

Brooke Primary Academy

Weekly News

Today marks the end of our fifth week of the summer term and the start of half term. We hope that our Brooke Primary families remain safe, happy and healthy.

School reopening to wider groups update

Following guidance from Doncaster Local Authority, in line with other Doncaster schools, VENN Academy Trust have made the difficult decision for Brooke to remain closed to all children apart from those of critical workers and vulnerable children from the 1st June.

The recommendations made by Mayor Ros Jones can be found here <https://brookeprimaryacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Letter-to-School-Headteachers-SafeOpeningOfSchoolson1stJune.pdf>

Critical workers and parents of vulnerable children

Following the Prime Ministers announcement on the 10th May we are aware that more critical worker parents will be returning to work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Please can **ALL** critical worker and parents of vulnerable children (EHCP, social care involvement, other vulnerable children identified by school) complete this **survey** by Wednesday 27th May to allow me to plan staffing from 1st June. <https://forms.gle/asfBJqakh1uBFM489>

Details for eligible children

- Children should bring a packed lunch and labelled water bottle each day
- Do not need to wear school uniform but should wear suitable clothing for outdoor activities, which can be washed easily.
- Opening hours are 8.40am – 3.00pm each day. We are not able to offer breakfast or 3-2-6 club at present.
- School leaders will direct you to drop off and pick up points
- Children should limit what they bring into school – a PE kit is NOT required.

Reopening preparations

I am informed of matters related to schools at the same time as parents, which in this case was today. There continues to be a lot of speculation regarding when schools will reopen to wider groups or at all before the summer holiday.

In the meantime, staff will continue to work hard to put in place safety measures for the current children attending and for when we open to more children.

I am currently updating the risk assessment, which will be available to you on our academy website. This applies for the current situation and will be updated further once we are able to open to more children.

It is extremely important that the safety of the children and staff is prioritised and that plans reflect measures to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19. However, as a teacher and parent the emotional wellbeing of the children and staff is such a priority to me.

As a parent, like me you may be worried about how your child will cope with the measures we have put in place. I have heard stories of children being given designated areas on playgrounds to play in, a 'military' style formality to school where children are 'policed' to ensure they keep 2m apart, and other worrying situations that prioritise safety but neglect emotional wellbeing. I am realistic and know that children find it difficult to apply social distancing measures, and this is reflected in my risk assessment.

Although we have put in place measures to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19, everything we do in school will be applied with **kindness** and **care**. We will **support** the children to keep safe and teach them about why certain measures are needed, ensuring that they understand rather than worry. Yes, children will be allocated their own desk which will be 2m away from another child, however this won't alarm the children as we will be completing lots of lovely learning activities and spending time outside to enjoy the fresh air and good weather. Once outside the children will be gently reminded about social distancing and we will provide activities that support this, such as individual skipping ropes, badminton rackets and hoppers, that are used on an individual or pair basis. The nature of these activities require children to play separately and can be cleaned thoroughly afterwards.

I can assure you that we will not apply anything that I would not be happy with for my own daughter. My daughter has been attending Brooke since lockdown to allow me to continue to come into school and she had a lovely time meeting new friends, safely.

Home Learning and support during school closure



Whilst we remain closed Brooke staff will continue to prepare the school to make it as safe as possible so that we are ready to open once we are given the go ahead.

Whilst we remain closed to the majority of children we will continue to provide:

1. weekly Zoom virtual circle time to ALL year groups (now including F1)
2. weekly Home Learning activities including:
 - a weekly PowerPoint of daily activities including Maths, English and Topic (separate fun activities are available for half term)
 - Weekly Purple Mash activities
 - Weekly updates on our twitter page to sign post parents to other useful learning and welfare resources
 - Charanga (music) activities (if you require access for your child please email Mr England at the email address below)
3. A weekly welfare call to check in with parents and children (this will not happen next week during half term)

As previously mentioned, if you need any further support or guidance, including additional home learning activities for your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Please ring the school or email BR-admin@vennacademy.org

Provision for the Summer holidays

I am uncertain whether we will be able to keep the school open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children over the summer holiday (Monday 20th July onwards).



We are currently considering whether we can open 3-2-6 club. This is a chargeable service available to all parents and carers. If you need to use this service please ring us on 01405 812200 or email BR-adin@vennacademy.org by Friday 5th June. Provision will be based on uptake. We will then let you know if we are able to offer this.

Please see last week's newsletter for information regarding:

- Transition
- Zoom session timetable
- Change of day consultation

I will continue to provide updates through the weekly newsletter and hope to share information about further reopening soon. School staff are all missing the children greatly and we look forward to welcoming them back as soon as we are informed we are able to do so.

Have a wonderful half term holiday.

Stay safe



Mrs Emma Levers
Head of School