

September Arrangements

Dear Families,

Today you have received a letter from our CEO, Nick Blackburn, outlining the overarching plans and principles for our Trust with regard to September. This letter aims to provide you with some detail around the operational arrangements for our school. These arrangements have been drawn up in line with all government guidelines for schools.

As Nick shared, we understand some of the anxieties that families are feeling, but have done all we can to ensure that not only is our school as safe as can be – but also as fun, 'normal' and happy as possible. Those children who joined us for the end of the summer term have had a fabulous time – my own daughter included! I'm not sure that she wants to return to her own school in September!

New parents

For our new parents, I am so saddened that the pandemic has prevented us from carrying out our usual transition arrangements. Additionally, our planned 'Launch Party', on Tuesday 8th Sept 1-3pm will now not be able to take place. Since our initial planning, we now know that government advice remains for September that parents and carers will not be allowed in to the school building. This means that for some children (particularly those moving to the area), they will never have seen the school site before. If your child is anxious about starting school, and you feel that they would benefit from a walk around the external site with you, please let us know and we can arrange a 'slot' for the original Tuesday afternoon. If your child currently attends Jigsaw – they know the site, and this will most likely not be required. Slots will be limited, so please only request one if you know your child will need this. Please request a slot by emailing squest@cambraiprimaryschool.co.uk Hopefully, at some point in the new school year, we'll be able to throw open our doors to new and old parents to finally welcome you all in and give you all a tour of our building! I hope that the virtual tours, Zoom meeting and phone calls have helped.

Our Classes and Staffing

Reception	Year 1
Teacher: Mrs. Guest Support: Mrs. Watson Support: Mrs. Baker	Teacher: Mr. Marshall Support: Mrs. Simpson Support: Mrs. Maguire

We are also excited to share that from September, we will also have a specialist music teacher who will be teaching each class for a lesson each week.

Entry and Exit Points

Please enter your classrooms via the individual classroom door.

Reception class parents will enter the site via the MUGA gate, off the car park. A member of staff will be waiting in the MUGA to explain where to go. At home time, parents will wait on the MUGA and staff will bring your child to you. Please remember to space out and observe the social distancing rules.

Year 1 parents will enter the site by going around the building to the year 1 classroom (following the route as used this term). This classroom is on the side of the building facing the main road. At home time, staff will bring your child to the courtyard area in front of the main entrance. This allows plenty of space for social distancing of parents and carers.

The paths around the school are wide enough for parents to socially distance as you walk. To support us with this, please can only one adult accompany their child past the car park. We ask that parents from different households do not travel together in cars.

Things to bring and wear

After the summer holidays, we expect children to return to school in full school uniform – including black school shoes: if possible, ensure these have Velcro fastenings, to avoid staff having to fasten 30 pairs of shoes! Orders for banded school uniform can be purchased from our school website, if you wish. Orders for September do, however, close soon, so please be quick! Please see our brochure on the school website or the parent section of the website for details of our school uniform expectations.

We also ask all children to bring a water bottle and a pair of wellies – both stay at school to avoid them being lost in transit!

In September, we will also be able to begin formal PE lessons in our hall and outside. We ask that your child has a PE kit in school (plain white T-shirt and black shorts and plimsolls), in a small bag that can hang on their pegs.

Children in reception will be provided with a free school book bag. My top tip is to choose a key ring to go on the handle so your child can recognise their bag quickly amongst a sea of bookbags!

Children in Year 1 can again, resume bringing their book bags back to school. Year 1 parents – please can all school books be returned in September in your child's book bag. Please make sure that they are all returned as they are very expensive to replace. We have lists of which books are with which families, if you need any assistance with this.

PLEASE LABEL ALL UNIFORM AND PE KITS!

PPE will not be worn by children or staff, unless dealing with a suspected case of COVID and social distancing cannot be maintained. We want school to feel as 'normal' as possible for our children and the government do not advise PPE to be routinely worn in schools.

'Bubbles'

A significant feature of the government's planning is that of 'bubbles'. Each class is a 'bubble', along with their staff. Children from each bubble cannot meet or play together, which for such a family school is very sad – but safety must come first – and this will not be forever! As such, children will each lunch in their dedicated classrooms, or dedicated outdoor areas and play in separate zones. These zones will change over the days and weeks, so that over time, all children can access our full site – and brand new play zone! There will be a minimum of 72 hours break between each zone change to minimise any cross contamination between groups. Before the school hall is used by each bubble for PE activities, it will be thoroughly cleaned and used on different days. Each bubble will also have their own toilet block.

Whilst we will be mindful of where children are placed and where they are working, children in the youngest classes are not expected to socially distance from each other, by the government, school or Trust. Children can play, work and enjoy school together. Staff will not touch children unnecessarily, but will comfort children who are upset and change those who need it. Their emotional needs are of utmost importance to us – and to you as parents and carers.

Please ensure that children wash their hands as they leave home for school – and upon arriving home. Within each bubble, children will be required to wash their hands regularly, in conjunction with all resources and furniture being washed more regularly than usual. Good hygiene is key in ensuring settings are as safe as possible during this time. Changing uniform as often as you are able, will also help.

COVID Cases

Whilst we hope that there is never a confirmed case of COVID in our school, we do have tight Trust-wide procedures in place to deal with this situation. This may mean that a 'bubble' may have to be closed for a period of self-isolation. This is the case with all schools in the country – and all schools are following the same strict procedures around this. Most importantly, if your child or a member of our household are displaying COVID symptoms, you must not send your child to school and inform us immediately. If your child or family are offered a COVID test, we ask you to take this opportunity – as confirmed case tracking is the key to ensuring that we beat this virus as a country and making schools as safe as possible.

Attendance

The government has confirmed that attendance at school will be compulsory from the new school year for all children.

Lastly, I just want to thank you all for your kind words during the time I have been absent on paternity leave. Faith is doing brilliantly, and importantly... she is a sleeper! Thank you so much for the lovely cards too – my wife, Nieve and I really appreciated them.

Please continue to stay safe, and as always, thank you for being part of our Cambrai family.

Take good care, and have a wonderful summer holiday. We can't wait to see you all in September.



Mr. M. Dent
Executive Headteacher
Cambrai Primary School