

## Pheasey Park Farm Primary School and Early Years Centre

Address: Wimperis Way, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7DH

Telephone: 0121 3666183

School Email: [postbox@pheasey.org.uk](mailto:postbox@pheasey.org.uk)

Early Years Centre Email: [early-years@pheasey.org.uk](mailto:early-years@pheasey.org.uk)

Website: [www.pheaseyparkfarmprimary.co.uk](http://www.pheaseyparkfarmprimary.co.uk) / [www.elstonhallmat.co.uk](http://www.elstonhallmat.co.uk)

Head of School: Mrs S Arnold

Early Years Centre Managers: Miss T Ilsley and Mrs L Smith



**PHEASEY PARK FARM**  
Primary School &  
Early Years Centre

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Update for parents and an outline of School Procedures

We hope that all our families have had a happy and healthy summer break and we are looking forward to welcoming all the children back into school.

The whole country has now begun moving away from the stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, we must now ensure we reduce the disruption to children's education - particularly given that we are being reassured by the Government that 'the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September'.

As much as we want to return to normal, we are taking a cautious approach and your child's health and safety will remain our priority as we gradually start to lift the measures it has been necessary to put into place over the last 18 months.

#### **Mixing and 'bubbles'**

It is no longer necessary to keep children in consistent groups or 'bubbles' and therefore bubbles will not be used when children return to school. This means that we can return to a more flexible curriculum - weekly swimming will take place, children can mix at lunchtime and playtime and after school clubs can begin again.

#### **Tracing close contacts and isolation**

Schools are no longer required to do contact tracing. Contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace who will work with a parent to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals. Whole classes and year groups will not need to close.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, where any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons



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Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. Children can still come to school whilst they are awaiting results unless they show signs of the virus - high temperature, persistent cough and/or loss of normal taste or smell.

Any pupils showing symptoms should not come to school.

### Face coverings

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport.

For the time being, as the children settle back in and we get used to the new arrangements, our staff will continue to wear face coverings during arrival and dismissal times and we advise parents to do the same.

### Control Measures

We will continue to implement the following measures to keep the children and our staff safe:

- Maintain good hygiene for everyone - regular hand washing and sanitiser will continue to be used
- Our cleaning regimes will be maintained
- Occupied spaces will be kept well ventilated
- We will follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

**Please note** - if there were to be a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in school, we will work alongside our public health colleagues who may advise us to temporarily reintroduce some of our original control measures.

### One Way system - some changes

Our one way system is possibly the control measure in school that affected parents the most.

Thank you to everyone for making this work, it wasn't easy for anyone. The school was built in the 1950's and does not lend itself to high numbers of people gathering or waiting on paths. We have



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looked at ways to widen the paths in places and will continue to do so - although you will appreciate this is not a 'quick fix' and is very costly.

Although restrictions are lifting, we still feel that we need to control the flow and volume of parents on and around our site to keep you as safe as we can. From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, we are introducing the following changes -

- **Raeburn Road - parents and children will be able to enter AND exit our site via the Raeburn Road gates.** These are the widest gates/pathways on the site and will allow parents the safest way to pass one another. This is no longer part of a one way system.
- **Wimperis Way - this will remain an exit only and therefore parents will not be permitted to enter the site through those gates at arrival and dismissal times.** The pedestrian path at Wimperis Way is narrow and we want to avoid bottlenecks and people having to pass on the pathway.

For now - as we ease back into normal life - we continue to require parents to wait on playgrounds to avoid congestion, particularly outside KS2 classrooms, KS2 Foyer and the Community Room. *This is for your safety and the safety of other parents and carers.*

With these changes, parents will inevitably need to pass on paths, ramps and stairs. Although this might seem strange at first, we are hoping it will soon become the 'norm' again. Please be mindful and courteous to one another, allowing enough room to avoid contact with others.

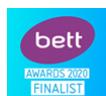
Please note - if we find that large numbers of parents congregate and block paths or enter the site via Wimperis Way, we may need to reintroduce the full one way system.

### Arrival and dismissal

Staggered times for starting and finishing school are no longer required. However, again to try and ease the flow and volume of people on our site, we will have different dismissal times for KS1 and KS2.

### In the morning

Doors will be open for all children between 8:40am and 9:00am. As soon as children arrive on site they should go straight into classrooms/entrances rather than congregate. This has worked well



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over the last year and will therefore continue. For ease, classroom windows will be labelled with the class name where possible. Staff will also be available on the other doors into school to direct children if they are unsure.

As a reminder:

- Early Years/KS1/Year 3 and 4TO will enter straight into their classrooms.
- 4LB/4TR and Year 6 will enter through the KS2 Foyer.
- Year 5 will enter via the Community Room doors.

