Bridestowe Primary School
Bridestowe
Okehampton Devon EX20 4EL
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www.bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk

Acting Head of School: Mr A Hill

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your children back to school. It will be a relief and pleasure to get back to some sort of normality whilst ensuring the safety and enjoyment of the children. I have outlined the details of our return to school below in line with Government guidance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school in the coming days.

Dates:
All children will return to school on **Monday 8th March.**

Attendance:
The Government expects all pupils to attend school from **Monday 8th March 2021**.

If your child is not able to attend for any reason, please contact the school office to let them know before 8.45am.

Those who were previously considered vulnerable or who were shielding can attend. We will update individual risk assessments for any children with health conditions which place them in the vulnerable groups. The only exception to this is children who have been advised by a specialist medical professional not to attend school for health reasons.
If your child is unwell, has any Covid symptoms, or is subject to quarantine having been abroad, please contact the school office and do not send them to school.

Wellbeing
We understand that for some children the prospect of returning to school after such a long absence may be daunting. Please be assured that we respect this and supporting their wellbeing and resilience is our main priority. Our aim is to quickly make children feel safe and secure in their school environment whilst keeping the health and safety controls from last term in place. Children will have the opportunity to discuss their experiences of home learning and getting settled back into the school routine.

School bubble and micro-bubbles
The school is considered to be one 'bubble'. However, we are taking additional precautions by splitting the school into three 'micro-bubbles' which will be the children's class groups (Owlets and Tawny Owls will be one bubble). Each micro-bubble will have their own teaching space, toilet and break/lunch times. Please see appendix A for more details.

Drop off and pick up:
To ensure minimum contact between parents and mixing of groups, each class has a specific entry and exit point from the school. Owlets and Tawny Owls will enter and exit via the front gate. Snowy and Barn Owls will enter and exit via the back gate. Children will go straight into the classrooms and begin an early morning activity with their teacher.
Where possible, parents should leave their children at the gate. If it is absolutely necessary for a parent to come onto the playground, they must wait until it is safe to leave at a social distance of 2 metres. **We are asking parents to be considerate of others and maintain social distancing at all times.**

At the end of the day, each class will have a specific area to be collected from. When collecting your child, please wait in the areas marked on the map in Appendix B. Please observe social distancing when waiting to collect your child. Please note, for children in Year 4 or below we must see a responsible adult to hand over to.
Drop off and collection times will be as normal, 8.50am and 3.15pm.

Social distancing:
Visitors to school will be limited to 'essential' and only via appointment through the school office. Staff will remain 2m apart from each other and the children. Where staff are required to be in closer proximity to children, PPE will be utilised. The government recommends that social distancing is not required between Primary aged pupils and that stringent cleaning and hygiene measures are the suggested approach for virus prevention management.

What to wear and bring:
We will be returning to the expectation of full school uniform. Details of this can be found on our school website including the online shop https://www.bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk/school-uniform.html. PE kit will be necessary in addition to uniform and school shoes. As always, please ensure your child is prepared for weather conditions with a coat, sun hat and sun cream applied *at home* as necessary.

If your child has grown significantly since their last attendance and their uniform no longer fits, please get in contact with the school.

School lunches:
School lunches will resume and need to be booked through the app as normal. **Morning snack should be a piece of fruit/healthy snack.** Please ensure your child has a drinks bottle.

In the classroom:
There is no expectation for social distancing between children in the classroom. Staff will maintain a 2-metre distance from children and one another.
Children will be seated in forward facing rows so that they are not face to face. Each child will have their dedicated seat which they will use throughout the day. A stationery pack will be provided for each child which will be for their use only. Wider resources, such as maths equipment, will be shared by the class but not across classes. These resources will be cleaned regularly as will the tables, chairs and surfaces regularly touched, such as door handles.

Breaktimes and lunchtimes:
Each group will have a dedicated breaktime. There may be two groups on the playground at a time with a distance between them. Breaktimes will be supervised by a teaching assistant to allow the teacher to have a comfort break. Children will be allowed to play together but will be asked to choose games that minimise close personal contact. Each group will have a set of equipment which is cleaned at the end of the playtime. The climbing frame will not be used as this cannot be easily cleaned between groups.

Lunch will be eaten in classrooms with lunch break following the same format as morning breaktime. Please see appendix D for more details.

Illness and first aid:
If a child becomes ill (non-virus symptoms) normal procedures will apply. The staff will make a judgement about their fitness to be in school and contact parents as needed. When caring for someone who is ill or administering first aid, staff will wear PPE such as a face mask, gloves and an apron.

