



Dear Parents,

1st June 2020

Following my letter detailing plans for the opening of our schools, many of you have quite understandably raised more questions about your child's possible return to school. I have, therefore, compiled a list of common questions and answers to help support you and your child's understanding of what school might be like when, and if, they return. Please understand that all these responses are subject to change as the relaunch of our schools unfolds; guidance changes daily, staff availability may change and so we are constantly reviewing and evolving our systems. Please also remember that it may not be possible for all year groups to return to fulltime schooling this term. I apologise for the length of some of the responses, but it is important to be as comprehensive as possible to help you understand the provision we are offering.

Kindest Regards

Mrs Eveleigh

FAQ Set 2



What do you mean by a 'Bubble'?

Most classes across The Valley Partnership have more than the current Government guidance for children in a group in school. Therefore, we have organised the children into smaller groups that we are calling 'Bubbles'. Your child will be taught in a 'Bubble' of children who are the same year group. However, the year groups across The Partnership have different numbers of children and hence the 'Bubbles' will have slightly different numbers of children in them. In some instances, the year groups are very small and may be combined to make one 'Bubble' - for example, Reception and Year One at Burlescombe. No 'Bubble' will be over 15 children and it is anticipated, depending on the return to school uptake, that most, but not all, will be less than 10.



Where will my child's classroom be?

The Reception, Year One and Year Six children will be in their own schools and in their own rooms. We are still in the process of working out how, and if, we can accommodate the Year 2/3/4/5 children across The Partnership. It is likely, but NOT confirmed, that some of Webber's children may need to attend Burlescombe as they have more available spaces. In this case, Webber's staff will also migrate temporarily with them. This is the same as the Burlescombe key workers children who have been travelling to Webber's – they have really enjoyed it and taken it in their stride. Please also remember that it may not be possible for all year groups to return to fulltime schooling this term.



What will my child's classroom look like?

Your child's room will look a little different. We have moved soft furnishing and rearranged the furniture to create more space between tables. It may not be exactly 2m apart, ([Protective measures in education guidance 1st June](#)) but it is certainly well spaced out and they will not face others. We have added some plants to soften the look and the rooms look really good and less busy. For those children not in their usual classroom, again, we have re-organised every available space in both schools to make it inviting and practicable.



What happens when the children are collected by staff first thing?

Your child will be reminded of the Hand Washing Song in the playground. They will be shown the 'Bob the Box' signs (our social distance measuring friend 😊) and then taken to wash their hands. Along the route they will be reassured and chatted to, and will have the basic system explained to them: i.e. no more than 2

children in the cloakroom, they need to do our 'hand washing song and dance' and that they will have a special place to sit just for them!

Who will teach my child?

We are aiming that your child will be taught by an adult known to them, however, please understand this may not always be possible depending on staff availability. Not all teachers and teaching assistants are able to be in school. Your child could be taught by a teacher or teaching assistant working in your child's 'Bubble', but the work, as is currently happening, will be planned by our teams of teachers. Our Teaching Assistants are skilled practitioners and will work, as usual, closely with teachers to support all children. Home learning and school learning will try to mimic each other as far as is possible, but again, as you have been adapting at home, we are professionals and need to adapt the learning to meet the needs of the 'Bubble'. It may not be possible for all our intervention groups to run but we will support children in class as best we can in these challenging times. Staff are, as far as possible, allocated one 'Bubble'.

What will the learning activities look like?

Children will have their own double desk space and own tray for their sole use. This establishes the distances that we are trying to uphold. They will be given their own new pencil case with lots of things they will be using, e.g. pens, coloured pencils, scissors, glue, rubbers, sharpeners etc. This is to reduce additional movement within the classroom. There will be relaxing, warm up activities, such as mindfulness colouring, whilst the rest of the 'Bubble' arrive. The 'Bubble' leader will then judge the day and activities according to age and needs of the children. We are planning lots of outside activities, wellbeing activities, as well as moving into some of the Maths/English in the forthcoming days. There will be P.E. during the day (wearing the same clothes) that will involve carefully planned activities such as athletics. P.E. groups will have their own P.E. equipment box. For the EYFS children and Year One, there will be a controlled range of practical equipment and busy learning activities. This equipment is allocated only for their 'Bubble'. For KS 2, there will be also be a gentle ease back into the core, morning subjects and the afternoon sessions will be planned according to the needs of the children in the groups, linked where possible, to the home learning. Children will not be able to participate in any close interactions but there will be lots of opportunity for discussion and group learning conversations, as well as some on-line learning. There will be guided group teaching aimed at stretching the children, whatever their ability, as they grow comfortable with being back at school. We know children will have lots to chat about and share with each other, and it is important we facilitate that. We will have 'Bubble' based Collective Worship at some point throughout the day.