### At home time

In order to alleviate congestion on site, dismissal times will be as follows:

- Rec, Y1 and 2                      **3:15pm**
- Years 3 - 6                         **3:25pm**
- PM Nursery                         **3:30pm**

As a reminder:

- Early Years, KS1, Y3 and 4TO will exit through classroom doors.
- 4TR will exit through the main KS2 Foyer
- 4LB will exit via the blue door on the lower path at the bottom of the KS2 steps
- Year 5 children who are being collected will exit through the Community Room doors.
- Year 6 children who are being collected will exit through the main KS2 foyer.
- Year 5/6 children who have consent to leave the site alone will be dismissed to the Raeburn Road gates

*All children will need to be collected by an adult (16 years and over) unless they are in Year 5 and 6 and have consent to leave school alone. We must remind parents that if children do leave school alone, they are expected to behave to the standard we expect in school and must be respectful to all others, including local residents. This privilege will be revoked if behaviour in the Community is considered inappropriate.*

All of our procedures will be continually reviewed and any further changes we need to make on health and safety grounds will be communicated to parents. We have attached some general information on the following pages to remind parents of our existing procedures.



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We have all been through a lot these past 18 months but for all our children it will have been the strangest of times and one we hope they never have to go through again. We will support children to settle back into school quickly so that they can once again enjoy their learning, enjoy playing with their friends and make the most of what school has to offer.

There is light at the end of the tunnel at last. 2021-2022 will be our year of hope.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Arnold  
Headteacher

### General Information and Reminders:

#### Return Dates

Children in Years 1-6 will return to school on Monday, 6th September.

Reception induction meetings will take place from Monday, 6th - Wednesday 8th September and all Reception children will start a full day on Thursday, 9th September.

Nursery Inductions will also take place from Monday, 6th - Wednesday 8th September and all Nursery children will attend together from Monday, 13th September.

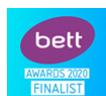
Term dates for the 2021/2 academic year can be found on the school website:

<https://tinyurl.com/3rdjc92x>

#### Uniform policy including hair

As you are aware our school logo has recently been updated and this will be gradually phased into our uniform. From September, children can wear jumpers/cardigans/PE TShirt/Polo shirts bearing either logo. Please note that all children must return to school in full uniform and this includes sturdy, black school shoes - trainers/pumps are not permitted.

Please check our uniform policy if you need clarification <https://tinyurl.com/2utzr4bb>



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If you wish to purchase school ties, please do so through Pay360 as usual and we will facilitate giving these to the children in class rather than parents collecting from the office.

### PE Kits

Further information will follow about when PE kits will be required however all children will need to have the school PE kit. Please refer to the uniform policy if you require clarification

<https://tinyurl.com/2utzr4bb>

### Swimming Kits

Weekly swimming lessons for Reception to Year 6 children will resume this year and will begin in Week 2. All children will require swimming trunks/one piece swimming costume, a towel and a swim hat. Further information will follow.

### Pay360

Pay360 (previously called SIMS Pay) has now updated the children into their September year groups and classes.

### Dinner Money

Children in Years 3-6 who wish to have a school meal at lunchtime, and who are not entitled to Free School Meals, should have money added to their dinner money account. School meals are priced at £2.20 per day. Please can we ask all parents to check their child's account and clear any outstanding balances from the previous academic year.

### Tuck

Children in Years 1 -6 may purchase tuck to eat at morning break. Tuck must be purchased by 10pm on the Sunday evening for the full week ahead. Parents will find tuck options within Fees and Subs on Pay360. Tuck options for each week will appear and you may purchase items for any week in advance if you wish. Please remember to complete the checkout process and you will then receive an email confirmation of your order. Tuck will be delivered to classrooms for children to eat during morning break. Cash purchases of tuck cannot be accepted. If a child is absent on a day when tuck has been purchased, the amount will be refunded to the original payment card at certain points throughout each term.

### Tuck from home

Children in Early Years and KS1 will be provided with a piece of fruit each day. If children do not wish to eat this fruit, nor purchase tuck through school, they may bring in fruit or vegetables from



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home. Please do not send your child with any other items of food or drink as they will not be permitted to eat/drink these.

### *Drinks bottle*

All children should bring in a labelled drinks bottle from home containing water, which they may drink throughout the day. The bottles can be refilled in school if necessary.

### *Parent Communication*

We will continue to ask parents to contact school by telephone or emailing postbox rather than coming into the building, wherever possible.

### *School Fund Payments*

Please can we ask parents to make the School Fund Payment for 2021/22 via Pay360. Nursery and Reception parents should make the payment in cash at their welcome session (current Nursery parents may make the payment via Pay360 if they wish). School Fund remains at £6 per child in Year 1 - 6 and £15 per child in Nursery and Reception.

### *Inhaler spacers*

If your child brought home their inhaler spacer at the end of term for cleaning, please ensure this is returned to school on the first day.

### *Recorders*

Our music lessons will resume and all children in Year 3 will begin recorder lessons in Week 2. Please ensure your child has their own recorder, labelled with their name, ready for Week 2. Further information will follow.

### *Music Tuition*

Music tuition with our peripatetic staff will continue. We will assume children who were accessing this provision last year will continue. If this is not the case, please email postbox if you have not already done so. If you have already registered your child's interest in an instrument we will be in touch regarding an audition.

### *Year 5/6 Dismissal*

If you have not already completed the Microsoft Form regarding Year 5/6 dismissal for this year, please do so this week as we will need this information in place for Monday. Now that the children



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with permission to be dismissed without an adult will leave via Raeburn Road gate rather than the KS2 foyer/Community Room, please email postbox if the permission is only for certain days of the week.

Office Staff will be in school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and will be available to answer any calls with queries regarding the return to school.

Thank you.

