



Building  
together  
for our future.



# Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School

## Back to School: 2021/22

### School Vision Statement

We aim to work together to support each child in reaching their personal and academic potential within a culture of mutual respect

Ms J McAuley  
August 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful summer. We have been fortunate to have enjoyed some spells of very warm summer weather throughout July and August. With the start of school less than a week away, I want to provide you with some updated details regarding the return to school. New guidance was provided to schools by the Department of Education (DE) on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and following consultation with staff, we have reviewed and revised all our Covid protocols and procedures. In the last school year, the measures we had in place were highly effective in reducing transmission of the virus in the school and ensuring a safe, healthy and hygienic school environment for all. The guidance also allows schools to determine the extent to which they employ the use of bubbles, if they proved effective in the 20-21 school year. To that end we have made some revisions and have maintained other measures as well. Ensuring the continued health and safety of children, staff and parents remains paramount. We hope that we will have your continued support and cooperation with all our mitigations as we begin this new academic year.

**Dates of Return:**



*School will re-open for all P2-P7 pupils on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021.*

*Nursery and P1 pupils have been provided with their individual start dates in June 2021.*



**School Day**

a. Arrival

In order to avoid congestion and large gatherings of children and parents near the school gates, we will continue to have staggered start times to the school day. Start times have been arranged alphabetically to allow families, across number of classes, to arrive together. We have reduced the groupings from 5 to 3, to allow all children to be in school by 9am.

Therefore, the following start times are proposed:

8:50am: A- H

8:55am: I-N

9:00am: O-Y

**We would respectfully request that parents do not enter the school building and where possible, that pupils come onto the school grounds independently.** A pathway is available for access to Nursery directly. P1-P3 children will enter school via the large gate between the Nursery building and Key Stage 1 section. All P4-7 children should enter via the main entrance. At each of these entrances sanitising stations will be provided. However, all children and staff should wash their hands on entry to school.

**For those who drive in, there are a number of drop-off points around the turning circle. Parents may pull in to a *drop-off space* to enable *the child only to exit the car* and walk directly into school. Parents should not double park on the turning circle, nor enable pupils to exit cars where pupils are walking through traffic. All parents and pupils should use the pathways provided to ensure their safety.**

For P1 and Nursery parents, who will wish to accompany their child to their entrance, we ask that they park outside the school grounds, in the lay-by or if available in the on-site parking and walk in together.

Pupils and families are asked, if possible, **to use active travel**, such as walking, cycling or scooting to school where it is safe to do so. This carries the lowest risk of transmission of Covid-19 and supports our Active Travel Programme which has been promoted and implemented at the school over the last few years. Information for those who travel on school buses can be found later in the plan.

b. Home-time

In a similar way to the morning, the following protocols will be in place. ***Parents are asked not to enter the school building and to avoid parking in school grounds to avoid congestion.***

Nursery day ends at 11:30am and parents should wait outside, **adhering to appropriate social distancing and avoiding congregating.** Children will be released to their parent/ carer by the class teacher.

P1-P3 children will exit via their classroom cloakrooms and the KS1 gateway. Children will be released to their parents/carers. For the first few weeks of September, as always, P1 will finish @ 12pm, followed by a week when they stay for lunch until 1pm. P1 will stay until 2pm from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

For P1-P3, they will be released at the following times:

P1H: 1:45pm

P1B: 1:50pm

P2F: 1:55pm

P2/3H and P3H: 2:00pm (P3H will exit from the main entrance)

In general children from P4-7 will be able to walk independently from school to meet whoever is collecting them or to walk home as arranged with their parent. Again parents should avoid congregating and adhere to social distancing at all times.

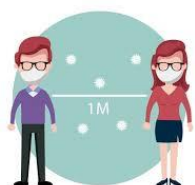
Home times for P4-7 are as follows:

P4O/ P5M: 2:50pm

P5F/ P6O: 2:55pm

P6/7C / P7Y: 3:00pm

### Social Distancing in School



While in school, children will largely remain in bubbles; ensuring consistent group membership to adequately manage the risk of transmission and also allow for contact tracing. The notable exception to this is lunchtime. At this time DE guidance notes that, “schools should no longer need to provide for a classroom based lunch service”. It is our intention that from September children will eat their lunch in the dining hall. There will be approximately 3/ 4 classes in the hall together, seated in their class groups. The dining hall is large and allows for adequate spacing and good ventilation for all.

It is recognised by the DE that “passing in the corridors and short periods of contact does not present a significant risk to staff or pupils”. Classrooms are configured to allow for face-to-face teaching. At this time all adults are required to adhere to 2m social distancing with other adults and children alike.

### Hygiene



As noted in the guidance, “regular and thorough handwashing and attendance to hygiene is recommended”. To this end, we will maintain a regular hygiene routine.

Pupils will be directed to wash their hands on arrival, before eating their snack, prior to lunchtime, on return from any outdoor play/PE activity and after using the toilet as usual. Where necessary, younger children will be supervised when washing their hands.

In June 2020 letters were sent home to parents, which encouraged pupils to bring a small bottle of hand sanitiser to school for personal use. It should be noted this is just a support measure and does not replace regular handwashing. For those children with sensitive skin/

skin conditions, we are happy for children to bring their own soap or hand cream to school for their personal use.

