



Bishop Aldhelm's C.E. Primary School

Loved by God; United in Learning

Headteacher: Scott Tait

Deputy Headteacher: Lizzie Sharpe

*Love, Unity,
Courage
and Inspiration*

Wednesday 4th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will all be aware the country will be going into another Lockdown between Thursday 5th November and Wednesday 2nd December 2020. In line with Government Guidance Bishop Aldhelm's will remain open to all pupils and staff. We have a thorough Risk Assessment that has been followed successfully over the last half term and we continue to update and amend it in line with all guidance and live incidents at school. We totally appreciate that some of our risk assessment measures have had an impact on you as families – but we feel that they have been a small price to pay for school remaining open and us all trying to safeguard everyone's health and safety.

As part of our school's control measures we are constantly assessing which systems have worked well and which need to change. We also need to take into account the national picture, with regards to the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday, and our local context. We are introducing a new measure to our risk assessment as from Thursday 5th November. All visitors, any adult entering the school grounds, are requested to wear a face covering. All parent/carers must wear a face covering at both drop off (in the morning) and pick up (in the afternoon). We must also all respect social distancing at all times – maintaining 2 metres distance where possible. Staff will also be wearing a face covering in school when they are moving between lessons, are on duty or at classroom doors/school gates.

Your children are welcome to wear a face covering. Face coverings should be named and children should have a small plastic wallet or similar to keep their mask in during the school day when it is not being worn. Please ensure that masks are plain/or have a simple pattern with no logos. Children are expected to provide their own face covering but this is not compulsory.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you all of the following procedures outlined in letters sent in July and September, which are particularly important given the current national situation and our desire to protect the school community as far as possible:

- Families should not arrive more than 10 minutes before their designated arrival time each day. It remains very important for pupils to arrive on time for school each day. Please also respect the 'red dot' social distancing markers.
- Families should not congregate before or after school and should maintain social distancing between bubbles when arriving at or leaving school.
- Only one adult from each household during school drop-off/pickup in order to limit the amount of traffic on site.
- Parents/carers must not enter the school site unless it is an emergency and you have been asked to by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- Please avoid all face to face communication with staff and instead share communications through the office by email or phone call.

Bishop Aldhelm's C.E. Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children.
Hamwic Education Trust. Registered address: Unit E, Mill Yard, Nursling Street, Southampton, SO16 0AJ.
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www.bishopaldhelms.poole.sch.uk

Telephone: 01202 715100 Fax: 01202 307640 E-Mail: office@bishopaldhelms.poole.sch.uk
Address: Winston Avenue, Poole, Dorset, BH12 1PG

Pick up and drop offs arrangements:

Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6) children drop off 8.40 – 8.50am – and collection at 3.15pm

- Year 3 & 4 children to enter via the grey gates at the front of the school
- Year 5 & 6 children to enter via the green gates at the back of the school

Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2) children drop off 8.50am – 9am and collection at 3pm

Please use the Blue Gates at the front of the school

- Year 1 children to enter via the blue gates at the front of the school.
- Year 2 children to enter via the grey gates at the front of the school.

EYFS children

- EYFS children to enter via the grey gates at the front of the school.

If you use the drop off zone and drive to school you can continue to drop off in the mornings using the Blue Gates at the front of the school.

A successful feature to our current risk assessment has been the constant ventilation of classrooms. This is an important aspect to our risk assessment and all advice and guidance suggests that this is a good addition to any working environment. However, the cold winter months will provide a challenge as we also want to keep our children and staff warm as this in turn will support the children's learning. We will continue to keep our classrooms well ventilated and therefore we are encouraging our children to wear extra layers to aid their warmth. A vest, t-shirt under their school shirt, jumper would be advantageous and please ensure that your child comes to school every day with a coat. I am keen to continue with school uniform as this also supports positive behaviour and a community feel for our children. Unity, one of our school values, is incredibly important right now and our uniform also supports this.

We have had a number of families that have had to go into isolation but thankfully, to date, we have not had a direct positive COVID case linked to school. For those children that have been in isolation, we have been able to provide home learning. It is so important that if you engage in home learning whilst you are in isolation as this will help to limit the gaps that will become apparent due to missed schooling.

As you know we are operating with 'Bubbles' across the school. EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 are all in year group bubbles, whilst Key Stage 2 children are all in class 'Bubbles'. We feel that this offers a balance of keeping our children and staff safer and also helps to limit the spread of the virus. If a 'Bubble' and/or indeed the whole school has to close we will be providing home learning. This blended home learning platform is in place and ready if and when needed. It is essential that you all engage in both single isolation and bubble isolation home learning as this will help to ensure that your children do not fall further behind in their education.

These are certainly challenging times but I have every confidence that as a whole school community we will be able to combat the challenges that face us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Scott Tait
Headteacher