Brentnall Community Primary School
Northumberland Street, Salford, M7 4RP
Tel: 0161 792 4317

Headteacher: Mr. M Thompson
Chair of Governors: Rev. S Fletcher

PARENTS UPDATE LETTER – Friday 11th September 2020

Dear parents,

I want to start my letter today with a massive congratulations to the children who have returned to school this week. It has been lovely to welcome the children back and see their smiling faces as they have been reunited with their friends and connected back with learning. I have been incredibly proud of how the children have listened to the new rules and routines that are in place to help to keep them safe and worked together with the other children and staff in their 'bubble' to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Current Government Guidelines

It is really important that all members of our school community follow the most recent government guidelines. I appreciate that it is often difficult to ensure we know the latest set of rules as they are regularly updated, but these can always be found online. The latest set of rules for the north of England, which includes Salford, can be found by clicking here.

The main thing that we must remember during this current time is to wash our **HANDS**, cover our **FACE** when social distancing can't be maintained and to keep a minimum of 2 metre **SPACE** with people who do not live in our household.

I have spoken to a number of parents this week, who were unsure of the latest guidelines around visiting other people's homes. The latest advice on the government website for Salford is:

Social contact restrictions

If you live in one of the affected areas, in order to help prevent the spread of coronavirus you must not:

- host people you do not live with in your home or garden, unless they're in your support bubble
- meet people you do not live with in their home or garden, whether inside or outside of the affected areas unless they're in your support bubble

Your household is only the people you live with and any support bubble.

A support bubble is where a household with one adult joins with another household. Households within a bubble can still visit each other, stay overnight, and visit public places together.

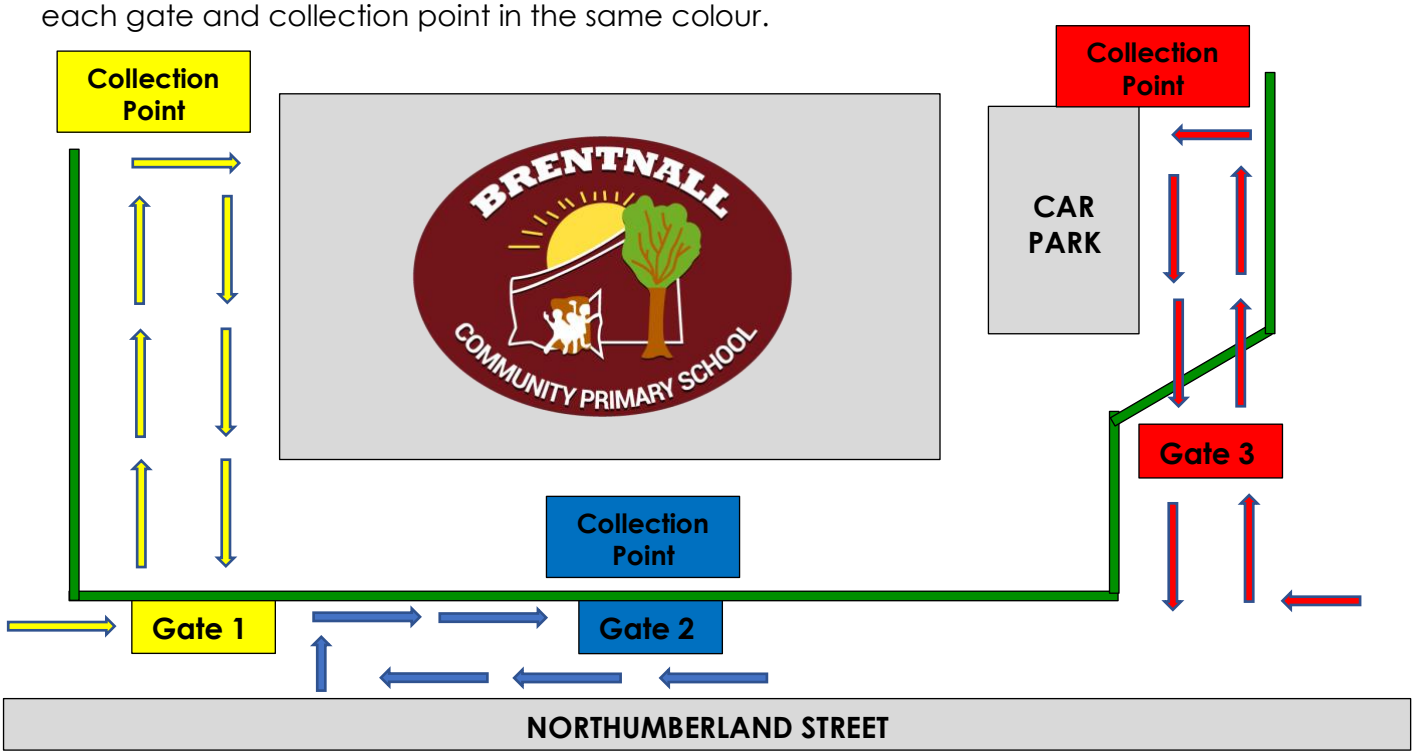
It is only by following these guidelines that we are going to continue to be able to keep schools open to all pupils and to ensure the safety of everyone in our school community.

