

PILGRIMS NEWS UPDATE

PHASE 1 REOPENING

Reception, Year 1 and Key Worker Families

29 May 2020



Dear Parents

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Thursday, along with The Harpur Trust's ratification of our Risk & Assessment, I am able to confirm that Pilgrims will open from Monday 1 June. A copy of the school's reopening with Covid 19 risk assessment is now available on the school's website. Please be aware this is a 'live' document and will be updated as necessary in line with Government guidance and regulatory requirements.

Our planned phased-return, as follows:

- Phase 1: Reception and Year 1 from Monday 1 June (8am to 4pm)
- Phase 2: Pre School from Monday 8 June (8am to 4pm)
- Phase 3: Little Pilgrims from Monday 15 June (8am to 4pm)
- Phase 4: Year 2 return date to be confirmed in line with further Government announcements.

Please note: Our Key Worker provision will continue, as currently, from 8am to 6pm, until such time as the children can join their year groups as part of our phased-return outlined above. See below the change of location for these groups.

KEYWORKER CHILDREN

Little Pilgrims and Pre School, 8am to 6pm:

From Monday 1 June, the Little Pilgrims and Pre School Key Worker groups will be using the Little Pilgrims building. This change of location is to allow the staff in Pre School to prepare for their children's return from Monday 8 June. Parents are asked to walk to the left-hand side of the Little Pilgrims building (nearest the park fence) where an entrance buzzer has been installed on the glass door. A member of staff will come to the door to greet you and collect your child. Collection of children will take place from the same point, in the same way. It is important for parents to be aware that they will not be allowed to enter the Little Pilgrims building, including the outside spaces/garden area. The Little Pilgrims gate will no longer be in use. From Monday 8 June the Pre School Key Worker children will then return to Pre School and join their new, designated 'bubble'. Further details on how Pre School will operate from this date will be communicated to parents in our next newsletter. Little Pilgrims parents will be informed of their new drop-off/collection arrangements prior to their phased-return date of Monday 15 June.

Year 2, 8am to 6pm:

Children in the Year 2 Key Worker group can be dropped off via the 'Larks' door at the front of the main school building from 8am. Again, staff will be on hand to greet your child and ensure they are taken down to their designated class. Collection will take place from the same point from 3.15 where necessary.

HOME LEARNING

I appreciate that not all our children will be returning to school and our Home Learning provision will continue for those children who will be staying at home. The Year 2 provision will remain unchanged until such time as they are able to return to school.

Teacher Time:

- Reception children will be able to join the other children who are at school every morning, Monday to Thursday and in the afternoon on Fridays.
- Year 1 children will join their friends at school for Teacher Time on a Monday morning and Friday afternoon, and then see Mrs Hosegood or Miss Bickerton on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Live Streaming:

Mrs Knight is back by popular demand, every Friday at 10am, live into your front room at home and into the classrooms at school! A link will be added to your child's timetable at some point during each week, so please look out for this. Parents are welcome to join in too!

COMING BACK TO SCHOOL: Reception and Year 1

For those children who are returning to Pilgrims, the school day will be 8am to 4pm. To ensure that drop-off time is as calm as possible, please talk to your child about returning to school and show them the photos of the adults they will see in their 'bubble' (see attached). We hope this will help to prepare them and ensure they are ready to leave you in the morning.

A useful video has been made to show parents and the children what to expect as they arrive into school and walk down to their drop-off points. The video will also include a glimpse inside both a Reception and Year 1 classroom. To view the video, please login with your child to their Purple Mash and 365 accounts just as you have been doing for their Home Learning. In Purple Mash you will see a new folder called Back to School within the Group folder. Open the document 'Coming Back to School' and you will be able to follow a link to see our short video. For any other parents who would also like to view the video, just to see what we look like, we hope to be able to upload this to the school's main Closed Facebook page soon (fingers crossed!).

Car Park

We appreciate that parents will need to park and walk with their child(ren) to their designated drop-off/collection point. However, we anticipate that, due to the social distancing requirements, space will be restricted. Therefore, we would ask that once their child has been dropped-off/collected, parents return to their car as quickly as possible. A member of the school's Maintenance Team will be on hand in the morning to support parents during this time. We ask for consideration and patience if you are asked to wait before parking. Parking is only allowed for drop-off and collection, so cars cannot remain in the car park outside of these times.

Parents should also note that, to avoid cross-contamination, the gate into/out of Bedford Park will remain closed. There is an alternative access gate into the Princeton Court site, which is located at the bottom of the alley way which runs alongside the Bedford School hockey pitches (Gordon Fields). If you do use this access gate, please ensure you hold your child's hand as you walk to school as it is used by the tenants in the offices.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Points

When dropping-off your child at school, please adhere to social distancing. We ask that only one parent/guardian accompanies their child and that children are closely supervised, ie holding an adult's hand. Where possible, and unless completely necessary, older siblings of an appropriate age, should remain in your car until you have dropped-off their younger sibling.

