



Lillington Nursery and Primary School

Cubbington Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa, CV32 7AG

Telephone: 01926 425114

email: admin@lillingtonschool.org website: www.lillingtonschool.org

Head Teacher: Mrs Wallace

VW/LB/034

Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Phase Bubbles – New Start and Finish Times

I am writing to explain some changes to lunchtimes and the considerations taken regarding the size of the bubbles at this time. The national guidance affords schools the freedom to make the choice they feel is right for their school in relation to the size of the bubbles used.

Our school produced parental guidance before the summer break so that staff, governors and all parents would have an understanding of what school would look like upon our return in September. In order to prepare this guidance many meetings and conversations were had with other head teachers, local authority representatives, school leaders and governing body members regarding the detail and decisions made. Many smaller schools have adopted smaller class size bubbles and many larger schools have adopted year group or phase group size bubbles. As we have moved through the first term we have been able to sustain these bubbles due to the number of staff we have on site. However this has become more difficult with staff having to self-isolate due to family members having symptoms as per the guidance from Public Health England and Public Health Warwickshire.

Our biggest issue with bubbles comes at lunchtime when we need additional staff to not only cover the playtimes but also the plans we have put in place for children to eat in the halls. We looked at the advantages and disadvantages of different options, as this decision would inform much of our planning moving forward. Remembering that bubbles are to be kept separate in all aspects of the school day and children should not be coming into any contact with those in other bubbles.

So moving forward we are looking to adopt a phase bubble approach, this would enable us to ensure the following can be implemented for our children.

Developing Respectful, Resilient, Reflective and Responsible Learners



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If we adopted a phase bubble we would be able to:

- Allow for more targeted teaching in mathematics especially across the upper key stage 2 phase
- Continue with Phonics teaching with targeted group sets
- Continue with plans for catch up funding groupings and other within phase targeted support
- Continue with free-flow learning between classrooms in the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Have lunchtimes where children could eat at the same time during the day
- Have playtimes and lunchtimes with children in their phase not just children in their class and having fewer time slots
- The ability to serve hot dinners for all
- The ability to restart breakfast club for the 4 phase bubbles
- The organisation of drop off and pick up would mean a different time slot for each bubble both at the beginning of the school day, less bubbles less time slots required
- Ensure we continue with the positive return to school as children not feeling constrained by many more rules to follow
- Adopt a happier environment for children being able to share conversations with a wider group of friends

The negatives associated with adopting a larger phase bubble

- An increased risk involving children and staff coming into contact with more people
- A larger number of children would be sent home in the event of a positive case

However with these negatives we feel that over the last term we have implemented measures with hand washing, sanitizing and the wearing of masks so rigorously and the support we have had from parents regarding following the guidance of self-isolating (thus keeping our community safer) that the possibility of closing larger bubbles is far outweighed by the academic, social and

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emotional progress and development of our children.

At this time the majority of mixing will occur at playtime and lunchtime which happens outside,

these arrangements as with all plans will be reviewed weekly alongside the school risk assessment. As I'm sure you can appreciate this is not as simple as moving immediately to a phase sized bubble approach as the implications would be far reaching for both the children's experience of school and their ability to make excellent progress. I will work with the children and the staff teams to ensure these changes are implemented carefully and at the right pace.

Staggered start times and Entry points

Here are the new start and finish times for after half term. I am hoping that these will make things easier for parents and with us having a large site we are able to keep these times so close together.

Reception: 8.50am - 3pm. Entry and exit on the KS1 playground

Years 1/2 : 8.45am - 3.05pm Entry and exit on the KS1 playground

Years 3,4 and 4/5: 8.40am - 3pm Entry and exit through Valley Road gate

Years 5/6 and 6: 8.50am - 3.10pm Entry and exit through main gate by car park

Mask wearing

The wearing of masks will be compulsory on the Lillington school site. This includes ALL parents when dropping off and collecting their children. If you are exempt from wearing a mask due to health reasons then you will need to show proof of this as you do in the general public at the moment.

Everyone has a mask, as they are mandatory in all public places and so this is an easy way for us all to work together to keep the school site as safe as possible.

Those not wearing masks will be challenged by the staff, if needed, as they are doing their job to keep the children, staff and parents safe.

Those who refuse to wear masks can and will be told they need to drop the children off at the gate.

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Social Distancing

Can I please remind parents that part of the governments guidance to all in regards to the pandemic is that we give each other space and keep a 2 metre distance. I have had several complaints and concerns raised with me from our parents that not everyone is following this guidance. It is everyone's responsibility to keep the Lillington school community safe and so please ensure that you are keeping that space between households whilst on the school site. Moving forward if this continues to be a concern then the governors, SLT and myself will need to consider children being dropped off at the gates and collected by teachers from there.

Yours sincerely

V. Wallace

Mrs Victoria Wallace

Head Teacher at Lillington Nursery and Primary School

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