



Breaside  
Preparatory School

# BACK TO SCHOOL

Our plans for the September return



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

As we now start to think about our return to School in September, we begin to reflect on just how far we have come and what we have achieved over the last few months. Who would have thought we would have had to deal with a pandemic but look how we all remained calm and worked through this together and are now hopefully coming out the other end. Although some difficult, and often quick decision making was needed with the changes to the government guidance, I am proud of what Breaside and our Breaside Family have overcome already. Our next steps are to have all children return to school in September 2020. Our focus has always been the children and moving forward this will continue to be the case to allow them to continue their education in their much-loved school environment.

Since we began our phased return on 1<sup>st</sup> June, the safety and well being of the children and Breaside staff has been paramount. In our recent survey 100% of you agreed that both you as a family and your child benefited from going back to school, 98% agreed that that the return to school process was well managed by the school, and 98% thought that every possible risk mitigation that the school could have taken, was taken. Some of your supportive comments are included at the back of this document. Thank you also for the ideas and requests some of you have made as we turn our attention to the new school year.

We do not know for certain what September will bring but we have made plans based on a number of scenarios and have closely followed the evolving government advice. By imagining and then planning for the different possible scenarios we will be faced

with in September I believe we are set up to step into the new academic year with confidence and vigour.

There are more details on our planning overleaf.

One overall reflection I have is that I want our wonderful school to capture the best that came from this period – how Breaside staff adapted their educational methods, how we embraced a new way of doing things, how the children coped with uncertainty and change, and how we built a new and deeper relationship with you, our parent community. We will, of course, be continuing with our enhanced cleaning regime next year and would ask for your help by making regular and thorough handwashing a part of your daily routine during the holidays.

With that context in mind I am pleased to share with you some exciting new initiatives, as part of the Cognita family of schools, later in this booklet. These initiatives will capitalise on what we have learned over the last few months, take our educational and wellbeing provision for your child to the next level, and prepare us should a second wave require a localised lockdown.

Thank you once again for your continued support of the school throughout the Summer Term, and for your encouragement and positive feedback. I wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to an exciting new academic year.

Kindest regards

Mrs Nicholson  
Executive Principal

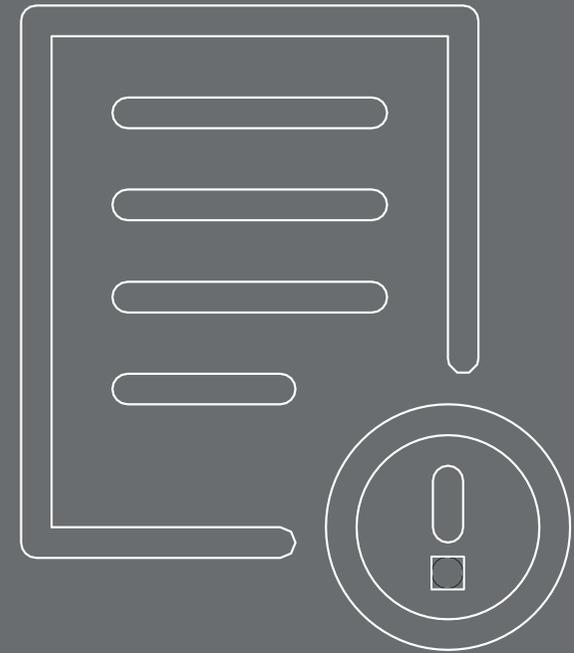


Breaside

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# HIGHLIGHTS FOR NEXT YEAR

1. **Back to normal** - this means open and running a normal day for all year groups, within the government guidelines.
2. **Safety** – risk mitigation to include enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures with new procedures for confirmed cases and outbreaks
3. **Wellbeing** - a focus on both students and staff to help them reflect and process the exceptional circumstances that we have experienced
4. **Curricular focus-** to ensure that all of our children continue to achieve their potential
5. **Growth mindset** - taking the experience of this whole journey and continuing to innovate and grow from what we have learnt.



# HOW WILL IT WORK?

We have done a large amount of scenario planning and we're confident we can get back to normal.

The latest government guidelines have significantly reduced the need for social distancing and as a result schools will be encouraged to return to a full timetable for all year groups.

This is great news and to the right is a summary of what we know now. This is, of course, conditional on the continued downward trend of the infection rate.



# GUIDANCE SUMMARY

*Based on the government guidance released on 2 July this is what we are basing our planning on:*

- Primary (with specialist teachers) - the bubbles will be increased to incorporate 'whole year' bubbles. This will enable us to deliver lessons as per normal with full classes. Specialist teachers will also be able to move between classes provided they maintain social distancing. There may also be some flexibility to create phase/key stage bubbles.
- Some of the features from this term need to remain such as staggered timings and one-way systems, as will a focus on hygiene and cleaning. More detail will follow before the start of next term.
- School services such as catering and transport can return to relative normality with some adaptations to mitigate viral spread
- Track and trace in schools will be a focus

# THE SCHOOL DAY

We are very pleased to be able to see a return to the normal school day for the children. In order to continue to mitigate risk wherever possible, we do need to adjust the timings for the busiest parts of the day: drop off and pick up. We are hopeful that this will be a short term adjustment only!