- Parents can drop-off between 8am and 8.45am, this is to alleviate pressures on the car park with everyone arriving at the same time. We hope that parents only drop-off at 8am if they absolutely need to. The 8am drop-off does not include breakfast so please ensure your child has had this at home.
- Parents are asked to wait in the car if the prior to the main school gate being opened, either at drop-off or pick-up times (see further below for staggered collection timings).
- Parents will be able to walk their child onto the playground, using the main school gate.
- Markings have been added to the pavements to indicate the route into school (red arrows) and then back out (blue arrows). These have been positioned 2 meters apart to help with social distancing.
- It is important that parents hold their child's hand as they walk to their drop-off point, and not allow them to play on the field or playground equipment.
- If we consider that the walk in/playground is becoming too crowded, we may have to ask parents to wait in their cars until it is safe to do so.

- Lessons will be timetabled, as normal. However, children will remain within their ‘bubble’ and specific rooms/outdoor spaces. Specialist sessions for French, music, assemblies and Pastoral sessions will be ‘streamed’ into the classrooms.
- Please do not remain behind on the playground to talk to your child’s teacher/TA. Important information can be passed onto your child’s teacher via telephone or email (enquiries@pilgrims-school.org.uk). We would suggest that you do not email your Teacher directly during the school day if it is urgent as they will be busy in class/outside and will not be able to respond.
- Lunch/snack will be delivered to the children in their classrooms, or outside spaces, and all dietary requirements will be catered for, as normal.

To help parents remember these arrangements, we have come up with the following mnemonic:

- C** Cars should be parked at an increased distance, wherever possible.
- H** Hold your child’s hand as you walk them down to their drop off point, do not allow them to play on the field/playground equipment.
- I** Increase the distance between you and other families.
- L** Look out for the arrows to show you the way (red into/blue out of school).
- D** Do not remain in the car park after drop-off/pick-up as someone else may need your space.
- R** Remember that the park gate will remain closed throughout the day.
- E** Endeavour not to bring older siblings (other than those who attend Pilgrims) onto the school site.
- N** Notices will be on display throughout the school site to remind children, staff and parents how to remain safe.

Staggered Collection (Reception and Year 1):

To support social distancing, we will be staggering the collection times for the children. Parents will be expected to follow the same route through the main school gate, down the ramp onto the playground, as they do in the mornings, taking care to keep their distance from others.

Timings

Reception: between 3.15pm and 3.30pm.

Year 1: between 3.30pm and 3.45pm.

Should you have children in different year groups you may collect all children together.

The school gate will be closed at 4pm. We ask that, after collecting your child, you leave the playground straight away to support a safe flow in and out of the playground area and also to avoid your child playing on the equipment.

UNIFORM AND KIT

In order to simplify things during this period, all main school children should wear their PE kit. Depending on the weather, this may be shorts or joggers. Children in Kindergarten and Pre School will also wear their shorts or joggers, as they do now. Clean clothes should be worn each day. The only items your child will need to bring into school each day are as follows:

- Sun cap (doesn’t have to be a school hat)
- Waterproof coat / Cagoule
- Water bottle (Main school children only)
- Spare clothes, if necessary

Please ensure all items are clearly labelled.

Suncream

Where necessary, please ensure you apply suncream to your child prior to them coming to school. We will support your child to apply more suncream, if required, throughout the day.

Children will not be asked to take items home each day, unless necessary. All children in main school will be provided with their own named resource packs containing pens, pencils, etc.

'BUBBLES'

We have endeavoured to create 'bubbles' to reflect each class and the children within it. I would like to thank those parents we have already contacted for their understanding where their child has had to move class. This was required due to availability and restriction on numbers. Therefore, your child should arrive into their usual class, unless we have been in touch with you directly. As previously outlined, once created, each distinct main school 'bubble' will remain together throughout the day. Although children will be able to 'see' their friends, they will not be able to mix with other 'bubbles' during the day. We have attached photographs of the grown-ups who will be working in each of the 'bubbles'.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Children should not be sent into school if they are feeling unwell.
- Should your child become unwell at school, we will contact you and ask you to collect your child **immediately**. Please, ensure the school has up-to-date contact details and working arrangements allow your child to be collected within a reasonable time, should it be necessary (30 mins).
- Your child must not attend school if they or a member of your family display symptoms. Parents should continue to follow Government guidance in respect of Covid-19.
- Staff will continue to use PPE (apron and gloves) when carrying out First Aid or intimate care. Please be aware that some staff may wear a facemask/covering when dealing with specific situations and these are detailed in the Covid risk assessment.

My continued thanks and appreciation to those of you who have offered your support and words of kindness – they really do go a long way and I know the staff have been lifted by them.

Mrs J Webster
Headteacher

Instructions on how to join one of our Closed Facebook Groups

Once in Facebook, search for Pilgrims Pre Preparatory School Bedford and click +Join. You will then be asked a security question before approved to join. Once you are a member of the whole school page, you can then search the other individual groups as below.

- Little Pilgrims
- Pilgrims Pre School
- Pilgrims Pre Prep Reception
- Pilgrims Pre Prep Year 1
- Pilgrims Pre Prep Year 2

You will then have to wait for final approval from us, before you can access/view/comment/post on the page(s).