



Gorse Covert Primary School  
Gorse Covert Road  
Birchwood WA3 6TS  
Headteacher: Mrs C Cooke



## September Plans

Dear Parents

It was only Thursday when the guidance came out to schools for September and so plans are not yet finalised and are subject to change. However, this is our current thinking which I thought would be useful to share.

### Bubbles

The main aim of the guidance is to **minimise contacts**. This is so that if a child was found to have Covid-19, the whole school would not have to be closed. In our new ways of working we would have clear knowledge of who the child had been in contact with during a given time period in school.

To ensure we have this knowledge, we will be minimising contact between classes. However, due to mixed age classes we appreciate that there are children in other classes, but the same year group, that children would want to have some contact with. For this reason, we will be ensuring that **departments** operate in bubbles, whilst still minimising the contact between classes within the department. There is not an expectation to socially distance in classes but we will encourage this as much as possible.

The departments will be:

EYFS

Infants (Y1 and Y2)

Middles (Y3 and Y4)

Uppers (Y5 and Y6)

This means that if we are able to have break times outside then children from the same year group can play together as their break times will be the same. Outside is known to be much safer for limiting the spread of the virus.

### Enhanced cleaning routines

- The enhanced routines for handwashing will continue.
- Children will be reminded about 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.
- Sharing of equipment between classes and departments will be minimised. Where sharing is inevitable, there will be increased cleaning.

### Staggered starts and finishes

To minimise the number of people in one place at any one time, we will be continuing with staggered start and finish times. During this term we have been able to evaluate how well this

system has been working and we believe we can reduce the time between classes arriving and finishing to 10 minutes instead of 15.

- You will therefore be given a time of 8.50-2.50, 9-3, or 9.10-3.10. In September there will be considerably more people on the playground so it is imperative that people do not arrive too early or are late.
- It should continue to only be one adult that comes with the child and if possible, older children should be left at the gate to come onto the playground themselves.
- It may not be possible to align all siblings to the same start and finish time but there won't be more than a 20 minute wait in between. If you have children in the first and last group and are unable to wait for 20 minutes, please speak to the class teacher or senior leader.
- There will be a designated waiting area for each year group of parents and we are likely to continue bringing the children out in alphabetical order to ensure speedy collection.
- Parents should leave the premises as soon as children have been collected. The play areas will not be in use before or after school.
- Teachers will not be available for conversations when collecting classes of children. Therefore any urgent messages should be written down and passed to the teacher or communicated with the office.

### **School Meals**

We will be working with catering services and hope to provide a hot meal in September for those that want one. To ease the number of children in the hall at any one time, junior children who have a packed lunch will eat them in the classroom. Hot meals will be eaten in the hall. There will also be staggered lunch times to prevent department bubbles mixing.

### **School uniform**

We will be expecting children to wear uniform again in September so if you need any new items from school, please email any orders to [office@gorsecovertsch.co.uk](mailto:office@gorsecovertsch.co.uk) You should be able to pay for items on ParentPay. All orders should be placed by Friday 10th July.

### **Home learning**

There will not be an option of home learning in September as all children are expected to attend school. However, if children have to be home for an isolation period due to Covid symptoms or there is a local lockdown, there will be some home learning provided on Google Classroom. In the event of a local lockdown or a whole bubble has to isolate, daily work will be set and there is an expectation the work will be completed. We are keen to ensure that there are no more lost days of education due to Covid-19. Staff will call to check that you are not having problems, should work not be submitted or is not of a standard expected for your child.

### **Communication**

Parents can continue to communicate with school by telephoning the school office or emailing [office@gorsecovertsch.co.uk](mailto:office@gorsecovertsch.co.uk) Please use these methods to pass on messages about your child. Class teachers will not be regularly monitoring Google Classroom so messaging teachers on there is not the quickest way to communicate with them. They will continue to post homework on there and may share other class related messages on the stream.

Any other significant changes to the above procedures will be shared with you when available. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

C Cooke  
Headteacher