Year Group	Drop off	Pick up
KG, PP, Reception	8.00-8.20	3.00 - 3.20
Years 1 & 2	8.30-8.50	3.25 - 3.35
Years 3 & 4	8.30-8.50	3.35 - 3.45
Years 5 & 6	8.30-8.50	3.45 - 3.55

## Kindergarten, Pre-Prep & Reception:

We will continue to operate our one-way system.

- Parents can enter with their children via the usual school gate (Gate 1) between **8.00-8.20am**.
- Please proceed up the ramp to the EYs playground.
- Once you have dropped off your child to their classroom please move through to the far end of the playground to exit.
- A member of staff will be on hand to guide you around the side of the EYs building and out of Gate 2
- The same system will apply at pick up at **3.00pm**

## Years 1-6:

Children will be dropped off at the gate

- We are planning initially to continue with the current system of children being dropped off at the school gates in the morning.
- Both Gate 1 & Gate 2 will be used for this in order to ensure effective social distancing. We will let you know the entrance gate for your year group before we return in September.
- Drop off time for Years 1-6 will be **8.30 – 8.50am**
- Pick up will be from the same gate at the allotted time. Classes will be brought down and dismissed from the gate.

- We ask that parents please continue to adhere to social distancing rules whilst waiting at the school gates and queue in single file if on the pavement to allow members of the public to move past safely.
- Temperature checks and hand sanitising will no longer be conducted at the gate, in order to ensure smooth entry into school, although there will still be sanitising stations at each gate should you wish to use them. Children will sanitise their hands on entry to the classroom.
- The staggered entrance and exit times help us to open our doors fully in a safe, orderly and effective manner. We do sincerely hope that these measures will be temporary and we keep a close eye on government recommendations, adjusting our processes accordingly.
- The government has released some information for parents regarding the return to school, you can find it [here](#).

# WRAPAROUND CARE

- We anticipate that both Breakfast Club and After School Care will run as usual in September.
- Breakfast Club starts from 7.30am. Access will be via the hall door.
- After School Care runs until 6.00pm in the Hall.
- Please note that whilst we plan to offer wraparound care as normal, there may be some restrictions on capacity, dependent on evolving government advice.
- As ever, we will continue to evaluate all of our processes and adapt them accordingly to ensure the safety of our school community at all times.



# WHAT NEXT FOR OUR CHILDREN AT BREASIDE?

***As part of our drive to ensure that all students have an uninterrupted educational experience with us, we are giving every student in Year 3 and above their own touchscreen laptop.***

Personal devices open the door to combining online study with face-to-face teaching and learning so the best of each is adopted. It can transform many areas of the education process: student agency and digital portfolios (how can I best showcase my learning?); collaboration (how can I develop my interpersonal skills when working with others in class and around the world); assessment and feedback (how can I learn from immediate and meaningful feedback?)

We have learnt so much throughout the time that our children have been learning at home, and we feel that they now have the skills to be able to take their learning forward to the next level. The use of personal devices will certainly enhance their experience within the classroom, and also give all of them access to remote learning opportunities in the future.



# NEW INITIATIVES FOR NEXT YEAR

## 1-2-1 Devices – How it will work

- Devices will be dedicated to school work, at home and in the classroom
- Software will be installed to make it age appropriate and safe, allowing support to be offered remotely, and ensuring all the required educational applications are included
- Devices will be insured so lost or broken devices can be replaced quickly.
- Investment from Cognita in our infrastructure will be made over the summer and year ahead
- Teachers and students will have access to training and support materials to help them get the most benefit from the device and how it can contribute to a blended education
- Devices should be rolled out in the Autumn Term– more details to follow on the exact timings
  
- The device we have chosen is a HP X360 because:
  - It's a 2-in-1 Laptop/Tablet; Flip and fold with 360° hinge
  - It's durable –it passed 19 US Military Spec durability and reliability tests
  - It has fast charging – 50% in 30 minutes
  - It has long battery life –10-14 hours for typical usage
  - It has dual web cams (screen cam plus keyboard cam for taking videos in tablet mode)
  - It has a full keyboard
  - It has a 13.3" Touchscreen: students can use their finger or a HP PRO Pen to digitally write



# NEW INITIATIVES FOR NEXT YEAR

*During the lockdown period we also took action to develop a number of other initiatives which have enabled us to lead the way in online learning and teaching and we intend to build on this next year.*



- **Masterclasses** - our teachers have benefited from working with global experts on how to build curriculums that offer a **blended educational experience** and how we can approach **assessment** of student's progress in new ways



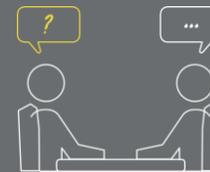
- **Partnerships** - with innovative learning platforms that use artificial intelligence to create adaptive and personalised learning paths for students – more 'books' on our shared 'virtual bookshelf'



- **Wellbeing monitoring** – we will introduce **AS (Affective Social) Tracking**, an adolescent mental health tracking tool that enables schools to identify pupils' hidden risks early. This equips teachers with targeted action plans to reduce pupil mental health and wellbeing risks and is part of our global commitment to putting mental health and wellbeing at the centre of a well-balanced education.