Start and Finish Times

You will be familiar by now that in order to reduce the number of children arriving and finishing school at the same time and to reduce the number of parents congregating outside of school, we have introduced staggered start and finish times. These will remain in place for some time.

The morning staggered times work incredibly well and I thank you for your support in ensuring that these systems have been a success.

Collection of the children in the afternoon appears much busier and we are struggling to maintain social distancing between parents outside of the school grounds. It is really important that we all maintain social distancing to prevent the virus from spreading. In order to support this, we will create a one-way system at each of the school gates for collection times only. For Gate 1 and Gate 3 this will mean that parents can queue just inside the school grounds from the start of their collection time and the children will be sent to parents in the order of the line. Those parents who collect children from Gate 2 will be asked to queue to the left of the school gate, again maintaining social distancing and not congregating whilst waiting for their child to be sent to them. The diagram below shows how this will work and we will display new signs and guideline along the school fences ready for Monday. The coloured arrows represent the one-way system for each gate and collection point in the same colour.



Collection Time	Gate 1	Gate 2	Gate 3
2:45pm	Year 2	Year 4/5	Year 1
3:00pm	Reception	Year 4	Year 6/Ruby
3:15pm	Nursery	Year 3	Year 5

PLEASE TRY TO ARRIVE AT THE GATE AS CLOSE TO THE COLLECTION TIME AS POSSIBLE!

Home-School Agreement

Today, your child will have brought home, along with this letter, a copy of our new home-school agreement. Your child's safety and education are incredibly important to us all and we ask that parents spend some time talking with your child about this document and then sign it together. Your child's class teacher will sign it when it is returned to school. We ask that you return the home-school agreement by **Friday 18th September** at the latest.

If we have not received it by this date, we will assume you are happy with the contents of the document and it will be used as a basis for all aspects of school and a reminder to the children of the agreement and relationship between school and home. We hope that, just as in previous years, the home-school agreement will ensure we all work together for the very best of the children.

Water Bottles

Please can we ask parents to send your child's water bottle to school each Monday. The water bottle should be refillable and not a single use plastic bottle. They can be purchased relatively cheaply from local supermarkets or shops.

IMPORTANT: Nuts in school

We now have a number of children and a member of staff with a range of nut allergies in school. We therefore ask that any snacks or packed lunches sent in with your child DO NOT contain any nuts.

At the moment, to support government guidelines we ask that there are no sweets or cakes sent in on your child's birthday. We hope that this won't be for long but this is to reduce the possible risk of spreading the virus!

