



PB/LL 25.02.21

Return to School Monday 8th March

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you have all managed to come through this much tougher period of lock down and are feeling positive about the news around easing of restrictions over the coming weeks and months. You have done an amazing job with your children and you should all feel very proud of what you have achieved and sustained over the past year.

We are really excited and looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 8th March!

Parents should be aware that attendance at school is compulsory from 8th March and **all** children are required to attend school.

We have again spent a lot of time thinking about how to keep the children, staff and parents as safe as possible as we all return to school. For these plans to be a success we really need a team effort and for you, as parents and carers, to play your part in supporting us to ensure we avoid any partial or full closure due to a Covid 19 outbreak. The virus has still not gone away and we do not want to have to close a bubble in school.

On the 8th March everyone will be anxious so please bear this in mind, be patient and considerate to staff, pupils and each other as you drop your children off at school. We will have 350 children to get in and out of school so **we really do need you to take your arrival and departure times seriously**. I am aware that not everyone will have the ideal time for drop off or pick up but we would ask that you work around this as best you can and we would ask that your employers be understanding too. Once you have dropped your child at school please vacate the car park and area around the school gates as soon as possible. Please arrive at school at the allocated time and not before. Please do not arrive early and sit or stand in the car parks as this will clog up the system, create problems and defeats the object of a staggered start. Please hand your child over at the correct time, at the correct gate. It is equally important that you arrive on time for the end of the school day. Too late or too early will cause us problems and put others at risk. Please can adults at the school gate maintain social distance and wear a face covering. Where possible, please walk to school.

- Group A pupils should arrive between 8:40 – 8:50 and should be collected at 3pm.
- Group B pupils should arrive between 8:50 – 9:00 and should be collected at 3.10pm
- Group C pupils should arrive between 9:00 – 9:10 and should be collected at 3.20pm

School Office

The school office and school site will remain closed to parents and so communication should be made via a phone call or e-mail to the school office. Please do not pass messages to staff on the school gates. All payments should continue to be made online. If you wish to or need to talk to a teacher or other member of staff, please contact them through the school admin e-mail and we will respond via e-mail or phone call as soon as we can.

School Uniform

Pupils should wear their full school uniform every day but they will not be required to bring in a PE kit. Children can wear under layers as the school is kept well ventilated so can be chilly at times. We would like the children to be sent in to school on PE days in their PE kit. PE kit should be either black, navy or grey leggings or track suit bottoms or shorts, a coloured school PE T-shirt in their house colour and a school jumper/cardigan. Pupils may wear trainers on PE day. Please ensure that pupils can do their own laces before sending them to school in lace up trainers, Velcro is best for little ones. Please ensure pupils have a coat with them **every day** as we will be going outside every playtime and as often as possible whenever possible and it may be a bit wet. Wearing PE kit to school on PE days reduces the risk of infection.

**PE days are as follows:**

Lions and Tigers: Friday	Mercury class: Tuesday and Thursday
Zebra Class: Monday and Wednesday	Mars class: Tuesday and Thursday
Panther class: Thursday and Friday	Neptune class: Wednesday and Friday
Giraffe class: Monday and Wednesday	Saturn class: Tuesday and Thursday
Jupiter class: Monday and Tuesday	Pluto class: Monday and Wednesday

Covid Symptoms

If your child complains of feeling ill and is describing C-19 type symptoms (dry cough, sore throat, loss of taste/smell etc.) **please keep them away from school and have them tested**. Let us know the outcome as soon as you hear. It is important we know, even if pupils test negative. If any member of your family is ill with C-19 type symptoms, please keep your child/children off until you know the test for other family members was negative. Please let us know when anyone in your family has needed to be tested. Further advice and support about testing can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please remember, your child may be more anxious about school than normal. If you feel they are feigning illness or feel ill due to anxiety, please send them in. We will support them and it will only get more difficult if they do not get back into routine.

If your child is not well please ensure you contact the school office and leave a detailed explanation of symptoms so we can act as necessary. Please do not say they are just unwell.

Medication

If your child is off colour and you feel that they would need Calpol during the school day, we would ask that you not send them in and they return once they have fully recovered. If your child needs antihistamines these should be given at home.

If your child requires a prescribed medicine that is needed three times a day then this should be given at home, it would only be given in school if the pupil was staying at school beyond 4pm (perhaps attending an after school club). For medicines needed four times a day, a dose can be given at school (around 11am) and the third dose would only be given at school if they are staying beyond 4pm in an after school club.

Year 5/6 Walking to and from school

If you have a child in Years 5 or 6 and you would like them to be allowed to walk to and from school alone please be aware of the different group finish times. The permission slips we received at the start of the year for walking home can be applied but if you have not given your permission for your child to walk home alone and you would now like them to then you must fill in a slip. Your child will not be permitted to walk home alone without written permission. Pupils being sent to school without a parent MUST arrive at the correct time. It would be really helpful if you discussed this with your child so that we get all children through the gates at the correct time.

After School Clubs (dance, rugby, football, creative writing etc. including tennis)

After school activities and clubs will resume again after the Easter holidays. Breakfast and after school club will be available: **7.45am - 8.40am and 3.20pm until 5.45pm**. Please book in all sessions by emailing admin@bransgore.hants.sch.uk

School Lunches and Snacks

School lunches are available (meat and meat free option), to see the current menu options please visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hc3s/education-catering/menu-primary>

If you are sending in morning snacks for your child please ensure they are healthy snacks, we do provide fruit for Foundation and KS1 children.



I am really sorry if this letter sounds a bit officious and there are lots of rules and expectations being set down but at least they are all pretty familiar to us now! We want you and your children to be kept as safe as possible. Everyone using school before Christmas was amazing and all went smoothly and we were able to stay free from Covid-19. We want this to continue so please follow our advice and respect the requests we are making. I know it is not ideal but the whole situation is a challenge.

Finally, it is understandable that you may be feeling a little trepidation or anxiety about sending your little one back to school, especially if they have not been here since December but it is very important that you do not share your worry with the children and be as upbeat and positive as possible. We will keep them safe but the children need to know that you believe that too. Of course, we are unable to guarantee that your child will not contract Covid whilst in school but I can assure you that we will be doing all we can to minimise this risk.

We have taken the decision not to issue a spring term report but will give you an update before the Easter holiday about how your little ones have settled back in and we will also make swift contact with you if we have any concerns for your child from an academic or pastoral perspective. If all goes well we will be able to issue a meaningful progress report at the end of the summer term.

Many thanks indeed for your time, attention, understanding and co-operation. Enjoy the last weekend of family time and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th March for the beginning of a return to normality.

**"Love is better than anger,
Hope is better than fear,
Optimism better than despair.
So let us be loving,
Hopeful and optimistic
And together we will change the world."**

Best wishes,

Mr. Brown