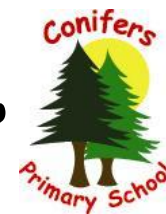


# CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER  
Mr A Johnson

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you undoubtedly know - the Government published their latest guidance for the 'Full Opening of Schools' late last week. Having spent a considerable amount of time pouring over its contents, I have summarised the details for you in a few headings:

- All children are to return to school from September 2020.
- The full return to school is based on a 'twin strategy' - limiting contact (social distancing) by ensuring children remain in consistent 'bubbles' and continuing with hygiene measures.
- 'Bubbles' can be either class or Year Groups. Some Year Groups can 'merge' for certain times and/or for logistical reasons - but must only do so with the same groups.
- The DfE recognises that strict social distancing will not always be possible - the reality of having all children in one classroom means children will be sitting in close proximity.
- It is recommended that children sit next to one another, in rows, facing the front of the classroom.
- Children passing one another in corridors and on the playground will not be avoidable but represents "a relatively low risk" if numbers are managed.
- Staff are permitted to move between 'bubbles' and visiting Supply Staff are able to work in various schools.
- There should be **no large gatherings - so avoid whole school assemblies and stagger start, lunch and finish times to achieve and promote this.**
- **Children should limit the amount of equipment that comes into school to only essentials; a bag, lunchbox, coat etc.**
- The curriculum remains broad and balanced and day trips are permitted to resume.
- School kitchens become fully operational to provide food in line with those who want it and following statutory guidelines.

So what does this mean for you and your child?

Let's start with the practicalities, to avoid large gatherings, the school start and finish times will be staggered:

| SCHOOL DAY     | START   | FINISH  |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Years 1 & 2    | 8:30 am | 3:00 pm |
| Years 3 & 4    | 8:45 am | 3:15 pm |
| Years R, 5 & 6 | 9:00 am | 3:30 pm |



Children will be met and line up on the playground, as they have throughout the 'lockdown'. The only difference being that one class will use two rows of yellow lines to position themselves on. At the end of the day, the children will be escorted back to the front playground, where you will be able to collect them.

### **Entry & Exit from School**

**There will be no access to the school via the back gate that is adjacent to Quibo Lane. This gate will remain permanently locked at all times.**

Reception children will enter the school from the front entrance path, to the left (when facing the school) of the small external car park. The rest of the school will enter from the right side of the entrance road, adjacent to the Fire Station. All parents will enter and leave the school grounds using the paths and the main driveway. The ground will be marked with arrows to help with directional flow. I'll also be at the front gate - as per usual, to help you get your bearings. Please note that the gates will be locked, in order to control and manage footfall both into and out of the school, so do try to be punctual for your particular Start/Finish time.

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered - and children will take these in the same Year Groups as they enter and leave the school - with the exception of the Reception children, who will follow their own 'break' schedule and have lunch in their own 'Base Bubble' i.e. both classes. In an attempt to return to as much 'normality' as possible, we will be offering hot school meals. Many schools are not, as the logistics of offering this service, with the numbers of children, in the time constraints, whilst adhering to social distancing could mean lunch taking several hours! The only reason I am sharing this, is in case, despite loving a challenge, we fail dramatically in our attempts to normalise school life and have no option but to offer only a packed lunch option. Watch this space.

In your child's classroom - they will sit next to one other child at one table. All tables will be in rows and face the front of the class. We will obviously space the tables as well as we can, but we only have so much room to play with. Resources can be shared, but we will endeavour to limit 'who is sharing what'. We will of course be stringently continuing with our overt promotion of 'hand-washing' and basic hygiene.

There will be no whole school assemblies, but mixed Year Group assemblies will take place. These, along with all other activities, will take place in the Year Groups children enter and leave school in, i.e. Years 1 & 2 or Years 5 & 6. Unfortunately, for the time being at least, we will not be able to offer Family Assemblies.

Curriculum wise and as stated in my last newsletter, we are aware that children will have a certain amount of 'catching-up' to do and at the same time, re-adjusting to the routines and expectations of the school. Yes - we will focus on the academic, but we will also be mindful of the emotional needs of our children. To that end, we have designed a 'Recovery Curriculum' and I have attached a one- page sheet, for your information, which summarises what we intend to do.

Just before I end, I'd like to say a few words to and about our Year 6. They, along with all children, have endured the strangest and most worrying of times but additionally, now face the anxiety of starting a new school. This new chapter in their lives will be thrust upon them without the benefit of an established 'closure' from Conifers or the opportunity to share their thoughts,



concerns or excitement with peers or staff. However, gone is not forgotten. If, when the circumstances allow, they ever want to visit and say 'Hello', they are warmly welcomed to do so. We will be thinking of them and wish them all, the very best of luck!

It's not just our Year 6 we say goodbye to - three members of our support staff are leaving to share their experience with others and we say farewell and good luck, to Mrs Pahlow, as part of our ELSA team, Mrs Patrick, who has worked as a 1:1 support and Mrs Stone, who has worked with the school for an incredible 16 years! We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

In September, once again, we will be embarking on a new journey of educational change. Many questions remain and further changes are inevitable, however, please be assured, that we will continue, in the very same way which we have throughout this pandemic, to ensure your child's, yourselves and your immediate family's safety, whilst establishing a more stable environment for us all.

I have never, in my career, ended a school year in such a way. I hope never to do so again. It has been and remains, a time of great uncertainty, but the staff of Conifers have stepped up, and been 'there' throughout. I would like to publically acknowledge and thank both their commitment and tenacity. As always - thank you too, for your continued support of the school - I hope you have the opportunity for a wonderful summer - stay well and we will see you soon.

School reopens for children on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Reception children have their own start dates, of which you should all be aware.

Thank you