Asthma Inhalers

As the new school year commences, we would like to remind you that if your child suffers from asthma that they must have an inhaler available for use in school. All inhalers from prior year have already been transferred to your child's new teacher, however please check that the inhaler we hold in school has not expired.

Any new inhalers must be provided to your child's class teacher in their original prescribed box along with a spacer if necessary. The inhaler and spacer will be clearly labeled with your child's name on it and stored in an area, which will be known to your child for easy access.

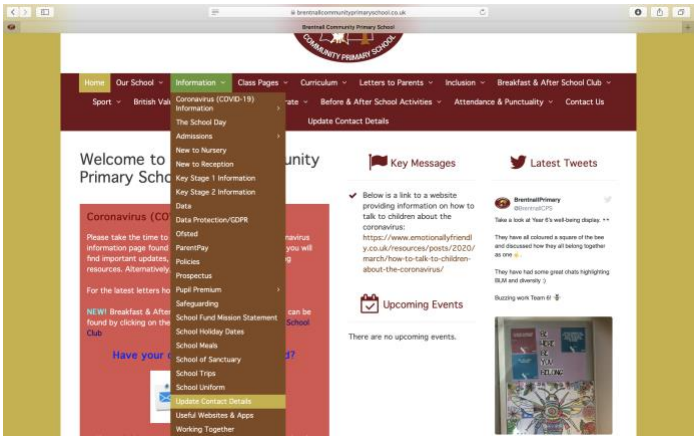
As part of our school's policy please ensure that you have completed an administrating medicine form, which is available from the school office.

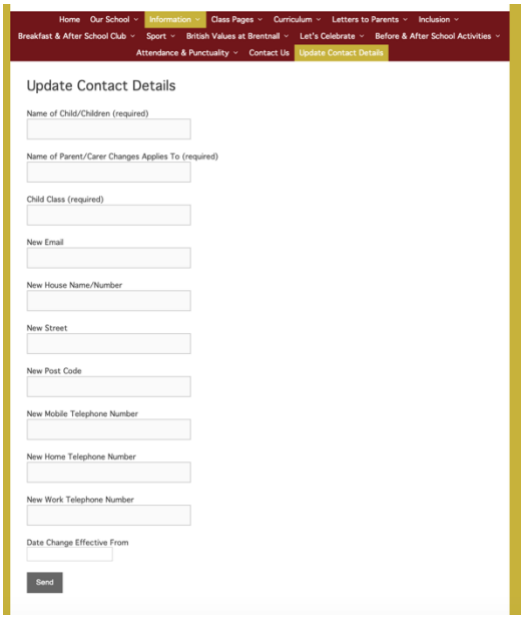
Keeping everyone safe!

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions in place, we are unable to welcome parents into the school grounds and into the office as we usually would. We know that this can be quite difficult if there is something that you need to ask or let us know. There are several members of staff available at the gates each morning so, if there is something urgent then please speak to one of us there or, if your question is less urgent, then you may wish to let us know by calling the school office at a later point in the day.

Contact Details

If any of your contact details have changed then please update us via the school website, as shown below.





Thank-you

I want to express a huge thank-you to everyone in our school community. I am sure that you will agree with me that the staff, as always, have been incredible this week in making sure that everything has run smoothly to ensure the children have returned to school safely.

The children have been amazing and have listened and responded to lots of new ways of working. They have returned to school with a positive attitude and it has been so lovely to see their smiling faces each morning. I am sure they will continue to make everyone proud!

And finally, to thank you as parents for supporting our efforts as a school to keep everyone safe – remember to social distance wherever possible and, if you aren't able to follow these rules, then the use of face covering can support this.

I wish everyone a very pleasant and safe weekend. Remember, we are under strict guidelines and should not be mixing with people who we do not live with.

Let's continue to work together, to keep ourselves and each other safe and, hopefully, before long, we will be able to do all the things we have missed!

Kind regards,

Mr M Thompson
Headteacher