



# CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

**Home of Bright Sparks**

Chesswood Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 2AA

**Head Teacher: Mr Andrew Jolley**

[www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk)

[office@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk)

Tel: Worthing (01903) 204141/2



Thursday, 02 September 2021

## September Organisation - 'Back to Normal'

Dear Parent,

When children return to school next week, we will be well into Step 4 of the government's roadmap. This phase involves the country moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. This means there will be a number of changes to school organisation and to the way the school manages the risks Covid-19 presents. As Covid becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September.

Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

The following information communicates the key changes in practice as we return to a more 'normal' approach to life at Chesswood.

**However, in line with government advice, changes to this information may be implemented and communicated in the event of an outbreak (see below).**

### Autumn Term Dates

Children will return to school on **Monday 6th September**.

For a full list of term dates, please see the school website –

[Parents > Term Dates and Inset Days](#)

### School Day

- Start of the day
  - 8.50 start for all children
    - Gates open at 8.30am.

DREAM ASPIRE ACHIEVE



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- Children to be on school premises for 8.45am ready for an 8.50am start in class.
- Children can use either gate to access the school premises (Chesswood Road pedestrian entrance or Ladydell Road entrance).
- End of the day
  - 3.15pm finish for all children.
  - Parents can enter the school premises to collect their children. The Chesswood Road pedestrian entrance will open at 3.05pm. Ladydell Road gate opens at 3.15pm
    - Year 3 – please collect children from the lower playground where children will be released from the external classroom doors.
    - Year 4 – parents should arrange a suitable place on the school playgrounds to meet their children, ensuring children know where they will be collected.
    - Year 5 and 6 – as Year 4 – unless parents allow children to walk home alone having talked them through the risks and expectations e.g. road safety (where and how to cross safely).
  - Children can leave via either gate (Chesswood Road pedestrian entrance or Ladydell Road entrance).

The school timetable can be found on the school website –

[Parents > Timetables](#)

## Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children should attend school unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.

## Bubbles

- Bubbles will no longer be used from September
  - This allows for greater flexibility in curriculum delivery.



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- Assemblies will resume – a core part of the curriculum and sense of community at Chesswood.

## Tracing Contacts

- Schools will no longer be required to do contact tracing.
- As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

## Face Coverings

- Face coverings are no longer advised for staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.
- Staff and visitors may wear face coverings if they personally choose to, especially in crowded areas. They will not be worn by staff in classrooms – however, face shields remain an option for staff in classrooms.

## PE Kit

As part of the school's risk assessment and control measures during the pandemic, children have attended school in their PE kits on the days that they have PE. This was to prevent mixing of bubbles when classes separated boys and girls when changing. This has had a positive impact on the time available for PE so will now be part of normal practice. **Children must wear their PE kits on the days they have PE from September onwards.**

A PE timetable is available on the school website.

[Parents > Timetables](#)

## Clubs

A full range of clubs are planned from September. Further information, including a timetable of clubs and the application process, will be circulated in September.

## Ongoing Control Measures

There is and will be an ongoing risk from Covid-19. To reduce this risk, we will –

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- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
  - Hand hygiene
    - Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is now regular practice at Chesswood. We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This will be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
  - Respiratory hygiene
    - The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
  - We will maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This will include regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
  - When school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable learning environment is maintained.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
  - Pupils, staff and other adults must follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

## **Outbreak Management**

We will work with West Sussex health officials if there is an outbreak in school. This is defined as having several confirmed cases within a 14-day period (health officials will support the school in defining 'several' if and when this is required as this depends on the size of the school and the nature of the outbreak).

We may also become subject to an enhanced response package if government identify the local area to be of particular concern. In such an instance, a response package will be introduced to help limit increases in transmission.

Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children, any measures in schools will only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible. Such measures may include -



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- Use of face-coverings
- Use of 'bubbles' – for a temporary period to reduce mixing between groups
- Staggering of drop-off and collection
- One-way systems to minimise contact

As ever, we will seek to ensure high quality face-to-face teaching and learning for the overwhelming majority of children at Chesswood – keeping disruption to an absolute minimum. We appreciate your support in taking sensible measures to enable us to maintain this approach.

Yours sincerely

*J. Himsworth*

Jez Himsworth

Deputy Head