If the children are in school, do I need to do work at home with them?

As we usually do when we follow a 'normal' week, we would like families to read with their child, practise spelling and number bonds/tables. Those children not in school, we will expect the home learning to be completed as best they can - just as is happening now. Staff will respond to the home learning as and when they can the following week.

What about book bags, water bottles, suntan lotion, reading books and their home learning books?

Please leave their home learning books at home as we want as little as possible coming into school. Please bring in daily, their reading diaries, reading books, water bottles, and suntan lotion. They will be placed in their tray space. For reading books that need changing, they will be put by the children in a lidded, quarantine box at the entrance of the classroom and kept aside for three or four days, then wiped and put back into circulation.

What will happen at break and lunch time? Can they have packed lunch?

'Bubbles' of children will have their own allocated areas of the school for their playtimes and lunchtimes. The 'Bubbles' will not mix at this point as we are following the latest guidance. Children will be encouraged to keep a sensible distance and some games discouraged – e.g. no football or 'Tag/It'. We are planning school lunches to be served in disposable trays and be brought to the classrooms or designated area, again to restrict movement around school. Children can bring packed lunches to keep on their chair beside their desk. We would prefer small, plastic lunch boxes that can be stored on the empty chair next to them. The 'Bubble' will have its own designated playtime toy box. We do not envisage standing children in hoops or wearing them, but may sub divide their play areas further, should we need to. There will be an understanding that we will be saying to children not to touch each other and keep a safer distance through games and activities to remind them. They will play with their 'Bubble' friends.

What about toileting and hand washing?

Children will be asked to wash their hands at least 8 times a day, beside their normal toilet routine:

- *Arrival and just before leaving school*
- *Going out and coming in from break, lunch, afternoon play and P.E.*
- *Every time they go to the toilet*

The breaks are staggered to enable 'Bubbles' not to mix. The Year 6 children will not enter the main building at all at Webber's or Burlescombe. If your child's hands are irritated by soap, send a labelled container of simple moisturiser and it will be put for them only to access. We will have toilet systems for the children.

What happens if my child is upset, ill or hurts themselves?

Adults will help a child with first aid - they may wear a mask if there are serious injuries and need close contact. Teachers will be keeping some distance whilst teaching. If a child gets upset, they will talk quietly and in a low tone to support them, there will be an area that they can talk more privately - this is part of our normal practise. If a child is extremely unhappy about coming into school, then a decision will be made at that time regarding the best course of action. Any child who is ill will need to go home, we request that they are tested and if tested COVID 19 positive, the 'Bubble' will be closed for 14 days as per regulations.

How will you support social distancing?

The government have acknowledged that primary children may not keep 2m apart and indeed 'policing' this would be almost impossible. We will have a range of games and rhymes to help them remember to stay further apart than they would usually do. There is also a supplement to our behaviour policy for those who may continually/deliberately try to undermine the health and well-being behaviour expectations in school. This draft is attached.

How will you keep the areas clean?

We have a thorough cleaning programme in place, including toy cleaning. 'Bubbles' will not be sharing equipment. There will also be other systems in place such as doors propped open and a reduction of circulation in the school corridors by having designated entrances/exits and restricting use.

What happens in an emergency?

This obviously depends on the emergency, here are a few examples to reassure you:

- *Fire – children will be shown, reminded and practise drills - the 'Bob the Box' will help to get line spacing*

- *Suspected COVID-19 - child will be taken by an adult helper to a pre-prepared isolation area. The adult will put on protective equipment and reassure the child as appropriate e.g. pretend to be a nurse to make them feel at ease. Parents will be called, and we would ask you to get them to be tested. All those in the 'Bubble' will be sent home for self-isolation for 14 days, if the test proves positive.*
- *Water/toilet/electricity issues - depending on the seriousness - we will close the school, as current practise*
- *Accident/injury - these are the same procedures as current. The staff member dealing with the injury may need a face mask - aprons/gloves are current practise*

What happens at the end of the school day?

We will be on the lookout for you to release your child directly to you at your allocated time.

What shall I do if I am worried about something?

Please call the school office where your child is currently attending, use the school post-box, or email us. You will not be allowed in the school building. Please remember do not send your child in if you think they are ill!

How will my child catch up on things that they have missed during lockdown?

You will have been supporting your child's learning during this lockdown period with work prepared by our staff team. Upon their return, our priority will be the reintroduction to school life and their well-being as well as developing their curriculum learning. What our schools and the learning will look like in September, will be based on the information we have been given by national government leading up to that time.

Have you changed any school policies?

Yes, several policies including Marking to prevent staff having to take books home, our Behaviour Policy to support COVID 19 safety measures, Fire Risks, First Aid, Child Protection, HR Policies, an Appendix for School Exclusions and extensive Risk Assessments. Governors have to see these assessments and be assured that we have followed a thorough process.

