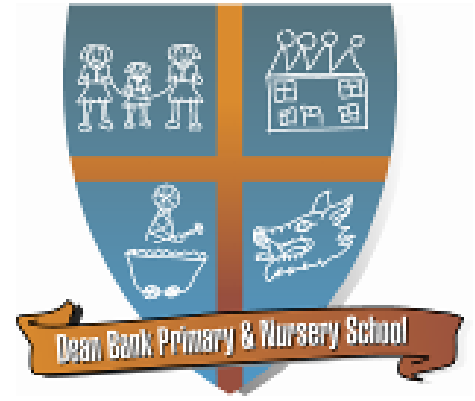


Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School

Dean Bank, Ferryhill,
Co. Durham DL17 8PP
Telephone: 01740 651 512
Fax: 01740 654 835

E-mail: deanbank@durhamlearning.net
Website: www.deanbank.durham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs P Northcott
Chair of Governors: Mr J Davison



Believe, Achieve, Soar with Pride

8.6.20

Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

I know you will have been very torn about whether you want your child to come back to school and I want to reassure you that a lot of thought and effort has gone into ensuring that we have plans and procedures in place that means we can do this safely.

I do want to say that school is not 'normal'. Lots of areas are locked, toys and resources are stored away and staff may not be teaching their own children in their own classroom.

The school looks and feels very bland and sterile but this is necessary to ensure cleaning can be done frequently and thoroughly following all the up-to-date guidelines.

I thought the best way to give you information is in this question and answer style letter but if you need any more information please contact school.

How will school try to ensure social distancing practices are in place?

Children will be placed in group sizes of 6 or less (**learning bubble**) and allocated a classroom with the same teacher/TA each day. If the number of pupils exceed that which can be safely accommodated by staff then school will consider School attendance by pupils on a rotational basis.

All parents/carers and children must ensure social distancing when entering the school site. To help you do this, we have put the following actions in place:

- Separate entrances allowing pupils to be met each day by a staff member.
- All pupils must be accompanied to school each morning.
- Only one parent/carer is permitted to drop off/pick up their child.
- Parents/Carers are advised to leave the school site immediately once their child has entered the building via the marked one way system.
- Pupils will remain in their small group within their allocated classroom and supported by designated members of staff throughout the day.
- Classroom areas in use, will have items that are non-essential, removed to allow a larger floor space to help promote social distancing. Soft furnishings and toys etc will also be removed.
- Outdoor activities will be carried out on a rota basis to ensure social distancing.

When is my child allowed to come to school?

We are very aware that a lot of our children will have anxiety about leaving their parents and carers after being with them for such a long time. This is why I made the decision that for the first two weeks they will only attend the morning session. If this goes well and children are settled we will move to full days. We will update you regarding any changes with as much notice as possible.

Monday 15th June ~ Friday 19th June ~ 8:50 ~ 12:00

Monday 22nd June ~ Friday 26th June ~ 8:50 ~ 12:00

What does my child have to wear or bring to school?

Children need to come to school in **different clean clothes** every day. This means that we are not expecting them in uniform, but if you have enough and they want to wear it, this is fine.

They need a **named labelled water bottle** that we will disinfect and send home. We are not allowed to use water fountains or cups. Children are not allowed to bring in or take home anything else as this may cause cross contamination.

If your child usually brings in a packed lunch then this needs to be in a **labelled plastic lunch box** that can easily be disinfected once in school and that you can clean when they bring it home. Again, they will eat this in the classroom in their 'learning bubble'.

What time and where does my child come into school ?

Reception children should be taken to the **nursery entrance** (socially distancing markers are displayed, and a one way system is in place) and staff will let them in from **8:50 ~ 9:00**.

Unfortunately once the outside gate is locked, late children cannot be accommodated as staffing does not allow for them to come in through the main entrance and up through the school.

Who will be working with my child ?

Recommendations mean that staff only work with 1 group of children. This means that 1 teacher and 2 teaching assistants will be assigned to work with reception children and not work anywhere else in school. This will be their 'learning bubble'.

Will my child be expected to socially distance?

We understand that young children would find this impossible and we do not expect it. That is why they will be working with the same adults to ensure that they are not exposed to a range of pupils and adults who may transmit the virus.

What will my child be doing ?

We have been given lots of guidance around appropriate play and learning activities both for inside the classroom and outside. However the main thing we will be doing is ensuring children have the chance to talk about their experiences, any worries they may have and help them understand the different changes to their lives.

We have ensured that we have resources available that can be cleaned at the end of the session, that children spend time getting into routines of washing hands and understand why their classroom needs to be different. They will, gradually begin to do more academic activities, but these will be completed on paper and kept at school. Teachers will continue to use class dojo if they feel you need to be aware of anything.

What will happen at lunch time?

As the first 2 weeks are only morning sessions, children will have their **lunch at 11:20**.

Children will be taken into the dining hall in their 'learning bubble' where they will line up and get their lunch as normal. They will then take it back to their classroom where they will be supervised by the same dinner supervisor. They will then leave their trays, to be taken back by the dinner supervisor and staff will ensure children are ready to be collected at the **nursery entrance at 12:00**.

What should I do if any members of my household display symptoms of coronavirus once my child is back at school?

Parents/carers are advised to report to the school any symptoms of COVID 19 that their household may have. Where children or a member of your household displays symptoms of the virus, ensure they follow the **Guidance for Households** . Pupils displaying symptoms will not be permitted into school until a **7 day isolation is completed**.

What happens if my child becomes ill at school?

We have organised a sterile space that will be used to quarantine pupils until parents come and collect children. Staff have appropriate PPE in this instance. If your child is in a 'learning bubble' where a child or staff member becomes ill then the whole 'learning bubble' will be asked to **isolate for 7 days**.

What should I do if my child is going to be absent from school?

Please follow the usual school procedures for sickness absence, contact the school office and explain the reason for their absence. Where pupils are absent and the school do not receive a phone call from parents/carers, the school will contact them to ascertain the reasons for their absence.

What happens if school believe that a family is not self-isolating or obeying the 'Stay Alert' guidance?

The rate of infection in the North East is still very high and this will only begin to come down if people follow the guidance. The risk assessments that have been shared and agreed by staff and Governors and the Local Authority include refusing a place to children who we know are not self-isolating. The guidance that we have received means we are obliged to contact the police if we are aware that children wanting a place at school are not following this guidance.

This is not a situation I want to be in or put my families in, therefore I suggest that if you have been socialising with families outside of a household, including children stopping at a grandparent's house then it may not be appropriate for you to send your child back to school to mix with families and staff that have been in isolation.

What other routines will be in place to support the health and safety of my child?

- Pupils will be supervised to wash their hands at the start of the school day. Those that need support to wash their hands will be supported by a member of staff.
- Tissues will be available in each classroom. Pupils will be reminded to follow the guidance 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it', and avoid touching their faces, noses etc. whilst at school. They will also be encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbow and away from the direction of other pupils and staff.
- Staff and pupils presenting with symptoms at the start of the school day will be isolated in the isolation room and next of kin/parents contacted.
- School reading books will be kept at school and placed in a designated cleaning area in the school before being changed. Staff will change reading books once cleaned.
- Windows and doors will be opened to allow natural ventilation during the school day.
- Where possible, teaching activities will be carried out in the outdoor areas of the school.
- A robust cleaning regime will be in place.

I have tried to answer as many questions as I can without this being 10 pages long and undermining your common sense but please if you have any other concerns or worries do not hesitate to contact school so we can answer them.

Kind Regards
Pauline Northcott