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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have all had a lovely Summer holiday whether it has been a holiday away or days out from home. The weather certainly hasn't been as good as we had back in April but I am sure some more family time has been enjoyed. We are all very much looking forward to seeing the children back in school next week. Getting back to 'normal', into a routine and doing the job we all love – teaching – is something we are very keen to begin again. I realise there will be some anxiety for both children and parents about returning to school; the same is true for school staff also. We will take small steps, support one another and hopefully the information provided in this letter will provide some reassurance. It is however important that I inform you that your child's attendance in school will be compulsory from the beginning of term unless they are ill or having to isolate as part of track and trace.

Teachers will continue to use the class email addresses that were set up during lockdown. Please continue to use these to communicate with your child's class teacher, however as staff will be teaching their response may be a little slower than previously. Please be patient and if anything is urgent, please ring Sally in the school office.

Unfortunately, the broken windows were not replaced over the Summer holidays, as planned. We hope that these will be replaced very soon.

A recap of information sent to you before the Summer holidays and which will apply next week, the main changes being to the arrangements for Breakfast Club, Water Bottles and additional information about face coverings:

Arriving and Leaving School

If your child's surname starts with the letter A-I, arrive at school at 8.50am and be collected at 3.20pm
If you children's surname starts with the letter J-Z, arrive at school at 9.00am and be collected at 3.30pm
Please note that a one-way system will be in operation from the car park gate onto the playground. Please follow this to keep us all safe. Entry through the main gates and round the side of the hall will be as normal. Entry through the car park gate will involve entering through one gate and out of another gate. It will be clearly marked. Please do not congregate on the playground, please keep your distance, drop your child off quickly and then leave. Class teachers will meet children at the classroom doors, parents should not approach the classroom doors. The same applies at the end of the school day.
Children will wash their hands as soon as they arrive at school.

Lunchtime

Lunchtime will be shortened slightly to 50 minutes as we are not allowed to reduce teaching time to accommodate the above staggered arrival and leaving times.
Children can either bring a packed lunch to school or they can have a school dinner. For the first 3 days in school (Weds-Fri), school lunch will be a packed lunch provided by the school kitchen. Packed lunches brought from home need to contain items that the children can open themselves. Packed lunches will be stored in boxes outside each classroom. Do not put them on the trolleys by the hall. Lunches will be eaten in children's classrooms.
Children will wash their hands before and after eating.



Water Bottles

Children can bring a water bottle to school each day. This needs to be washed every night. Children can fill their bottle during the week in school, as needed, from the tap in each classroom. All children need a water bottle as the water fountains are not to be used. **Please clearly label water bottles with your child's name using permanent ink.**

School Uniform

School Uniform must be worn, including school shoes and our school uniform policy will be in place. Children should bring a coat to school and this will be stored in their class cloakroom as usual.

Other Items and Homework

Children should not bring any other items from home; no pencil cases, books, toys or things to show. Children will be given a 'Menu' of Brainbuilder Homework options at the start of term and this will be brought home in their brainbuilder book. **This book should not come back to school.** It is for children and parents to work in, any photos or brainbuilders completed can be sent to class teacher's email addresses. Weekly Spelling Lists will be emailed home to parents, spelling books will remain in school.

Reading Books

Children in Class 1, 2 and 3 will be given a 'Home Reading Book' to take home on a Monday. This should be returned to school on a Friday and placed in the plastic box outside each classroom. A new 'Home Reading Book' will be issued the following Monday.

Children in Class 4 and 5 (and some Year 3 children also) will have a 'Home Reading Book' and a 'School Reading Book'. The home reading books stays at home until it is finished and then is returned to school and placed in the plastic box outside each classroom and a new book can be chosen. Reading Records and Diaries will not be sent home, these will remain in school. **Book Bags should not be brought into school and school rucksacks are also not required.** Children can bring a morning snack in their coat pocket, if required.

Communication to and from school

Any letters from school will be emailed to parents, unless you have requested a paper copy. Class teachers will continue to use the class@ email addresses in September as a way for parents to communicate with teachers. As much as possible we are going to discourage parents coming in to school; this is to protect staff and keep them safe. Parents must not try to enter the school building, unless arranged in advance. This includes speaking to Sally in the main office. Please give us a ring or send us an email if you need to speak to us. We look forward to the day we can fully open our doors again but thank you for your understanding with this at this time.

