



Bussage C. of E. (Aided) Primary School  
The Ridgeway, Bussage, Stroud, Glos.  
GL6 8FW

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5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

### March 8<sup>th</sup> - Full Return

We look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school next Monday. As mentioned in my newsletter of 23<sup>rd</sup> February many of the aspects of how the school ran before Christmas will remain.

I once again wanted to remind you of some of the safety control measures we have put in place to help keep everyone safe.

- Being punctual at pick up and drop off times
- Only one parent accompanying children to school
- No congregating of parents either in the school playground or at the school gates  
It is so important that this does not happen. The greatest risk of infection is the interaction between parents in coming to the school.
- All parents where possible walking to and from school
- No parents accessing the school building
- No parents having face to face meetings with staff
- Parents wearing face masks whilst on the school site (**please note that this is now a requirement**)

For dropping off and picking up, it is really important that social distancing is observed and these are as speedy as possible. This really does mean a **quick** drop off and pick up. I can understand that after months of not seeing each other there is a great temptation to 'catch up' on the playground. Towards the end of December, I was extremely concerned to see **some** children playing on the school grounds after pick up times, completely undermining all we are doing in school to keep 'bubbles' apart. **All children must be kept off the Adventure Playground or Trim Trail equipment during this time.** This is mainly because government guidance suggests the greatest risk to schools reopening is the interaction between parents in the school grounds, **not** the children returning to class.

Ventilation is also a key control which we will be using. Please make sure that your child comes to school with the school sweatshirt or fleece at all times.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

### The school day and pick up and drop off arrangements

Rainbows 8:50 – 3:15	Y1 8:30 – 3:00	Y2 8:40 – 3:05
Y3 8:50 – 3:10	Y4 8:30 – 2:50	Y5 8:30 – 2:50
Y6 8:50 – 3:10		

As before, where siblings are in different 'time zones' please drop off all the children at the earliest time and pick them up at the latest time. Staff are well aware that some children may be required to wait a few minutes each day after their lessons have ended.



We are conscious that parents and children will be feeling a range of emotions over the start back to school. Some will be overjoyed, some will be anxious and many of us will be somewhere on the continuum between the two.

Mrs Gillan has found an NHS link which may be of interest to some of you over the weekend.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/back-to-school-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Breakfast club has been running throughout the lockdown period and will continue. After School Club will start again next Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March with the same restrictions as before, no food being served. Please contact the school office or email [asc@bussage.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:asc@bussage.gloucs.sch.uk) if your child needs after school care.

### **Finally**

As I said, we are all delighted to be welcoming the children back to school. Our main priority will be getting them back into the class environment and getting them back into a normal routine. I think it is important that we all give them some time to do that. During this period we will start to assess the needs of each and every one of them as we move forward.

I once again want to acknowledge and thank you for the incredible way you have supported these children during this time, with the Remote Learning you have been engaged in. Different families have had different experiences but as a community we will now be working together over the coming months to continue to do the best for all of the children in this school.

Getting the balance between optimism and complacency can be quite tricky. I am confident that if we stick to the measures outlined above, we will be well placed as a community to emerge from this in the best condition possible. The full Risk Assessment for the March 2021 opening of the school is available on the website for you to view.

See you Monday!

Kind regards

A Ferguson  
Head Teacher