



Plaistow and Kirdford Primary School
Plaistow
Billingshurst
West Sussex
RH14 OPX

Tel: 01403 871275 Fax: 01403 871470

Email: office@plaistowkirdford.com

Website: www.plaistowandkirdford.org

Headteacher: Mr C King

4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sorry for writing so late in the day, I am sure that many families have been waiting for confirmation for arrangements for school. It is only now that we have finished meetings that we are able to make any final confirmation.

I am able to confirm that school will be open as usual from tomorrow (5th January). We will be running classes as normal.

As I am sure you can appreciate, we are worried about Covid at school and the impact the virus could have on families and staff. As a result we are introducing some additional control measures at school. Staff will now be wearing face masks in communal areas outside of their class bubbles; additionally staff may choose to wear masks when working in close proximity to others. We have ordered some additional screens that may be used in class when we are hearing children read or supporting them in their work.

Governors have asked me to remind parents and carers of the support they can give school so that school remains as safe as can be and open:

- Masks must be worn at drop off and pick up times by parents and carers.
- Children should only be going home with their parents, carers, childminder/nanny/au pair *or* someone who has been designated as a childcare support bubble. We need to know if this is the case in advance. We will not be able to let children go home with another childcare bubble unless we have been informed.
- We will not be accepting forgotten lunch boxes or items at the office. If a child leaves their lunch at home or doesn't have it with them at school we will arrange for them to receive a hot school meal.
- Children need to come to school with the equipment and clothing they need for the day, this includes coats, hats, scarves, musical instruments, water bottles and so on. If a child forgets a specific item, we will do our best to source a replacement in school, however, if it is something specific such as a music lesson it may mean that the child misses their lesson that week.
- Parents and carers must observe social distancing in the drop off and pick up queues. Please do not cut in front of another family.
- Please consider whether using the bus for drop off or pick up is necessary; using the bus puts children in additional bubbles and increases risk.





We have always done our best to remain open and will continue to do so as long as staff and governors feel that we are able to make school as safe as we can and we are directed to by The Department of Education.

However, I also recognise that this is a fluid and changing situation and that in West Sussex the situation may change or the government may decide on a different course of action. I do think it likely that at some point in the future we will be asked to partially close for a period of time and move to remote learning.

In the event of us moving to remote learning, we will remain open to children of Key Workers and Vulnerable children. To help us prepare for this outcome we will be sending a google form out tomorrow so that we can begin to build a register of children who will need provision.

I'm sure that many families are feeling anxious and worried at the moment. Governors have made it clear to me that we will not be making any referrals to West Sussex for anyone who is absent from school for the next fortnight.

One of the things that makes our school so special is our community. We have been on this journey for many months but I am genuinely hopeful that if we continue to pull together, support one another and do our best to follow the rules and guidance as best we can that we will come out of it sooner.

As always, I am hugely thankful for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charlie King".

Charlie King