



BANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Belong Believe Achieve

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RETURNING TO SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 2021 UPDATED GUIDANCE

Dear parents & carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming all families back to school on Monday 6th September. I hope that everyone has had a safe and well deserved rest during the summer break.

The government has published updated guidance for schools in line with Step 4 of the roadmap out of lockdown and now that we know this guidance has not changed over the summer I will update you on the arrangements for returning to school. We have spent the last few weeks giving careful consideration to our plans to ensure we can return to as much normality as possible. We have balanced this with the ongoing risk assessment we must have in place and the current DfE guidance. We appreciate your patience in this matter.

Cases of COVID-19 in school

Individuals should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in our school develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, they will be sent home to self isolate and follow public health advice.

Contact tracing and isolation

From September, NHS Test and Trace will take over the full responsibility for contact tracing. This means that we will no longer send home close contacts of confirmed cases, unless instructed to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated.
- they are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to self-isolate, and children who usually attend the setting, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend the setting as normal.

We will continue to provide remote education to any child required to self-isolate with a positive test for COVID-19.



Control measures in school:

Face Coverings: Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff, parents and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. Please give careful consideration to this guidance and make an informed decision when on the school site.

Hygiene: We will continue to provide hand sanitiser dispensers in every classroom, and encourage children to follow the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach if they cough or sneeze.

Cleaning: We will be continuing with an enhanced cleaning programme, including regular cleaning of touch points including door handles and light switches through the day. This is good for the general health of the school, reducing the spread of many infections, not just COVID-19.

Ventilation: We will be continuing to ventilate all our buildings to their full capacity to improve fresh air flow. This will obviously be balanced with ensuring the classrooms are comfortable, with the winter months approaching.

Mixing and "pods / bubbles"

Children will be able to mix freely from September. This means they will be able to share spaces at playtimes / lunchtimes, breakfast / after school club and have assemblies together. It will also mean we can return to doing activities across classes (eg, reading buddies, time to talk...etc) Schools are still required to maintain an "outbreak management plan" to reintroduce more restrictive measures in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19.

Start & End of the Day Procedures

We will no longer have staggered start and end of the day procedures. All children will arrive and leave at the same time. The Littlefields and High Street gates will be reopened for the start and end of the day (gates unlocked just before 3.15pm at the end of the day). Please be advised that these gates will be locked again at 8.55am and 3.30pm to retain site security.

At the start of the day all families can arrive at school and come into the main playground from 8.40am. The playground will be supervised from this time. All teachers will be in the playground at 8.45am so if you need to give them a quick message about your child please do so at this time and not after the bell. The bell will be rung at 8.50am. This is the signal for all children to line up in front of their teachers. The children will then be lead into class promptly.

Pick up will be at 3.15pm for all. For children in Puffin and Kingfisher classes this will be from the little playground and for all other classes this will be in the main playground.

PE

Children are to continue wearing their PE kit to school on PE days, rather than having it in school to change into. There has been a significant gain in the amount of time we can do PE due to the children being ready and not having to change at either end of the lesson. We will keep this under review.

It is essential that children are wearing the designated school PE kit only on these days. As always, this is a white t-shirt (plain or with the school logo) and black or green shorts. Plain dark jogging bottoms may be worn in colder weather with a school jumper on top of the t-shirt. Daps should be worn in KS1 but trainers can be worn in KS2.

Visitors

We will be able to hold pre-arranged face-to-face meetings with parents and visitors from September onwards, where required. We will continue to offer phone calls and/or video conferencing as an option, as many families find these more convenient.

Equipment

The children should continue to bring minimal equipment to school every day. Please do not bring large ruck sacks as we do not have room in the cloakrooms.

I hope this letter clarifies the procedures that will be in place from Monday 6th September. As always, if you have any questions please let us know.

Best wishes,
Claire Pocock
Headteacher

