Cavalry Primary School

Information for parents about returning to school

Year 1

June 2020

We are looking forward to the gradual re-opening of the school to more and more children - the staff have missed the children very much and we know the children have missed their teachers and friends.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, we have changed some of the routines at school and nursery so that we can keep the children, parents and staff as safe as we possibly can.

The guidance from the Department for Education sets out the following steps we should take to reduce the risks where we can:

The key principles for controlling the spread of Covid-19 in schools and nurseries are:

- *minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges*
- *cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered*
- *ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*
- *cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach*
- *minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)*

At Cavalry school and nursery we will be following these principles until further notice. Here we set out the changes that you and your children are likely to notice as you come back to school. Please talk to your child about what to expect so that they feel confident about returning to school. Children are expected to return to school full time if you take up the offer of a place.

Routines at the start and end of the day:

We want to reduce the number of adults and children arriving/leaving at any one time so that it is easier for everybody to maintain social distancing.

- we will be operating a new one way system for school and nursery. For school, all parents and children will arrive via the school drive and the gate next to the staff car park. You will then walk round the back of the building until you reach your child's new classroom. Once you have said goodbye to your child, you will continue to walk round the building and exit by the side gate and narrow path usually used by key stage 1.
- At the end of the day we ask you to follow the same route, entering the site via the school drive, collecting your child from their classroom door, and leaving via the KS1 gate.
- Staff will be outside to guide you if you are not sure where to go, and next week we will send you details of a video you can watch via the school website - it might help your child to watch this together at home before you return to school.
- As per the government guidance, only one adult should bring your child to school. If at all possible, please leave siblings at home in the care of another adult.
- Parents will not be allowed to enter the classrooms, so you will need to say goodbye outside the classroom door.
- We want to keep the number of visitors to the school office to a minimum too, so please phone us or send an email rather than visiting in person if you can.

To reduce congestion at the school gates, we will be introducing a staggered start/end to the school date.

If your child's surname begins with the letters A to H, please arrive between 8.40 and 8.50 in the morning and collect your child between 2.00 and 2.10 in the afternoon.

If your child's surname begins with the letters I to P, please arrive between 8.50 and 9.00 in the morning and collect your child between 2.10 and 2.20 in the

afternoon.

If your child's surname begins with the letters Q to Z, please arrive between 9.00 and 9.10 in the morning and collect your child between 2.20 and 2.30 in the afternoon.

The school day will finish earlier than usual until further notice, so that teachers can have some time at the end of each day to prepare lessons and support those children who are still learning at home.

Those children who are already attending school because they are the children of critical workers will continue to be able to stay at school until 3.15 p.m., and should be collected from the classroom door as above.

Organisation of teaching groups

The government has specified a maximum of 15 people in a teaching group, so we will be dividing Class 3 and Class 4 into smaller groups. Each group will be treated as a protected 'bubble', with the same children staying with the same two staff members at all times. We will avoid mixing between 'bubbles' as much as we can to minimise contact between children and adults. Each 'bubble' will have its own designated area outside to play, and will stick together through lunch time too.

Once we know how many children are coming back to school on the agreed start date for Year 1, we will contact you to tell you which 'bubble' your child is in and which classroom he/she will be based in. The classrooms we plan to use for Year 1 will be classrooms 6, 7, 8 and 9 which are usually used by Y2/3/4. However the rooms will have plenty of toys for them to play with and they will be with familiar adults although not necessarily their own class teacher.

When we group the children into 'bubbles' we will consider friendship groups as much as possible but we cannot guarantee that each child will be with every single one of their friends.

What to wear:

Please send your child back to school in uniform. As it is the summer term, our uniform includes blue and white check dresses and the children are also welcome to wear shorts. If it is a rainy day, please send your child to school with a coat as we will still play outside in the fresh air.

Limiting transmission between home and school:

In order to limit the risks of transmission between home and school, we will not require your child to bring a PE kit to school. We will give the children opportunities to exercise outside so please ensure that they have comfy shoes that are suitable for running around.

Please do not send your child's book bag back to school - keep it safe at home until the current restrictions can be safely lifted. We will not be sending reading books home.

Lunchtimes

Just as usual you can choose whether your child has a school dinner or brings a packed lunch. School dinners will continue to be free for all children in Year 1, and the menu is on the school website. Children who bring a packed lunch to school will eat their lunch in their classroom. Those who choose school dinners will eat in the hall but still sit with the children from their own bubble and avoid mixing with other groups. Lunchtime will be shorter than usual to make up for the earlier ending to the school day.

