

Rounds Green Primary School

Brades Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 2DP

Head Teacher: Mrs H Heap

Tel: 0121 552 1910 Fax: 0121 552 7332



2nd March 2021

School Re-Opening March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

I hope that you are all safe and well. I am writing to provide you with information regarding the re-opening of schools to all pupils from 8th March. Firstly, can I say how lovely it will be to have all of the children back in school; it really does seem like a long time since school was full and bustling.

I am sure that for many of you, you can't wait for the children to come back to school, but equally, some of you may be nervous about the return. I therefore wanted to write this letter to explain what measures we have put into place to continue to keep both staff and children safe.

Firstly, staff have worked together to develop a recovery curriculum for the first few weeks back into school that will, in all likelihood, last until Easter, depending on how quickly the children settle. The basis of this will be an exciting art and music based project. We have chosen to use this as a vehicle to settle the children due to the therapeutic benefits of both art and music and it will also provide the staff with the opportunity to settle the children in and ascertain where they are in terms of their learning journey. Mrs Richardson will write separately to provide more details of the project.

Following the positive feedback of the phased return to school that we used in September to settle the children back in, we will again be following this approach; albeit slightly shorter from Monday 8th March.

On Monday 8th March – children with surnames L-Z ONLY will attend for the whole day.

On Tuesday 9th March – children with surnames A-K ONLY will attend for the whole day.

On Wednesday 10th March – All of the children will be back in school.

Due to the relatively small numbers of children in Nursery, all children will be able to attend everyday; but children will revert back to their pre-lockdown morning OR afternoon sessions.

We have been working on a detailed risk assessment, carefully following the guidance issued by the government and a copy of this is on our school website for anyone who wishes to read this in full. I will endeavour to capture the main points as succinctly as I can below.

I will begin with pointing out that attendance from the 8th March is compulsory unless your child has been sent a letter to shield. If this is the case, then please contact school and send a copy of the letter to us and we will upload this onto your child's attendance record. This will be for a very small minority of pupils.

Website: www.roundsgreen.sandwell.sch.uk

Twitter: @roundsgreenprim



Measures that will be taken to reduce the risk of transmission:

- Children will be placed in 'bubbles' as they were in the autumn term and children will remain in these bubbles for playtimes and lunchtimes and so will not be able to mix with children outside of their bubbles;
- With the exception of the youngest children in Nursery, Reception (and sometimes year 1), children will sit in rows, facing the front in class. Teachers will remain at the front of the class, maintaining a distance of 2m wherever possible. Please note that there is not an expectation in primary schools that children socially distance;
- Children will be encouraged and reminded not to make physical contact with each other;
- Soft furnishings and anything that cannot be easily cleaned have been removed from classrooms;
- In addition to our normal cleaning schedule, there will be additional cleaning throughout the day;
- Adults will wear face coverings when moving around school, in communal areas;
- Wherever possible, staff will work within a bubble although there are times when a limited number of staff have to work across bubbles;
- The vast majority of staff will be undertaking lateral flow tests twice a week;
- Children will be expected to wash hands and sanitise them throughout the day and this will be part of the children's daily routine;
- Children will come to school wearing their PE kits on PE days to avoid children having to change their clothes in close proximity to each other;
- Classrooms will be well-ventilated throughout the day;
- Any children displaying symptoms, will be moved to an empty isolation room (along with any brothers or sisters) and a phone call home will be made to request that the children are collected promptly and that a test is obtained;
- Visitors into school will be limited to essential visitors only; such as professionals who need to carry out assessments of children, social workers, music teachers etc
- Parents will not be allowed in the school building unless this has been agreed by a prior appointment.
- There will be no off-site visits and swimming will not yet resume.
- There will be no before and after school clubs at this time.

I appreciate that the last point may be a concern for some families. I would therefore like to explain why this decision has been made.

Throughout the school day, staff work hard to keep the children within their bubbles. This means that if there is a positive case, we can quickly identify which bubble has to close. It is not possible to keep children within their bubbles during before and after school clubs. Therefore, if a child attending these clubs tested positive, potentially we would have to close all bubbles. Our main priority, and core purpose, is to get all children back in school. We believe that until the impact of re—opening schools on the infection rate is evident, that it is sensible to keep these clubs closed at this time to further reduce the impact of the amount of bubbles affected should there be a possible case.

Website: www.roundsgreen.sandwell.sch.uk

Twitter: @roundsgreenprim



What parents can do to help:

Whilst we have a detailed risk assessment in place, we also need the co-operation of ALL parents to support us in keeping school safe. Please help us by doing the following:

1. **DO NOT** come onto school site to drop off/collect if you have ANY symptoms.
2. Only 1 adult per family to come onto site to pick up/drop off.
3. **ALL** adults to wear a face covering whilst on site, unless medically exempt.
4. Please follow social distancing guidelines whilst dropping off and collecting.
5. We have a 'window' of dropping off and collecting to help support with this; please utilise this fully.

Window of dropping off/collecting between 8.40 and 8.55am and between 3.10 – 3.25pm to ensure staggered collections and reducing adults on site.

Nursery am – in Nursery door, out via school office
Nursery pm – in via school office, collected by Nursery door
Reception – in and out by Reception back door (next to staff car park)
Years 1 & 2 - KS1 entrance
Years 3 & 4 - by Year 3/4 toilets
Years 5 & 6 - by Year 5/6 toilets

6. Please only send your child into school with essentials; lunch box & reading book. Please avoid sending in additional items and large bags. Children are not allowed to bring in toys etc from home.
7. Please make sure that your contact details are up to date in. Please contact the school office if you need to make any changes.
8. If school contacts you to say that your child has symptoms, then it is VERY important that you make arrangements for your child to be collected very promptly.

Whilst we do understand that children will take time to settle, we do expect children to follow the routines that we have in place to keep everyone safe. If children do not comply, the behaviour policy will be applied. We appreciate your co-operation with this and ask for you to reinforce with your child at home the importance of following the school rules.

We fully understand and appreciate that this has been an incredibly difficult time for everyone and that the pandemic has affected all of us in many different ways. Please speak to us if there is anything at all that we can do to help and support your child and your family.

Kind regards, stay safe and we very much look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mrs H. B. Heap
Headteacher