

Opening of School FAQs



How will you maintain social distancing?

Children will be in their class bubble throughout the day and in their year group bubble for playtime and lunchtime. They will not mix with any other year group bubbles. We will have staggered drop-off and pick-up times as well as staggered play and lunchtimes.

Will my child(ren) need to wear uniform?

Yes, children will be expected to wear school uniform. Please ensure their footwear can be put on and taken off independently. Make sure also that they are able to undo any buttons, zips or bows independently. We recognise that children may well have outgrown their uniform and replacing it may be presenting you with difficulties. If this is the case, please speak with our Family Liaison Officer, Ms Grange, who will be able to help.

Will the adults be using PPE?

Government guidance states that there are only limited times where PPE will be necessary for the adults in school; we have a limited amount should the need arise. We will not stop adults or children from wearing PPE, including face masks, if this makes them feel safer. If you wish your child to wear a face mask, please ensure that you have familiarised them with wearing one beforehand including showing them how to safely remove and replace it. Hand sanitiser is not necessary as there will be regular handwashing and it is thought soap and water is more effective.

Are there different arrangements for accessing the School site?

Yes. At drop-off and collection times, please enter via the gate on Greenhill Rd. We have a one-way system which will take you around the outside of the building to the playground. Exit is via the gate by the kitchens and along the pavement at the side of the staff car park. We are hoping that families may also be able to exit via the back gate onto the play park. **It will not be possible to enter via this gate.**

Will the learning environment be different?

It may be a little different to usual. We will remove any surplus furniture in order to allow maximum space. The Government guidelines advise us to remove equipment that cannot easily be washed eg soft toys and dressing up clothes and toys with intricate parts. In the Infants, we will make sure equipment used by the children is wiped down regularly during the day and washed at the end of the day. From Year 3 upwards, children will be seated in forward-facing rows, in line with Government guidance.

Will my child bring reading books home?

In line with the guidance, we will avoid books travelling backwards and forwards between home and school. However, we will ensure all children read in school daily and we will share stories with them. Children will be encouraged to read from their own libraries at home and also the book shed will be open on Thursdays and Fridays if further books are needed for home. All books returned to school, will be quarantined after use.

What is happening about school lunches?

Both hot lunches and school packed lunches will be available every day. Those children having hot school lunch will eat in the dining hall in their year group bubble. Those having school or home packed lunch will eat in their classroom or outside whilst the weather is fine. We will not be able to have as many children in the dining hall at one time as normal so we will need to encourage them to eat up and not chat too much.

Home packed lunches should be in a plastic lunchbox that can be washed every day.

Do we send in a PE bag?

No, children will wear their PE kit to school on the days their class have PE. The PE uniform is black shorts, white or purple t-shirt and trainers. As the weather gets colder, the children will be permitted to wear black, grey or navy tracksuit bottoms or a black base layer. This is to reduce the risk of accidentally putting on someone else's clothes and avoids the need for closer contact whilst adults to help younger children to get dressed or undressed.

Are bags allowed?

Children will be permitted to bring a bag to school if it is absolutely necessary. In their bag they should only bring their coat, home packed lunch and water bottle. The water bottle should be refillable and named. If they bring a pencil case to school, it will need to stay in school.

What happens if my child is feeling unwell at school?

Your child will be isolated from their bubble in Mrs Murrell's office and you will be contacted immediately. Your child will be with a member of staff, who may wear PPE.

Will I be fined or will there be any penalty if I decide to keep my child at home?

Yes. Children are expected to attend school and we have been directed by the DFE to apply attendance criteria strictly.

I usually pick up and/or drop off my friend's children. Where should I wait?

We are asking that families do not wait. If you are collecting other children on a regular basis, please decide which drop-off/collection time slot you will use according to one of their surnames and keep to that one. Please let the class staff know so that they can ensure children are ready at the end of the day.

What happens if we are late and miss the drop off/ collection time?

Please call the School Office and they will advise you. Please be aware that in the mornings and at the end of the day, the telephones can be busy so it may take a few minutes to get through.

Can I come into the School Office to pass on information or make an appointment?

Please only come to the School Office if you have made an appointment in advance. You can do this either by telephone 01227 373095 or by email office1@briary.kent.sch.uk , your message will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff. Whilst questions and queries are posted on the Official Briary Parents Forum group on Facebook, this page is monitored by a limited number of staff members and your question may not be seen and/ or responded to in the evenings or weekends. We would urge you in the first instance to call or email the School Office; alternatively Mrs Murrell, Mrs Cripps and Mrs Symons will be available to speak to on the front gate or playground each day.