Can we see what the classrooms might look like?

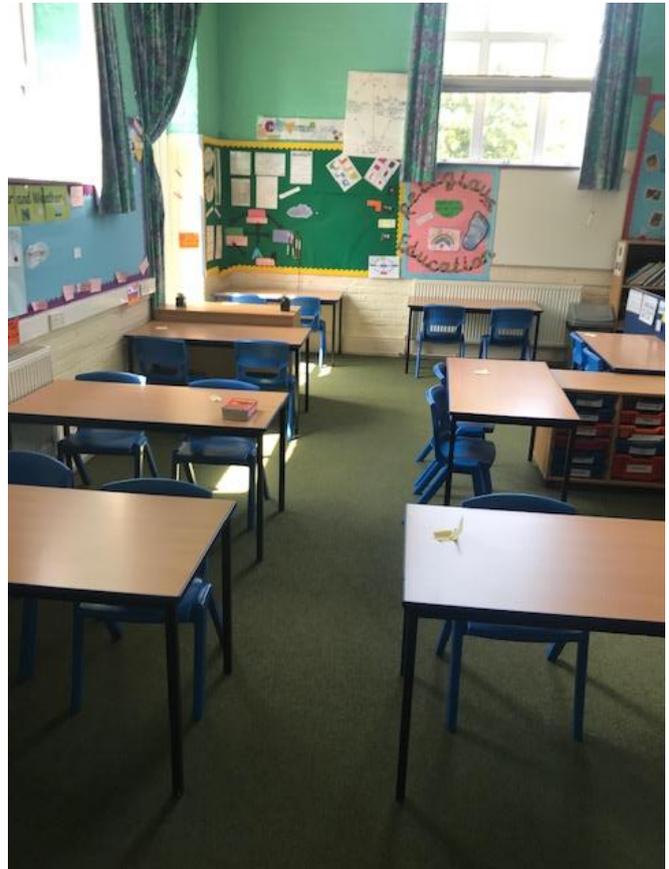
Yes, we have pasted a sample of them to this FAQ update taken at the end of Friday last week - they are not quite ready yet!

Can I change my mind about my child coming into school?

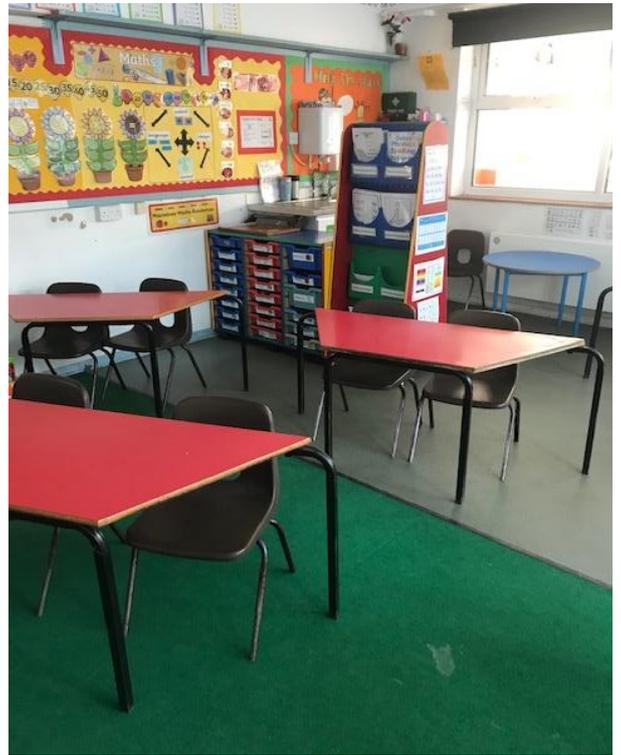
*Yes, to a degree. If you said you would not be sending your child to school in our questionnaire or by email, but have changed your mind, please email to ask if we have space in an appropriate bubble. Please wait for a response to confirm this. Likewise, if you have changed your mind and no longer wish your child to attend, then please email and tell us why you have changed your mind - we would like to know. What we cannot offer is parents choosing to send children in some days and not others - it is **not a part-time attendance option**. It is a fulltime return to school as requested by the Government and the Local Authority and Department for Education are monitoring how many children are in our settings. We have been given a new set of attendance codes. If your child is ill they will receive the usual code, if they do not attend as parental choice, this another code. There is NO penalty at this time for the non-attendance of children.*



BPS Squirrels Classroom



BPS Acorns Class reception and Year One (Toys and trays yet to go out!)



WPS Class 1 for Reception (toys out, trays to come!)



WPS - The 'Pool' Room – for Year One



WPS Classroom 2 - trays to come



WPS Class 3 for Year Six

