



Lydbrook Primary School

School Road, Lydbrook, Gloucestershire, GL17 9PX

Head Teacher: Mr Simon T Lusted, M.Sc.



ROBINS NURSERY

25th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I very much hope that this letter to you all finds you both safe and well. I also hope that the summer break has gone well and that both you and your children are looking forward to the start of the new academic year. The staff and I are very much looking forward to all of the children returning and to getting on with the very important job of educating your child. We will be providing as near a normal classroom situation as possible and to spend time settling your child back in so that they can grow with confidence following the recent lockdown and partial opening. This letter is to provide you with the information that you need to be aware of for the first 2 days back and although I don't expect too many changes for the following week. I will write again on Friday 4th September to provide you with further updates and to let you know how the first days have gone.

I understand that there may be a lot of anxiety surrounding the children coming back into school. As you may have read this week, the Government and the science advisors have re-iterated the importance of children returning to school for the health and well-being and for their life chances. I can reassure you that Lydbrook Primary will be following all the guidance (www.gov.uk) to make the school as safe as possible for all the children to return. The school has been open since the crisis started in March and from June 1st we had over 80 children attending. We will continue to operate regular cleaning, restricting and monitoring the numbers in the toilets (to 1 at a time), provide regular hand-washing opportunities and hand sanitisers in all classrooms and to include social distancing measures as much as possible. It is very important that your child is in school - the Government expects normal attendance and any absence will be followed up in the usual way. It is important that you monitor the health of your child for evidence of Covid symptoms. We will do the same and if we have any concern we shall isolate your child and will need you to pick them up straight away following us contacting you. They will then need to be tested and if they have Covid symptoms then they must self-isolate for 10 days along with the rest of the family.

Classroom set up

There has been a change to the guidance regarding class set up. We are now expecting all children to come to school and you would have received your child's class details with their report in July. In KS2, the tables have been set up so that all the children face the front. This is actually no different to the set-up we have used for a number of years, as we believe this is the best way for children to learn. In KS1 and Early Years, children will be again sat on small group sized tables as this is the preferred method for learning at this age as the learning is less formal and social interaction is very important.

We will be settling the children in, allowing time for them to become accustomed with being back in school. It is also important for us to get back into the "learning" as quickly as possible and we will be spending time throughout September, unpicking where the children are in their key areas of learning before moving onto new learning experiences. We have some very exciting learning themes ready for the children and all of this information will be available on your child's class page on the school website. We will be using this form of communication as our main pathway as this proved invaluable and successful throughout the Covid 19 crisis. You will also be able to e-mail the teachers directly through this class page and they will be able to e-mail back or call you if this is best.

Staggered break and lunchtimes

To keep social gatherings to lower numbers, we will continue to operate staggered break times and lunchtimes. Classes will remain in their "bubbles" at these times too.

I am pleased that our school kitchen will be open and providing hot meals again as an alternative to a packed lunch. Ordering and payment for any meals should be made in the usual way through Parent Pay. A copy of the Autumn menu is available on the school website. The children will be eating their lunch in the main school and space will be provided for each class bubble with no more than 2 class bubbles eating at the same time.

Arrival/dropping off

We will be continuing to operate a staggered start and end of day and to use different gates to prevent larger gatherings near the school gates. Please, only one parent per child.

The only exception to this is for Early Years (both Robins and Owls) due to the age of the children. We would like you to use the side gate only (lay-by side) and to take the children up the steps and meet the staff outside the Early Year's block.

It is also important not to come onto the school site unless it is to speak to the office or if you are a parent of a child in Early Years. A face covering will be required if you need to do this. If you need to come to the office it is important to set up an appointment and to use the main entrance only.

Arrival

Time	Class	Gate	Class entrance
8.45	Hawks	Main gate	Straight to front entrance of bottom block
8.45	Magpies	Main gate	Reception entrance
8.45	Woodpeckers	Side Kitchen gate	Side door of classroom
8.45	Owls and Robins	Lay by side gate	Top of steps to early years block
8.55 to 9.05*	Jays	Main gate	Classroom ,side door

*Jays will need to arrive no earlier than 8.55 and no later than 9.05 to avoid large gatherings at the main gate unless they are a sibling of a child in another class. These siblings will be able to go straight to their classrooms as well and this will prevent a parent from staying around the school site for a longer period of time.

