



# Lessness Heath Primary School

Erith Road, Belvedere, Kent. DA17 6HB

Telephone 01322 433290

Interim Head Teacher - Miss A Bolton

Respect Belonging Co-operation Honesty Perseverance Responsibility

31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all enjoying a fun filled Summer holiday! As we approach returning to school, I thought now seemed a good time to bring you up to speed with some more details about how we will be operating from September right through to, what looks like, the end of the Autumn term at least.

Apart from the information shared with you in July, I didn't want to communicate any more arrangements until we were certain that the government guidance wouldn't be significantly changing. A week or two is a long time in the world of Covid and we didn't want to give out mixed messages and cause confusion.

I cannot tell you just how much we are looking forward to having a school full of children once more and we can't wait to see all of their little smiling faces again! Covid is still very much part of everyday life for us all so we will be operating a very strict set of safety procedures in school. All of the children will have these explained to them at an age appropriate level once they have returned and each and every member of our community will have to play their part and pull together to adhere to them so that we can all keep as safe and well as possible. You may remember that we previously gave out some information at the end of July and these details, although largely unchanged, are repeated here just in case you didn't get the chance to read them at the time.

When we return the children will be in Phase Groups, or "bubbles". Under the guidance contact between these groups will be minimised so they remain in isolation from others, work alone as a bubble and will not gather with other bubbles at lunchtimes, playtimes or in assemblies. We have rearranged the layouts of classrooms, in line with the government guidance, and table arrangements are particularly different to life before Covid. Tables now all face forwards and are spaced out as much as possible but, as the powers that be have recognised, children are not expected to be socially distanced whilst working within their bubbles. The activities that the children will be undertaking will be promoting social distancing as much as possible, but it would be impossible to ensure that this was in place at all times.

All children from Years 1 to 6 are to return to school on Monday 7th September. All children will need to return to school in full uniform. Children do not need to bring any resources into school, such as pencil cases. Children must not bring any items from home into school other than a **water bottle** and a packed lunch box if required. Children will not have access to the water fountains so a water bottle must be bought to school.

We will not be offering hot school lunches for the time being. Children in Reception and KS1 will be able to order a free school packed lunch but are also free to bring in a packed lunch box from home. Children in KS2 must bring in a packed lunch unless they are entitled to a free school packed lunch and have been in receipt of free school meal vouchers. It is vital that if your child has a medical dietary requirement and will be eating school meals of any kind, that you contact the school office as soon as possible and complete paperwork required by our new kitchen provider.

As part of the drive to minimise contact, the government states that start and finish times have to be staggered. I know that this may be a pain for some families, however I am afraid it is a necessity of the world we are currently living in - please do not ask for any adaptations to be made for individual circumstances. I cannot stress enough how, as a team,

*This school is committed to the safeguarding and protection of children*



we have tried to think of every possible way in which we can make this as easy as possible for you as parents but the sad fact of the matter is that we can only do so much and, although it will be inconvenient at times, there is nothing convenient about the pandemic we are forced to live with at present.

### **Staggered start times**

Front Playground –Erith Road School Entrance      Back Playground – Hoddesdon Road Entrance

Bubble	Time in	Time out
EYFS (Reception and Nursery)	8.50 – 9.10 BACK PLAYGROUND	2.50 – 3.05 BACK PLAYGROUND
KS1 (Year 1 and 2)	8.50 – 9.10 FRONT PLAYGROUND	2.50 – 3.05 FRONT PLAYGROUND
LKS2 (Year 3 and 4)	8.35 – 8.50 FRONT PLAYGROUND	3.10 – 3.20 FRONT PLAYGROUND
UKS2 (Year 5 and 6)	8.35 – 8.50 BACK PLAYGROUND	3.10 – 3.20 BACK PLAYGROUND

Once on the school grounds, each class will be met by their teachers and taken to class. At the end of the school day, children will be dropped off by their teacher and released back into their parents care.

Only children in Year Six are authorised to walk to and from school unaccompanied by an adult and we must have written permission from parents for them to do so. These children, and these children only, are allowed to bring mobile phones into school which will then be stored in individual plastic bags and then locked in cupboards within their classrooms. Year Six pupils who are being accompanied by an adult may not bring a mobile into school. All Year 6 children must be dropped off by and collected by an adult on their first day back in school.

Please remember when doing the school run that, although the children are part of a bubble in school, parents are not and must therefore adhere to social distancing guidelines, keeping a 2-metre distance from those from other households wherever possible. Parents need to be prompt but not early so as not to bump into parents whose children are in other bubbles. If you have collected a child already, who is from a different bubble and are making a second pick up, or if you have other children with you who do not attend the school, they must stay close with you at all times.

We will be running our before and after school club within school, and details of this were sent out via email last week. There will be no other clubs in the Autumn term, hopefully we will be able to reintroduce these if restrictions ease in the Spring term.

Our curriculum is being altered in order to take on board the many challenges that the children have faced over the past few months as well as the ongoing issues which impact some subjects. We recognise that the children will have all have experienced trauma in one form or another and may have undertaken the home learning activities to varying degrees. This will be reflected in both our teaching style and the way we pitch the lessons.

Some lessons may need to be adapted entirely as we move forward to ensure safety. PE will be quite different as the children will not be taking part in any contact sports for the time being. As such when children have PE they will take part in fitness activities and need to come to school in their PE kit which they will wear for that entire day. Further details will be shared once we have returned to school.

Masks will not be worn by children, unless there is a specific need that has been discussed with a member of SLT. Those of you who have ever seen our lost property boxes will understand that having over 600 masks in school would be a logistical nightmare. Masks would undoubtedly get lost or end up on the wrong face which would be beyond terrible in the current climate. That being said there will be times when staff may wear masks, particularly when working in



close proximity to children. We would appreciate it if children could be sent into school in clean uniform each day wherever possible.

For the time being parents are not authorised to come onto the school grounds unless specifically invited by myself or via a pre-arranged appointment meaning that all communication to the office needs to be made via email or by phone.

Our behaviour policy has had to be adapted slightly due to the circumstances we are currently working within. This means that any child choosing high levels of very challenging or dangerous behaviour will result in parents being phoned and expected to collect their child immediately. This is not how we would normally choose to operate, and we will obviously use all of our skills to avoid behaviour escalating in the first place.

Those of you who had a child return to school before the Summer will hopefully already be reassured that we are doing all that we can to keep school, and all of our community, as safe as possible. Some parents may be nervous about sending their children back but hopefully, in a very short space of time, you will feel that we are doing all that we possibly can in the current climate to keep everyone safe and well. The measures that we have in place are strict, and some of you may feel they are too strict, but whilst I am responsible for the safety of our children, I will not be taking any chances with their health. It's a tough time at the moment and we are all having to work in ways which, believe me, don't always come naturally to us at times. If your child is nervous then the best thing that you can do is try to reassure them and help them to feel positive and calm about their return to school. Reminding them of the positives about coming back to school and talking to them about each of the safety measures that we have in place will help to make their return significantly less stressful.

Please feel to contact me via our admin email if you want to make us aware of a specific worry your child has so that our team can support them with the transition into the new term.

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook by liking 'Lessness Heath Primary School', giving you a great way to see our children grow, succeed and flourish as they settle back into school.

I look forward to working with you and your lovely children again next week.

Miss A Bolton  
Interim Head