keep mixing of children indoors to a minimum unless there is an impact on the educational experience. In these circumstances a register of which children may have mixed closely within a group will be kept.

We will be continuing with our broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum for all. The autumn term theme will be Geography based and titled "Where my Wellies Take Me." RSHE will focus on well-being along with other statutory content and assessment of pupils will take place early in the autumn term to further plan for the rest of the year. Sports and music provision (year 4 Love Music Trust) will be in place with any additional safety and hygiene guidance adhered to if needed.

### Uniform

All children can return to school in their full school uniform from September. If children wish to come back in summer uniform this is permissible until October half term. On the days that your child has PE we are asking that they continue to come to school in the morning in their full PE kit. They do not need to bring their school uniform with them as they will remain in their PE kits all day. Black jogging bottoms may be more advisable particularly as the weather changes further into the term as PE lessons will take place outdoors and the black PE hoody may also be worn on these days only. There will be no PE on the first 2 days back at school and PE days for each class will be communicated to parents via letter during the first week of term.



## **Bunbury Badgers**

Bunbury Badgers will continue and from the autumn term they will be relocated back in the mobile classroom. We will still be open for 'wraparound' school care from 7.45am till 6pm.

### **What arrangements are in place for the start and end of the school day?**

There will no longer be staggered start and finish times for each class. Instead the gates will be open from 8.40am – 8.55am. We ask that children are not brought to the site any earlier than this as there will be no supervision from any staff member. Any children who are dropped off before this time will be taken to Bunbury Badgers and an invoice will be sent home for any acquired hours of care.

**All** children from September will use the driveway to the left of the school to enter following the one-way system. The one-way system is clearly demarcated with arrows and we ask all those who are dropping off or collecting to continue to observe the system in place as it has helped with a smoother entry and exit from the school grounds. When dropping off, we are asking parents to continue to do this promptly as the children will now be going straight into the classroom and not playing on the playground before school. We have found that this has led to a much calmer start to the school day and therefore beneficial to focusing the children ready for their learning.

### **School drive one-way system:**



Children must remain near parents at all times and we ask that playgrounds continue to be cleared as promptly as possible. Please also do not allow any children to play on the outdoor equipment before or after school.

## **Collection**

### **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

Entry via School drive one-way system for collection:

3.10pm Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be handed over to parents on the playground at the back of school.

### **Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6**

Entry via School drive one-way system for collection:

3.15pm Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 children will be handed over to parents on the playground at the back of school. There may be some children in Year 6 who are permitted to walk home on their own, we ask that in this case the school are provided with a letter or email admin, giving permission for this to take place.

Any parent collecting siblings in KS1 may wait on the playground for any siblings in KS2 class to be brought out.

Face coverings will no longer be required to be worn by parents or visitors when entering the school site outdoors, unless they choose to do so, although we will still require anybody entering the building to wear a face mask.

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### What about Lunchtimes?

Lunch will be eaten back in the school hall and a full hot dinner menu will be offered. The kitchen will also be able to offer a hot snack at break time for a charge, alternatively we ask that you to send a healthy snack with your child. Children will be sat in their class groups which will operate on a staggered entry during the lunchtime hour, we will also still continue with an enhanced cleaning routine during this period.

### What measures will be continued?

- Some classrooms may continue with the desks facing forward where the children sit side by side.
- There will be minimal movement around the corridors with all classrooms using exterior doors for access.
- Worship will continue to be led online until the end of the first half term when it will be reviewed
- Doors and windows will be opened to allow for ventilation. In those areas where ventilation is poor we will limit the number of children mixing
- Corridors will continue to operate on a one-way system
- Toilets and all frequent touch points will continue to be cleaned more regularly during the day
- Staff will continue to wear face masks in communal areas
- Any visitors to school will be asked to wear a face mask when entering the building and complete LFD tests prior to arrival
- Any parent/teacher meetings will continue to be held remotely where possible
- Regular handwashing will continue
- Children will be encouraged to practice good respiratory hygiene
- Children will continue to come dressed in PE kit on their PE days

### What happens now if there is a positive case in my child's class?

Unless there is an outbreak, school will not be required to routinely identify close contacts of positive cases, and this duty will pass now to contact tracers in the NHS or Local Authority.

**Isolation of close contacts will not be required if any of the following apply, even if they live in the same household:**

- Fully vaccinated with the second dose at least 2 weeks prior to contact,
- **Below the age of 18 years 6 months, (siblings of a positive case under this age can continue to come to school.**
- Taking part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial,
- Not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

These are the actions we will take if there is an outbreak within school:

- There would be no isolations (See criteria shown above).



- All parents of the class affected will be sent what is termed a 'Warn and inform' letter by school which makes you aware that your child may be contacted by Track and Trace if they are identified as a close contact and they may be advised to book a PCR test and/or limit their social contact. That is NOT done by school anymore.  
You will also be told your child should continue to attend school as normal and can carry out all other activities in line with national guidance and following all safety measures which have been put in place.

### **So, what can we do to support School to keep infection levels down?**

**TESTING** – this is now critical. Remember lateral flow (rapid tests) are only good if you or your child are symptom-free. If there are any symptoms at all go for a PCR.

Below are recommendations that we know would support keeping COVID rates down.

- A minimum of twice weekly LFT (rapid) testing for those who are eligible. Tests are freely available in local pharmacies.
- Please note.... As September begins testing kit types will change – Orient Gene or Acon Flex kits will be issued more, but use the old stocks you have first they still work.
- All positive LFD test to be confirmed by PCR within 2 days.

What to do now....

I do understand however that for some of you this may be an anxious time thinking about sending your children back to school in September with the relaxing of restrictions and should you have any concerns or worries about returning to school please don't hesitate to contact me. I appreciate that this is a lot of information to absorb. However, I thought that it was important to confirm with you how opening the school in September will look.

Thank you as always for your support, patience and understanding during the past 18 months and I am looking forward to what will hopefully be a more 'normal' academic year.

Kind regards,



Nic Badger

Principal of Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

EHT for Rural Church Schools Academy Trust