



Welcome back to Ballard!

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to be welcoming the Kindergarten children who are transitioning into the Reception class at Ballard in September. We have been working hard to take the necessary steps to prepare Pre-Prep to help the children make a happy and successful transition back to School, as YR and Y1 will also be returning to School. We understand that every child returning to School will have had a different experience of learning at home and our priority will be supporting them to readjust to School routines and social interactions with their peers, teachers and teaching assistants, whilst taking every precaution we can to support everyone's wellbeing and safety.

We aim to make School welcoming to help the children settle back securely but, as we are following Government recommendations, there will inevitably be some changes to our normal routines, which are detailed below. These arrangements may be subject to change, depending what changes occur throughout the rest of the School.

How it will look

The Kindergarten children will be grouped into separate bubbles of no more than 15 pupils, each with one teacher and one teaching assistant. The bubble will be kept independent of other groups of children at all times throughout the school day; each bubble will have exclusive use of separate assigned areas of the School, both inside and outside, and opportunities for outside learning will be built into every day, making full use of our beautiful school grounds. The curriculum will be delivered with a daily focus on activities to support the children's social and emotional wellbeing.

Dates of Return

Monday 15th June

Mon - Thurs 9.00am – 1.00pm

No School on Fridays

Drop off Arrangements

Please arrive promptly between 9.00am and 9.10am to drop off your child. We ask that only one parent / carer comes to School to drop off / pick up your child, please. Children should only be dropped off and picked up by their parent/ carer.

Kindergarten parents are asked to park near the entrance of the Pre-Prep car park to drop off your child to Mrs Verdon at the wooden gate. Please maintain the 2 metre social distancing rules at all times and please refrain from gathering in the car park after dropping off your child. Your child must be able to leave their parent / carer and go to their teacher without support.

Your child's temperature will be taken and recorded on arrival at School using a remote infra-red thermometer. If your child's temperature is 37.8°C or greater, their temperature will

be checked again after a few minutes and if it is still high you will be asked to take them home immediately.

Pick up Arrangements

The children will come out in their bubble with their staff members at 1.00pm, to the designated area where they are dropped off in the mornings. Please wait for the staff member to send your child to you at the gate and maintain the 2 metre social distancing rules as you leave the school grounds.

What to Wear

Your child should wear their burgundy polo shirt or a dark blue plain T-Shirt, PE shorts/skort, Ballard sweatshirt (gold or white badge) or a navy blue sweatshirt/ jumper, trainers and a named cap. Your child's clothes should be removed as soon as you arrive home and they should be washed every evening so that clean clothes can be worn each day. Coats will only be required if it is raining or chilly. Please apply 12 to 24-hour sun cream before arriving at School; this is essential as we will be spending as much time as possible outside.

Please put a spare set of clothing, including pants, socks and trainers/shoes, in a named plastic bag which can be left at school, should it be required.

What to bring to School

Your child will need to bring a healthy packed lunch in a sandwich box/ bag with an ice pack to keep it cool (these will be kept in your child's tray in the classroom) and a named water bottle which can be refilled in the classrooms. Please wash and sterilise the water bottles every evening. Please remember the School's 'no nuts' policy and be mindful of this if using chocolate spread! Please also include something suitable for your child's morning snack.

No other items should be brought into School.

Classroom Environment

The Kindergarten bubble will use the Kindergarten classrooms and the outside area near to the Nursery classroom. They will enter through the Nursery entrance and they will use the Kindergarten toilets which are in the classroom.

The children will be given their own tray with equipment; such as pencils, coloured pencils and clipboards, which will stay in School, and they will be encouraged not to share these resources.

Any unnecessary items and soft furnishings in the learning environment have been removed or made inaccessible to the children.

Any resources that will be shared within the individual bubbles will be steam cleaned at the end of each day. The windows and doors will be opened to ensure good ventilation.

Playtimes

KG will have use of part of the Pre-Prep play area and some play equipment and the Nursery playground. The Government's guidance acknowledges that it is difficult keeping young children 2 metres apart but they will continue to be encouraged to keep their distance during playtime, whilst still having fun playing together.

Lunch

The children will eat their healthy packed lunches in their bubbles with the assigned teacher and teaching assistant. They will picnic outside when the weather permits or in the classroom. They will be reminded of the importance of not sharing food and drinks with their friends.

Hygiene

The children will wash their hands when they arrive at School, before and after eating and playtimes and at regular intervals throughout the day. They will be supervised by a teacher or teaching assistant to ensure they wash their hands with soap and water for the recommended time of 20 seconds and dry them well with paper towels.

Good respiratory hygiene will be encouraged and children will be reminded to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow; all tissues will be disposed of into lidded bins, which will be emptied regularly throughout the day.

Enhanced Cleaning

The whole Pre-Prep area has been deep cleaned.

Classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned in the mornings before the children arrive and will be professionally cleaned regularly throughout the day, with particular attention on frequently touched surfaces.

Cleaning and sanitising materials will be available for use by the teachers and teaching assistants in every room.

PPE

Staff will be trained in the new procedures. They will have access to PPE for dealing with intimate care needs and in cases where the child falls ill. Government guidance suggests that face masks in schools are not routinely recommended for adults or children.

Responding to someone becoming unwell at School

If a child shows symptoms of Covid-19 whilst at School, the School Nurse will be contacted. They will be cared for in an isolation room, either with the School Nurse or with a teacher or teaching assistant. Their parents will be contacted to come and collect them immediately.

The government advice below should then be followed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Preparing your child for the first day back in School

Be Calm

Your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter-of-fact.

Be Positive

Remind your child of all the ways they have learnt to keep themselves safe; washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow or a tissue, not hugging others and staying in their own space.

Be Supportive

Younger children may struggle with separation anxiety and may become tearful and clingy. Reassure them about all of the positive things they will do at School such as being with their friends, seeing their teacher again and all the exciting things they will enjoy.

We are very excited to welcome Reception and Year 1 children back to Ballard. We have missed you all so much!

Mrs Jane Hunt

Head of Pre-Prep

