

WestbridgeAcademy

Bolingbroke Walk
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SW11 3NE

Tel: 020 72281293

Email: office@westbridgestepacademy.org

Website: www.westbridgestepacademy.org

Twitter: @WestbridgeAcad

Headteacher: Diane Thompson

Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Westbridge Reopening in September 2020

I hope that you and your loved ones continue to remain safe and well.

It has definitely been an unusual and challenging time for us all over the last few months and I know you and your children will have questions regarding the reopening of Westbridge in September 2020.

Following on from the publication by the government regarding the return of children to school in September 2020, I am delighted to provide you with information regarding how Westbridge Academy will operate.

In line with government guidelines, we will welcome all children from **Year R to Year 6** back to school on **Thursday 3rd September 2020**.

Nursery children will return to school during the week beginning 21st of September 2020. We will send further information to the parents of Nursery children in a separate letter at the beginning of the new term.

In order to keep our school community safe, while adhering to government guidelines, we will make some changes to our school routines and procedures.

Please ensure that you discuss the changes with your children, as this will alleviate any concerns they may have and enable us to make the return to school as smooth as possible.

Beginning and end of school day

In order to maintain social distancing, we will change our routines at the start and end of the school day.

There will be staggered times for drop off and pick up:

Year group	Beginning and end of school day	Playground
Year R	9am – 3pm	Year R playground
Year 1	9am – 3pm	KS1 playground
Year 2	9am – 3pm	KS1 playground
Year 3	8.45am – 3.15pm	KS2 playground
Year 4	8.45am – 3.15pm	KS2 playground
Year 5	8.45am – 3.15pm	KS2 playground
Year 6	8.45am – 3.15pm	KS2 playground
Nursery	The start of term will begin the week beginning 21st of September 2020	

In order to keep the entire school community safe, it is essential that you:

- Take full responsibility for ensuring that you and your children are socially distancing from other families
- Arrive promptly for your allotted drop off and pick up time
- Leave the playground promptly once you have dropped off/collected your children
- Ensure that one adult per family drops off and collects children

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Class groups

Each year group (of up to 30 children) will remain together throughout the day and will not mix with children from other phase groups.

Phase groups

Where needed, phase groups will be allowed together. Phase groups will contain a maximum of two classes e.g. Nursery and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 and Year 5 and Year 6.

Break time

Each phase group will play in a designated area to maintain social distancing and avoid coming into contact with other groups.

Lunch time

We will stagger lunch times to maintain social distancing and avoid different phase groups coming into contact with each other.

Extended clubs

In order to avoid different year groups coming into contact with each other, breakfast, after school and extended clubs are cancelled until further notice.

Uniform

All children are expected to wear our full school uniform each day. If there are genuine extenuating circumstances that may prevent your child from wearing an item of school uniform temporarily, please inform a member of staff.

Curriculum

Our curriculum will focus on supporting children's health & wellbeing, new routines, co-operative learning and introducing our new academy values (PUPAC).

In the Early Years, we will also focus on:

- The prime areas of learning (including communication and language, personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and physical development)
- Addressing gaps in language, phonics and maths

And in KS1 and KS2, we will focus on:

- Addressing gaps in phonics, reading, writing and maths
- Developing knowledge and vocabulary

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General support and preventative measures

- Children will wash their hands on arrival and will wash their hands regularly throughout the day, taking note of the hand washing posters, which are displayed next to the hand washing facilities.
- Children will be reminded about the importance of hygiene (hand washing and catching their sneezes in tissues or their upper sleeve, if tissue is not available, etc.) and how to take precautions, while remaining positive.
- Children will be reminded to maintain a safe social distance from children who are not in their year group and adults at all times (though we recognise that there are occasions where this will be difficult to do so).
- All learning spaces will contain tissues and hand sanitizer (if access to soap and water is not readily available).
- Westbridge is cleaned on a daily basis, with high touch points (door handles and stair rails, etc.) cleaned at least twice each day.
- The school building will be separated into zones and groups of children will only be able to access their specific part of the building, which includes bathroom facilities, corridors and playgrounds.
- Children will be encouraged to walk on the left-hand side of the corridor.
- Movement will be reduced around the school - groups will spend the majority of their time in their own classroom during the day.
- Children will be provided with their own set of stationery (e.g. pencils and pens).
- Other resources that are needed for activities (e.g. sports, art and science equipment) can be shared and will be cleaned between groups using them.
- Children will sit at the same table, within their group, where possible.
- Outdoor equipment/apparatus/play equipment/climbing frames will not be used unless it has been cleaned between each group.
- If a child, or member of staff reports that they feel unwell on the school premises, we will make arrangements for them to go home as soon as possible.

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

To protect others, you must stay at home if you or someone you live with has symptoms of coronavirus. You should NOT attend school.

If you, your child, or anyone you live with has the following symptoms you and your entire household must follow the official guidance to stay at home:

- A new, continuous cough and/or
- A high temperature above 37.5 degrees
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If an individual has symptoms of coronavirus, they must self-isolate for 7 days.

If a member of your household has symptoms, then all household members (including all children) must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household showed symptoms.

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If a child displays symptoms of coronavirus while at school, they will be discreetly separated from their group and you will be asked to collect them immediately from school.

Please contact NHS 111 online or call 111 for further support and advice regarding the coronavirus.

Shielding

Shielding is for people, including children, who are at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19). Shielding children should NOT attend school. If a child is shielding or lives with a family member who is shielding (clinically extremely vulnerable – those with a GOV. letter) they should not be in school. We will continue to provide home learning resources for children who are shielding.

Travelling abroad

Please inform the school office, if you, your children, or any members of your household are planning to travel abroad during the summer holiday.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank you for being a wonderful school community!

Despite the uncertainty and changes, you have:

- Remained positive and have supported us through our transfer to STEP Academy Trust; the phased return of our Year 6, Year 1 and Year R children; and the continuous provision for our key worker families.
- Followed all of our safety procedures and social distancing expectations and to date we have not had any reported cases of COVID-19 at Westbridge.
- Worked hard to provide structure and quality home learning for your children – we appreciate that adapting to this new way of working may have been difficult for a variety of reasons.

It has been wonderful to see so many children return for their transition day this week – we cannot wait for all of our children to return to us in September 2020, when we reopen as STEP Westbridge Academy.

If you have any questions regarding reopening in September, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone, or email.

For further information regarding government guidelines on school reopening in September 2020, please use this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-and-colleges-to-reopen-in-full-in-september>

Thank you for your continued support. Have a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Thompson
Headteacher