- **Collecting the best content from our global family** - as a Group we are developing an online platform which will host bespoke content curated from our expert educationalists from across our 80 schools. It's early days for this exciting project so more to follow soon.



## **WILL THERE BE AN ANNUAL INCREASE TO FEES NEXT YEAR?**

No. Given the exceptional circumstances, the economic situation and the value that we place on our relationship with our parent cohort, there will be no fee increase for the 2020/21 school year.

## **WILL YOU BE OFFERING BEFORE AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE?**

We will be offering Breakfast Club and After School Care when we return in September. We are planning for this to run as normal, however it will be dependent on government guidance and capacity. Teacher run clubs will also be returning for each year group, though naturally on a slightly reduced timetable to allow for appropriate infection control. Everyone will have the opportunity to attend at least one teacher run club each week.

## **ARE SPORTS, CLUBS & TRIPS RETURNING?**

Yes, where possible. We are keen to return to 'business as usual' as much as possible, and this component of education is important.

Certain non-contact sports are approved, and clubs can generally re-start, although there are some restrictions in the latest guidance that we will work through over the summer.

Domestic trips are permitted, but not residential. We keep a sharp eye on government advice on these topics as guidance changes frequently. We are all hoping that we can get to the pantomime in December!

## **WILL CATERING RETURN TO NORMAL?**

Yes, in the main. We will be operating staggered mealtimes, and apply some other operational safeguards, but we intend to return to catering as it was before as far as we can, within the guidelines. Our Early Years children (Kindergarten, Pre-Prep and Reception) will be continue to be served lunch in their classrooms, as we have been doing this term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this and it will allow more flexibility for the classes.

## **WHAT ABOUT INFECTION CONTROL?**

We will continue our robust cleaning regime next year and work closely with our cleaning staff to ensure every possible risk mitigation is taken.

We are also reviewing our infection control procedures over the Summer to allow us to track confirmed or suspected cases and communicate with parents in the smoothest way possible.

We must remember that children do become unwell for a variety of reasons and that it is most likely to be unrelated to Covid-19. In any case, we will follow all current government advice should any child or adult in school develop symptoms of the virus. This will include the appropriate level of self isolation from school. We urge parents to remain alert for any family member displaying symptoms and ask that you follow the government guidelines very closely to keep everyone in the school community safe.

# FAQS



## WHAT ABOUT LOCAL LOCKDOWNS?

We are planning in detail what happens if the school needs to temporarily close in the case of an outbreak or localised lockdown. If the call comes, we can respond quickly, following a pre-agreed plan.

## WHAT IS YOUR POLICY ON VISITORS?

For the foreseeable future, we will continue to limit visitors on site. Those permitted will be for essential circumstances, for example, to collect a child before pick up time or in an emergency.

We are planning on opening the School Uniform Shop for the new academic year, but opening hours and procedures will be confirmed in September.

As previously, if you would like to speak to any member of staff, you are very welcome to contact us via phone or email... or perhaps even video call!

**Social distancing procedures will remain in place at all times for all visitors.**

## WILL CHILDREN AND STAFF BE EXPECTED TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS ON SITE.

Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools and as such pupils and staff are not required to wear them. Face coverings are primarily worn to prevent the wearer from spreading the virus rather than catching it, please bear in mind that for primary and early years children, they will be uncomfortable to wear and result in more frequent touching of the face.

We will also not require staff to wear masks, aside from in exceptional circumstances.

Whilst we do not prohibit the wearing of masks in school, there is a specific protocol in place for the use of face coverings within educational settings. Please do contact us if you have any questions regarding this.

## WILL PERIPETATIC MUSIC LESSONS BE OFFERED?

Yes. We are planning on offering our usual peri music lessons. However, some lessons will possibly be taking place online or after school. We will also be having some music lessons onsite and during the school day. This is dependent on the type of lesson and the demand for that lesson. Mrs Coop will be in touch in September with further information.

## CAN MY CHILD USE THEIR OWN DEVICE?

We have consciously and purposefully decided against a so-called 'bring your own device' policy. Research indicates that it can have a negative impact because the broad range of devices means teachers spend too much time supporting students to fix issues, a role teachers should not be doing. It also presents a security risk to the school network, will not necessarily be suitable for academic work, and will not always have replacement insurance.

# RETURN TO SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

**100%** of parents agreed that their child benefitted returning to school

**100%** of parents agreed that their family benefitted from the return to school

**98%** of parents agreed that the return to school process was well managed by the school

**98%** of parents agreed every possible risk mitigation that could have been taken was taken by the school

# THANK YOU FOR THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK

- *It has been nothing short of phenomenal, the planning seems to have been meticulous and I cannot express just how much of a difference I have seen in my child since he has returned.*
- *An outstanding job - as always. We never had any doubts returning to school was for the best.*
- *The reopening was organised and parents were kept well informed. Importantly for the youngest children the required measures were implemented in a way which was not intimidating or scary to them and they have therefore adapted well to the changes.*

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