



# STEETON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Head teacher: Mr. J. Cooper

Head of School: Mr. K. Wheeler

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Changes to School Structure due to Covid -19 Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

At Steeton Primary School we firmly believe that returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. While coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, this means making judgments at a school level about how to balance and minimise any risks from coronavirus (COVID-19) with providing a full educational experience for our children. We are welcoming all children back this autumn and are having to minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day, as part of implementing the system of controls outlined below to reduce the risk of transmission.

Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- grouping children together
- avoiding contact between groups
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

The Government recognises that there cannot be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach where the system of controls describes every scenario and that all schools are unique. They also recognise that we as school leaders are best placed to understand the needs of our school

and the informed judgments that need to be made about how to balance delivering a broad and balanced curriculum with the measures needed to manage risk.

The Senior Leadership and Governors have been working hard to complete all the above since the Government published its Guidance for full opening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Below are the changes we have had to make to the structure of the school week in order to ensure your child and the staff are exposed to minimum risk whilst still enabling us to deliver a full broad and balanced curriculum.

### **School Structure (under Covid -19 Restrictions) as of Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**

#### **Bubbles**

We have decided that Steeton Primary School will operate Phase rather than Class Bubbles.

We will therefore have 4 Bubbles:

- Year 5/6
- Year 3/4
- Year 1/2
- Year R/1.

Within each bubble staff and children will be able to move between classes. Each phase bubble will have support staff that are able to cover classes if needed due to (Non Covid) absence. This enables us to continue with our system of grouping for Maths so children are being taught at their appropriate level and small groups to take part in catch up/extension activities. It also means that we can share resources and equipment (that can be limited in supply) such as Ipads, Art Supplies and science equipment, within the phase bubble.

#### **School Day**

- The school day would need to run from 8.45 am – 3.00pm. Monday to Thursday. This is because the bubbles have to remain separate from each other both in the Dinner Hall and in the playground. Children will have 45mins for lunch but this will be staggered between 11:30am and 1:30pm
- On a Friday the school day will be 8:45am to 12:00pm. School will be closed in the afternoon. This is to allow an extensive deep clean of the whole school ready for the next week and also to accommodate teaching staff PPA time. Up until March PPA time was covered by external Agency Staff and our own support staff. This can no longer take place as it would compromise effectiveness of the 'protective bubble'
- This would mean a slight reduction in current teaching hours KS2 24hours from 25 hours and KS1 23 hours down from 23h 45 minutes. However this would be more than compensated for in two ways.
  1. There will be no school assemblies so between 1 1/2 to 2 hours extra classroom time each week.
  2. Classes will have their own class teacher(s) for all the time they are being taught which enables us to ensure we can continue with our full creative curriculum including Magic Mondays.

We have planned for this structure to be in place until at least the end of the Autumn term in December. As we have done since March we will be constantly assessing the day to day

operation of school on a regular basis. This is usually weekly but could become daily especially in the event of a localised lockdown. All this will be in conjunction with Government advice and the Covid situation.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation and support for these necessary changes. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me either by phoning the school office or on my email [kevin.wheeler@steeton.bradford.sch.uk](mailto:kevin.wheeler@steeton.bradford.sch.uk) and I will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Kevin Wheeler

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