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## **Blended Learning: Information for Parents**

As we continue to navigate these very uncertain times, we recognise as a school it is possible in the instance of staff shortages we may not be able to provide full time provision for certain classes, this may concern one class or classes across a site.

We want to start by thanking the incredible parent community for their support over this year and to reassure you wherever possible we will seek to provide full time educational provision on our school sites.

### **What is blended learning?**

Blended learning will occur when we do not have sufficient staff to safely open a class or classes full time. In this case rather than close a class or site completely, we will endeavour create a rota system where pupils access school onsite 2/3 days per week and access remote learning from home on the remaining days.

### **How will we decide on who receives provision?**

We will endeavour to give equal provision whenever possible, however as per the government guidance, children whose parents are key workers or who are identified in the schools vulnerable plus matrix will take priority for face to face provision when allocations are made.

### **When will I know if my child will move to blended learning timetable?**

The current global context means we are reviewing staffing on a daily basis, unfortunately we might have to take decision at short notice if we believe a lack of staffing might compromise pupil safety. We will endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible if your child's timetable is altered.

### **When there are more staff available will my by child be able to return to school full time?**

Blended learning means if necessary, all pupils based at any of the Briarwood sites will get a blended learning model if we cannot safely staff each class. The aim will be to close any class for the minimum number of times. We will return to offering a full time school provision for all pupils as soon as it is safe

for us to do so, this may be as early as the next day – but if we have severe staff shortages then we may have to use this system again. We will make this decision and communicate it to you each day.

### **How will I know what my child is expected to learn?**

As previously during lockdown, it is the class teacher's responsibility to work with families of the pupils to communicate your child's remote learning provision, this is will be loaded to your child's Seesaw pages on the days they are at home.

### **Who do I contact if my child is struggling with remote learning?**

In the first instance, please discuss this with your child's class teacher.

### **Will I receive financial support for providing lunches for my child?**

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and you are experiencing extreme financial hardship caused by providing them with lunch whilst they are remote learning, please contact your child's class teacher or their Head of School.

### **How regularly will you review the situation?**

Staffing levels and capacity will be reviewed each morning and afternoon.

### **How frequently you will update parents and carers?**

We will let parents know with as much notice as possible any changes, however in emergency circumstances notice made be limited.

### **How will you let parents and carers know whether their child will be learning remotely or in school?**

We will communicate with parents and carers via text or SeeSaw. We suggest every family uses the free SeeSaw app.

## **Staffing**

### **Are agency staff being brought in to alleviate Briarwood employed staff shortages?**

Additional supply staff have been used each day this term in order to create the capacity for pupils to have slightly higher staff ratios when possible to help all of them settle into new classes.

Whilst supply staff can be used to backfill a number of absences, either long term or short term, the majority of our pupils need a skill level from the staff team which is around an understanding of the needs of such pupils, an ability to communicate well with them and in many classrooms a need for enhanced understanding and skills around behaviours that can be challenging.

### **How is staff absence being managed?**

We are managing staff absence in line with our Staff Absence Policy and with support and guidance from our external HR provider.

### **What measures have you taken to provide resilience to staffing levels moving into the winter months?**

We are continually trying to source appropriately skilled and trained agency staff to backfill absences and provide additional support.

We provide staff with Zoono hand gel (lasting 24 hours), each site has also been deep cleaned and coated in anti-viral protective agent alongside regular cleaning.

Staff have been provided with additional break spaces for social distancing.

Masks are available to staff and are required to be worn in communal areas and when moving around the school.

Wellbeing measures are in place to support staff.

### **What happens if my child develops symptoms whilst they are remote learning?**

If your child develops symptoms whilst at home you must:

- Immediately follow the latest government advice on self-isolation.
- Arrange for your child to have a COVID test.
- Phone the school Reception Office to let us know your child is unwell with symptoms.
- Do not send your child to school until they have received a negative test result and are feeling well and able to return.
- Phone the school Reception Office to let us know your child's COVID test result.

### **What happens if my child develops symptoms whilst at school?**

If your child develops symptoms while they are at school, they will be taken out of class you will be asked to collect them. They will then need to stay at home, self-isolate and get tested.

Once again we thank you so much for your continued support for the school during this difficult time.