PE Lessons and PE Kits

For children in Classes 2, 3, 4 and 5, PE lessons will take place outside and in a change to PE lessons, your child's class will now have a PE morning or afternoon. On this day your child will need to come to school wearing their PE kit. Please note that PE lessons will be outside, in line with Government guidance and jogging bottoms, a jumper and trainers are essential. On the following days, your child can come to school wearing their PE kit.

Tuesday Class 3

Wednesday Class 4

Thursday Class 2

Thursday Class 5

Children in Class 1 will need to bring a PE kit into school at the start of term and leave it in the cloakroom, please ensure it has jogging bottoms and a jumper in it as PE lessons will be outside.

Outdoor Learning: Forest Schools

Class 1 and 2 will be taking part in Outdoor Learning through Forest Schools in September. Mrs McGregor will be running these sessions. Class 1 will be on a Thursday morning and Class 2 will be on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure your child has their coat in school, wellies and an all in one over-suit will be provided to keep them clean and dry. If you would like to provide wellies for your child, please name these, bring them into school at the start of term and they will stay in school all the time. A pair of gloves in their coat pocket may come in handy also!



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will restart in September from Monday 14th, 8.00-9.00am, £4.00 per session or 8.20-9.00am £2.00 per session. Due to increased numbers of children in school, you will now need to pre-book your child into Breakfast Club. To begin with, please email Sally (admin@bentham.n-yorks.sch.uk) with your child's name and the days and times you would like them to attend. We will look towards moving to an electronic booking system in the near future.

Breakfast Club is a little tricky to manage under the new Covid19 arrangements but it is possible. Breakfast Club will run in the school hall from September. Parents will need to walk across the playground to the door by the hall to drop children off. Mrs Reid and other staff will be there to meet you from 8.00am. The hall will be divided into spaces for each class and children will need to remain in these class zones for the duration of Breakfast Club. Food and drink will be available the same as previously and there will be lots of lovely activities for the children to do before school starts. I would encourage parents to use our breakfast club as it is only sustainable if it is used.

Please note Breakfast Club will start on Monday 14th September.

Keeping Children Safe

From September, children will remain in their class groups for the duration of the school day. There will be no assemblies, playtimes will be staggered and there will be no mixing of children across classes. This follows government guidelines. We are very fortunate that the layout of our school makes this task a little easier. Children will be taught where they can go, what they can do and the reasons behind these changes. Please be assured that classrooms look very much the same and they will soon fall into the new routines. Each class will have designated toilets and movement of staff between each class will be limited as much as practically possible. This 'separation' is to try to reduce the impact should we have a positive case of Covid19. On paper, it sounds a little worrying but in practice it does not change school life too much. I will have to adapt to presenting whole school assemblies from my office via zoom which I am sure will be interesting!

Covid19

We need to keep children in bubbles in case we have a positive Covid test. That class bubble would then need 'close' and all children in it would need to self-isolate for 14 days. What we must avoid is a full school closure. Families may need to self-isolate for 14 days as part of the Track & Trace system. In these circumstances school would provide home learning for pupils unable to be in school. More information will follow regarding this in due course.

Children are not to wear face covering in school. If a child wears a face covering to school, this must be removed before entering the school building and placed in an external bin or placed in a plastic bag and put in their coat pocket. Children will need to do this independently and school staff will not support with this.

Wider Curriculum and Clubs

This will be a very different term in school. There will be no lunchtime clubs, extra-curricular activities or sporting events. There will be no social events for families or the wider community to enjoy. These happy times will be back when government guidance says it is safe to plan them. We will all look forward to that time

New Children and Families

Welcome! If your child is in Nursery or Reception, Mrs Chapman will have been in touch with you prior to the holidays. If your child is in Year 1 to Year 6, please follow the instructions above and members of staff wearing green jackets will be on the playground to point you in the right direction.

I hope this update addresses the questions you might have. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you feel there is anything I have missed; please note that staff are not back in school until Monday 7th September.

From Mrs Pearson and All the Staff at Bentham CP School