Additionally, we will be emphasising the need for the children to practice good respiratory hygiene. Pupils should ensure they bring a supply of tissues to school and follow the “catch it, bin it, kill it” approach to manage sneezes and coughs in school. We have signage in place in school to remind pupils of this. We will encourage children to avoid touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth and will show them how to cough into their elbow if they don't have a tissue. Pupils will also be encouraged to dispose of used tissues correctly. Your assistance in sharing and discussing these hygiene messages at home will greatly assist in preparing the children for a return to school. In order to ensure hygiene standards are met; it is vital that these messages are shared and revisited.

### Classrooms

DE guidance explains that “there is a relatively low risk of virus transmission associated with surface contacts in school” and therefore ***children may bring their own school bag and pencil case to school.*** With good hygiene measures in place, children will also be able to share resources and therefore we will have pencil pots and supplies for the children to use in school. We will also see the return of pupil homework folders and reading materials going between school and home. “Schools are not required to quarantine items either after shared use in the classrooms or after they have been in a pupil's home”.

In relation to snacks/ packed lunches/ drinks etc it is recommended that these are placed in a plastic lunchbox or a lunchbag that can be washed with warm soapy water on a daily basis. Please ensure that all lunchboxes are labelled with the pupil's name and class.

We encourage all children to bring a bottle of water to school on a daily basis.

### Cleaning



Classrooms will have the regular cleaning frequency (daily, after school hours) and standards implemented. Staff and pupils will assist with the cleaning routines by ensuring that desks and the classroom environment are kept free of clutter.

We are in the very fortunate position that we are in a new building; which has also had a very thorough clean during the summer. In the circumstances where a deep clean is required, this will be performed in line with PHA advice and with EA guidance.

### Movement around the School



For the most part, classes will remain in their specified classrooms. For KS2 classes who have cover lessons with a KS1 teacher, the teacher will come to the classroom for the lesson. For break-times and lunchtime classes will have a designated play area, adjacent to the classroom where they will be able to play.

Within the school and corridors, a one-way system will be in operation (walking on the left at all times). Children and staff will also see signage throughout the school in relation to handwashing, hygiene, social distancing and reminders of symptoms. It is hoped that these measures will further educate the children about the importance of good hygiene practices.

### Blended Learning/ Homework



In the event that children are absent from school due to shielding or where they, or a member of the household, are exhibiting symptoms and are required to self-isolate, then these children will be supported via remote learning.

*“As in normal circumstances, if pupils are ill they should take time to rest and recover and should not be working from home. If an individual child or a small number of pupils within a class or across a year group have to isolate for a designated period due to Covid-19, the Department has advised that parents should talk directly to their school about provision of education materials.” (DE, August 21)*

In Nursery – P2/3 classes will be using Seesaw while P3H-P7 will use Microsoft Teams. If any parent has concerns about aspects of online learning, specifically IT provision, we would encourage you to make contact with the school.

### Outdoor Play equipment



We are in the fortunate position that the new school has provision for outdoor equipment, including a Nursery/ P1 play area, a teaching courtyard for KS1 and play equipment for KS2. It is generally accepted that the outdoor environment can provide a rich learning experience for pupils and, by being outside transmission of the virus can be

reduced. Given that the equipment has multiple touch points, it is proposed that to enable pupils to use equipment we will implement a timetable across the week. Appropriate hygiene (washing hands before and after use) and cleaning measures will be taken between groups using the equipment.

### Pupil Attendance

## SCHOOL Attendance

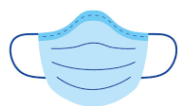
It should be emphasised that children who exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school. Should a pupil become unwell while at school, exhibiting symptoms (continuous cough, high temperature, a change in sense of taste or smell) a clear procedure has been outlined for all schools to follow; which will include isolating the child to a safe place and contacting the parent immediately to collect from school.

New procedures and flow charts are being implemented by EA/ DE for those children who are close contacts of a positive case. In all situations we will follow the appropriate PHA guidance.

It is therefore essential that each parent ensures that the contact details provided for your child are correct and up-to-date. Parents should come to the main entrance to collect their child.

Similarly, if your child develops symptoms while at home and is therefore absent from school, parents should make the school aware of this via telephone. This will allow the school to take appropriate measures in school and follow the correct protocols.

### PPE/ Face Coverings



It is strongly recommended that all pupils, regardless of age, wear a face covering on buses and taxis for the journey to school; where it is appropriate and they can use them as directed.

Face coverings will be worn in the staff room and during adult-adult meetings lasting more than 15 minutes.

All adults visiting the school site must wear a face covering.

Staff and pupils may wish to use face coverings during the school day and this is acceptable.

## Nursery/ Foundation Stage



Children at this stage learn best through well-planned play which is interactive, practical and enjoyable. A large part of the foundation stage (that is Primary 1 and 2) curriculum, engages children in play which is investigative, collaborative and develops knowledge and understanding. Children in the foundation stage will continue to experience and enjoy practical, play activities during the school day. We will continue to promote regular handwashing during the school day, placing attention on hygiene practices and messages.

## Transport



We encourage pupils, where possible to use active travel on their journey to school. Pupils who travel on a school bus are strongly recommended to wear face coverings on their bus/ taxi journey.

If any parent has any questions or concerns, please do make contact with your child's class teacher either via telephone call or by emailing the school. We are keen to maintain excellent communication with parents and as always encourage you to keep abreast of information through the school website ([www.braidside.co.uk](http://www.braidside.co.uk)), Facebook page and text messages/ app alerts.

We are really looking forward to beginning a new academic year and to seeing the children start in their new classes. We have new pupils joining in Nursery, P1 and in various classes throughout the school and we hope they will enjoy their first few days at Braidside.

Thank you and Welcome Back!!

*Julie McAuley*