We will provide the children with a mid morning snack of a biscuit so you do not need to send any snacks in.

We will not allow the children to use the water fountains so it is essential to send your child to school with a water bottle (and please write their name on it).

If you have been receiving a weekly food bag for your child, this will stop once they return to school as he/she will be able to have a school dinner. Any bags you receive for older siblings will still continue.

Classroom activities

Each child will have their own basic equipment - pencil, whiteboard, pen etc for their own use and stored in their tray. The range of classroom activities will be reduced in order to limit the children sharing toys and equipment and we have removed items which are difficult to clean such as cuddly toys. However there will still be plenty of exciting things to do and our creative staff will make sure the children are busy and happy in their play. When we sit on the carpet, the children will be well spaced out and when the children work at tables, they will also be told to space out. Many activities will take place outdoors in the fresh air, and we will keep doors and windows open as much as possible to ensure the classrooms are well ventilated.

Hygiene

The classrooms have been deep cleaned before the children come back to school, and will be cleaned every day after the children leave. In addition, some ‘on the spot’ cleaning will take place during the school day, focusing on items which are touched regularly such as light switches, door handles and table tops. Frequently used equipment will be washed during the day as well.

The children will be supervised to wash their hands thoroughly with soap for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals throughout the day.

The government guidance says that primary aged children should not wear face masks/coverings in school. If you want your child to cover their face during the journey to school, this is permitted but you will need to remove the face mask/covering at the classroom door and take it home with you - it is recommended that you place the mask/covering in a small plastic bag which you can seal. If you have a strong preference for your child to wear a face mask/covering during the school day, it would be best to keep your child at

home until you feel confident that they are safe in class without a face covering.

First Aid/ Intimate Care

Whilst staff will try to remain socially distanced from the children during classroom activities, we recognise that with young children this may not always be practical, especially if first aid treatment is required or a child needs help with intimate care.

First aid - there may be some aspects that even young children can do for themselves, for example holding an ice pack against a minor bump. If staff need to 'get up close' please rest assured that we will do so, and staff have basic PPE available to help with this - disposable gloves, aprons and face masks.

Intimate care - we know that little accidents can still happen with younger children. We will encourage children to be independent where possible, for example changing from wet pants to dry pants with an adult nearby. However if they need help, we will give it and PPE may be worn by the staff member for everyone's peace of mind. We will supply a change of underwear or other clothing following any accidents so you are not required to supply a change of clothing at this time.

What will happen if a child or adult shows symptoms of Covid 19:

If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19 (new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell) you must keep your child at home and your household should self isolate for 14 days. **You must notify the school immediately.** Testing to establish if a child is infected with coronavirus is now available and we would recommend that you arrange a test for your child to establish the nature of their illness.

If a child or staff member shows symptoms of the coronavirus during the school day, they will be isolated immediately away from their bubble. We will contact the child's parents and expect the child to be collected as a matter of urgency. For this reason we request three telephone numbers that we can use to contact

you, and you must inform us if any of these numbers change. **The whole group/bubble of children and staff will then be asked to self isolate at home for 14 days or until the poorly child/staff member has been tested for coronavirus and a negative result has been received** - in these circumstances the whole bubble will be able to return to school. In cases of suspected or confirmed infection, rigorous cleaning procedures will be followed.

What to talk about with your child:

Before your child's first day back at school, please take a few minutes at a quiet time to chat with them about what school will be like. These are the key messages we want you to share:

- Even though you are very happy to see your friends and your teachers, we are not able to hug one another at the moment. A wave and smile is a lovely way to say hello
- Please use a tissue to catch coughs, sneezes or runny noses, and put your dirty tissue in the special white bin in your classroom
- You might be in a different classroom but there will still be lots of fun things to do
- You might play outside in a different area but there will still be lots of fun things to do
- You might have a different teacher but it will be somebody you know
- In your classroom there will be some of your friends but maybe not everybody from your old class. You will have to stick with the children in your new group and you won't be able to play with the children from other groups just yet
- the teachers will remind you not to crowd together but to spread out and use all the space in the classroom.

If you have any further questions, please call the school office or email us at admin@cavalryprimary.org.