

21st May 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you to those of you who have already responded to our parent survey about reopening on the 1st June; we have read and considered all your comments carefully and would now like to share an outline of some of the measures that we have taken as part of our planning for reopening. We are hoping that this will support you in making a firmer decision about your child/children returning to school.

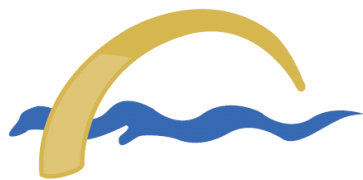
Briefly, we will:

- create a 'bubble' approach, recommended by scientists to keep the number of interactions to a minimum. This involves creating small groups (maximum 15 children) with allocated adults, who do not mix at all during the day; once a group is full, other children will join another group. Children will be with their year group where possible, but not necessarily their class teacher;
- minimise contact and mixing between people in school by altering classroom layouts to increase spacing, decrease class sizes and staggering the timetable for the school day including start, end, playtimes and lunchtimes. During play and lunch times, 'bubbles' will remain together and will not mix at all;

Staggered entry and exit times are below, you will be informed which bubble your child is in.:

8.40am	2.40pm	Bubble 1 (EYFS)	Friday 12.40pm finish
8.50am	2.50pm	Bubble 3 (YR 1)	Friday 12.50pm finish
9.00am	3.00pm	Bubble 4 (YR 1)	Friday 1.00pm finish
9.10am	3.10pm	Bubble 2 (EYFS)	Friday 1.10pm finish
9.00am	3.00pm	Bubble 5 Keyworker children	
8.45am	3.00pm	Bubble 6 (YR 6)	Friday 1.00pm finish

- ensure that children have their own set of resources (pencils, scissors etc.) which will be washed regularly;
- insist that individuals who are unwell with symptoms of coronavirus, or who have someone in their household who does, will not attend school;
- increase hand cleaning (additional facilities and timetabled routines will be in place);
- regularly clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and remove unnecessary or hard to clean objects;
- use additional entrances and exits in the school to minimise mixing at the start and end of the day. New drop off and collection procedures for parents will be shared when we have a better idea of the numbers of children returning;
- continue to set some home learning for those children who are not returning to school. This may not be in the same format as currently being offered as staff will be teaching in school during the day.



**Godmanchester  
Bridge Academy**

# Godmanchester Bridge Academy

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Head of School: Claire Wood

Chair of Governors: Steve Peacock

In addition to this, during half term, the school will be undergoing a deep clean.

These control measures do not include 2m social distancing as we recognise that although we can promote this, remind children and put measures in place, we cannot guarantee this. The Department for Education guidance also states that, 'early years and primary age pupils cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.' (DfE, 12th May 2020). Although our 'bubble' model will minimise contact as children and adults will only mix in small, consistent groups, this is not a guarantee of social distancing.

Based on classroom sizes, site layout, staff availability and possible pupil numbers, we are currently planning to operate in 5 'bubbles' but this may change if our numbers increase.

The government have set a date of 1st June as the earliest date when schools will re-open to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. This date may change, and the school will only open to these year groups when the government's scientific tests are met. We have been informed that the government will make a final decision about opening on 28th May; we know that this doesn't give families much time to prepare which is why we are doing our very best to plan as much as we are able to now.

To support in further planning we are therefore now asking parents for a yes or no response to whether their child/children will be returning on the 1st June if we are opening. We will be offering education for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 for four and a half days of schooling. School will finish after lunch on a Friday to allow staff to have the planning and preparation time they need for the following week.

For those parents who decide not to send their children back initially, we will ask for 1 weeks' notice if you change your mind and we will only admit further children on a Monday. This request should be made in writing to the school office. This is very important so that we can plan for additional 'bubbles' if needed which will involve additional staffing and room preparation. Also, we are hoping that the groups of children and their allocated adults can remain consistent throughout the week to enable the curriculum, including guided groups, to be taught consistently.

Thank you for your help, support and understanding. If you have any questions, specific uncertainties or just want to talk things through, please do email the school office and we will arrange a telephone call with you.

To access the survey please click <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z8VLXRB>. We need your response by midday Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Kind regards,

Claire Wood

Head of School.