

Wednesday 24th February 2021

Dear Families,

As eagerly anticipated, the Government announced on Monday that schools will be fully reopening for all children from Monday 8th March. As a school, we are really pleased to be able to welcome all children back and re-establish some normalcy for our children, their families and the school staff. The guidance is clear that all children are expected to attend schools and we have been assured from the government and from the local authority that the risks for our families - given the decline in the R rate, reduced infection rate and the ever increasing number of family members who have now received the vaccination – is now minimal and that all children can return to working within our previously established pod approach at BHJS.

Our systems will be largely unchanged from before Christmas; however, we will be revisiting our Covid hygiene and restrictive measures with all children on return to make sure that the expectations for safe pod working and Covid safe behaviours are fully understood. Hand hygiene, pod working for limiting contacts and ventilation remain the key to staying healthy and Covid free within the school and, consequently, avoiding any further disruption for our children with subsequent pod closures.

The following information aims to answer any questions you may have. Please read them carefully.

Will pods continue to be necessary?

Yes. Contact reduction through a pod system will still be in place. The pods will continue to have their own toilet and staggered breaks with designated areas (outside this will continue to be per year group in larger spaces). In class, tables will be front facing and not in group plans – although opportunities for paired and group work will be an essential part of reconnecting for children within classes. Adults will be able to move between pods for cover purposes although children will not be taken out from different pods to work in mixed-pod groups. Contact tracing will continue to be in place. The pod system is based on reduced contact rather than social distancing; strict social distancing of 2m is not possible although teachers – and especially those with pre-existing conditions – will be advised to socially distance as far as is possible.

What do I need to know about drop-off and pick-up?

	Angels pod	Archers pod	Puffers pod	Orcas pod	Stingrays pod	Swordfish pod	Tigers pod	Tetras pod
Start of day	8:40	8:50	8:40	8:50	8:40	8:50	9:00	9:00
End of day	3:10	3:20	3:10	3:20	3:10	3:20	3:30	3:30
Entrance point	Playground right hand steps	Playground right hand steps	Playground left hand steps	Playground left hand steps	Front door	Front door	Playground left hand steps	Playground right hand steps

- Families **must not** arrive before their allocated time as we cannot have children or family members waiting outside of the school gates. If dropping siblings at different times, we ask that you take a short walk or return home rather than standing outside of school gates.
- Children **must not** run around in the playground or outside of the school gates and should stay with their adults at all times.
- Adults **must not** linger on pick-up or drop-off. We respectfully remind you that this is not the time or place for families to gather socially and restrictions are still very much in place.
- Adults **must** maintain 2m distance and wear face coverings at all times.
- If you walk with your dog, please stay on the other side of the road or on the path well away from the school fencing as this narrows pavements significantly.

- Families must ensure that their child/ren are not ill and do not have a temperature, cough or loss of taste before coming to school each day.
- Children are asked to walk to school (no bikes/scooters please) and, if driving, we ask that cars park further away from the school and walk the remaining distance in order to reduce congestion.
- All – non-emergency – messages or requests should be emailed or telephoned through to members of the school office rather than attempting to visit/talk in person.
- All correspondence with class teachers should take place via phone or email.

When does my child need to wear PE kit?

Year group	PE Days
Year 3	Tuesday & Friday
Year 4	Tuesday & Friday
Year 5	Monday & Thursday
Year 6	Monday & Thursday

What should my child bring to school?

- Your child will need to bring a packed lunch to school (unless you have ordered a lunch from the kitchen – this must be paid for in advance using Arbor) and a snack for break time.
- Your child needs to bring two water bottles to school each day. Fountains have been turned off and they will need one for during the day and one for lunch.
- Children should wear school uniform on days where PE is not taking place (above)
- Children should bring coats and jumpers to school everyday
- Children should bring school book in on a Friday (which will then be isolated) and can collect a new one for use over the weekend
- Children should not bring any additional materials/resources/soft toys etc. from home

What would happen in the event of a child displaying symptoms of Covid 19 at home?

Symptoms of Covid 19 are a new and **continuous cough, a fever or temperature and/ or a loss of sense of smell and taste**; there are also reports of rare cases where children have initially presented with gastro-intestinal problems. Do not send your child to school if they display any of these symptoms: symptoms in children are often mild.

If an individual shows symptoms of Covid 19, they – and their families - must isolate at home and seek a PCR test.

In the event of a positive test in a child, the whole pod will be asked to self-isolate at home for 10 days from the initial onset of symptoms. We ask that the results of the PCR test are reported to school as soon as you receive them so that Public Health England can be consulted and action can be taken quickly. Following a negative test, the child would be able to return to school as normal and no further isolation for children would be needed.

What would happen in the event of a child displays symptoms of Covid 19 at school?

If a child demonstrates a high temperature, a cough or suggests they have lost their sense of taste/smell, we will isolate the child from the rest of their pod and call the family to arrange an immediate pick-up for the child; asking that a PCR test is immediately booked. School would then await the results of this test before any further action decided in regards to isolation.

What would happen in the event of a staff member displays symptoms of Covid 19?

All school staff are now conducting home Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly. In the event that this suggest a positive result, the staff member will seek a rapid PCR test. While the results are pending, it will be necessary for any related pod of children/individuals to isolate. Following a positive PCR result (either prompted by a positive LFT or after becoming symptomatic), school would identify any children/adults who was impacted through track and trace and ask that they then isolate for 10 days at home. Any unaffected children would continue to attend school as normal.

What hygiene & safety measures are in place at school?

- Enhanced hygiene will continue. All adults and staff wash their hands and/or sanitise their hands on entry to the building; after break time; before and after lunchtime and before leaving at the end of the school day.
- Children remain in their pods only (class based inside and year group based during outdoor play) and do not mix with others from across the school.
- PE equipment is disinfected between use for classes and resources.
- There are no whole school assemblies in the school hall – instead these are held remotely from individual classrooms.
- Children are taught and reminded about hygiene (catch-it, bin-it, kill-it etc.) regularly throughout the day/week and tissues are available within the classroom along with lidded bins for disposal.
- Visitors to the school are limited to essential business only and all visitors are informed about our Covid-safe approaches.
- All staff wear face coverings (unless exempt) unless working within their own pods.
- High contact points and classrooms are cleaned across the school each lunchtime as well as ongoing surface cleaning completed by pod staff members throughout the school day.

Will there be wrap around care and after school clubs?

This service will be available from week commencing the 15th March. Our first priority is reopening the school for all children and ensuring all children are settled. A survey will be sent to you shortly for booking purposes for the remainder of this term and a booking form will soon be issued from the office for Term 5 onwards. A pod system will also operate in before and after schools clubs, with contact tracing in place.

Sports clubs – previously planned for Term 3 and 4 – will also recommence from the 15th March for the remainder of the term. Those children who were previously booked in for this will have access to these spaces. Term 5 and Term 6 club details and booking forms will also be sent later this term and will then be open for all interested on a first come, first served basis.

Do I have to send my child back to school on the 8th March?

Both the Government and the Local Authority have been clear that attendance for children at school is compulsory and therefore all children will be expected to return on this date. It is also important to note that, when it does become possible, we will not be authorising any holiday leave (as per our usual policy) as this would lead to further disruption for our children after an already unsettled year.

We recognise, and understand, that for a small number of families, concerns about attendance will be much higher due to individual circumstances. If you would like to discuss any concerns with us, please do contact the school.

We are all really looking forward to seeing all of your smiling faces on Monday 8th March and hope that you are also looking forward to the return.

With kindest regards,

Tracy Serle