Leaving

Time	Class	Gate	Class entrance
2.45	Early Years – Owls and Robins	Lay by side gate	Top of steps to early years block
2.45	Joys Green Bus pupils	Main gate	Escorted to bus by staff members
2.50	Woodpeckers	Side Kitchen gate	Side door of classroom
2.50	Magpies	Main gate	Reception entrance
2.50	Older siblings in Jays and Hawks	Main gate	
3.00	Hawks	Main gate	Front entrance of bottom block

Collection should be made at the same school gate as used in the morning. It is also very important for parents to socially distance whilst waiting and to leave promptly when the children come out. It is very important that parents follow this guidance to reduce the amount of contact and to help keep everyone safe.

IMPORTANT ISSUE

These are difficult times and the school is situated in an area where there are no parking facilities. It is therefore important that everyone helps the situation by **NOT** driving up School Road in the mornings/afternoons but to allow enough time at the start and end of the day to WALK their children up and back down. We all need to work together to ensure the area around the school is kept as safe as possible. The PHSO will be monitoring the situation regularly and I will be noting the number plate information of any cars that continue to drive up and park in areas that are not to be used (e.g. on the double yellow lines/red path)

The Covid 19 situation has caused us all to change our ways of doing things and walking your child to school is an important change that we all need to make.

Joys Green bus

As mentioned in the previous newsletter in July, the bus service will continue to run from Joys Green. I have been in contact with both Shire Hall Transport section and with Belfitts this week and the bus can run with all the children that are entitled to a bus pass. Due to the restrictions following Covid 19, the children will be sitting in class bubbles and your child will be allocated a seat number which they will use every time they use the bus. If they are not on the bus, for any particular reason, then this seat will remain vacant for that journey.

The bus times have yet to be confirmed, although they will not differ too much from the usual times (8.35 leave in the morning but will arrive back at the Green for 3.00 p.m.) These times will be confirmed by text to you before the start of term along with your child's seat number.

Breakfast/After-school care club

These services will not be running at the beginning of term for the first 2 days. The situation will be reviewed following the settling of the children back into school and more information will be included in the next newsletter which will be sent out on Friday 4th September.

Assembly/Family Assembly

To avoid large gatherings we will not be able to run assemblies and family assembly (usually at 2.15 p.m. on a Friday) for the foreseeable future. To enable the children to inform us of their learning through the themes, we will be using the class pages on the website and recording podcasts. These will be shared in school and available for you to link into at home.

What to bring in

We are now able to allow school bags to come into school. Items inside should be kept to the absolute minimum and there should be no toys or other resources that are not needed. Items should only include a coat, packed lunch box and a water bottle which needs to come home daily and be filled ready for the new school day. We will be sending home paper books once again for your child to practice their reading and home-to-school books for communication. The reading books will be shared with other children, following a 72 hours isolation period.

PE kits will only need to come into school on the day or days allocated for PE. On these days, your child should come to school dressed in their PE kit along with school jumper and coat if cold or wet.

From the start of term, we will be operating a longer morning and lunch times will be slightly later (from 12.25 infants and lower juniors and from 12.45 for the older juniors). It is important that your child has 2 healthy snacks with them which should include some fruit. Free fruit will be available from the 9th September for all children in Reception to Year 2 and milk (free for all children up to the age of 5) needs to be ordered on-line from Coolmilk

And finally.....

The school has gone from strength to strength over the past 12 months and is now very much recognised for all the outstanding work it does not only internally but to support and lead other schools in the area. Our appearance on Countryfile and many times in the local papers is testament to this and we have developed an excellent reputation and one that we should all feel proud of. To cap all of this, we were delighted to receive Royal approval at the end of last term through a visit from HRH the Princess Royal, something that very few schools receive. It was sad for us not to have all the children and the community present for this wonderful event but with the Covid 19 situation our hands were tied. This does not take away the fact that we were recommended for this through all the hard work, commitment and dedication to our local community and one that should be celebrated and treasured.

I look forward to welcoming you all back on Thursday 3rd September. These are unprecedented and strange times but with everyone's support and understanding, I will ensure your child gets only the very best. Please do not hesitate to contact us through admin@lydbrook.gloucs.sch.uk if you have any questions or need any clarification. We also be able to take any phone calls on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September (01594 860344)

Best wishes

Simon Lusted
Head Teacher

Tel: 01594 860344 Fax: 01594 860399 E-mail: admin@lydbrook.gloucs.sch.uk Website: www.lydbrook.gloucs.sch.uk