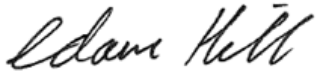
If a child, or adult, displays virus symptoms (as described by current guidance) they will be isolated in a quarantine room. Parents/carers will be contacted immediately to collect their child and will be required to have them tested for Covid-19. If a case of Covid-19 is confirmed, we will follow the advice provided by Public Health England.

Cleaning and health and safety:
We have considered all aspects of the health and safety of our children very closely. All staff will be very aware of the procedures in place whilst parents and children will be informed as needed. All classrooms will be cleaned daily to ensure we minimise potential virus spread.

We will be ensuring the safety and emotional wellbeing of all children when they return to school before progressing with any learning. There is a separate letter addressed to the children which you should read with your child before they return to school.

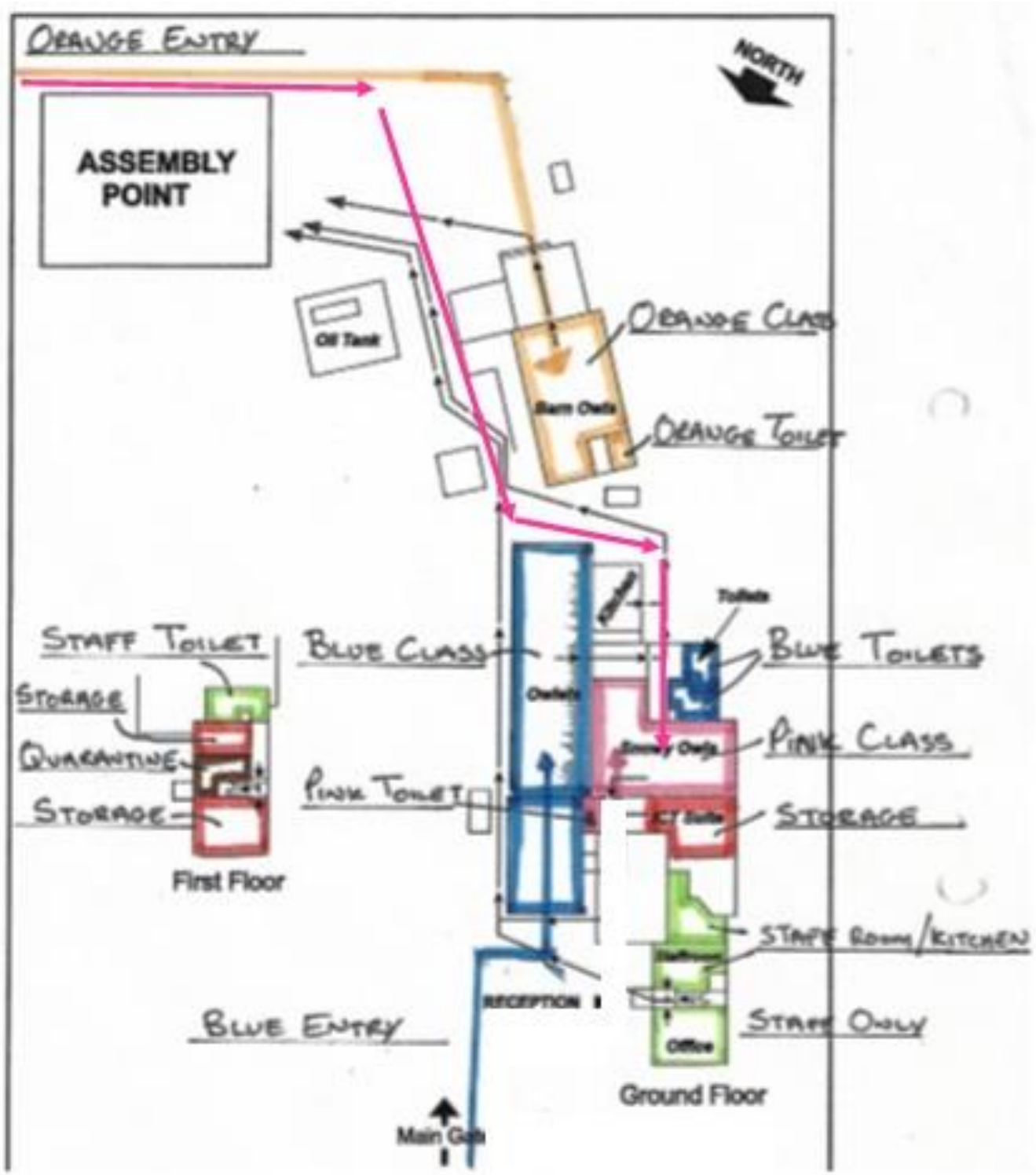
If you have any questions, please do no hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

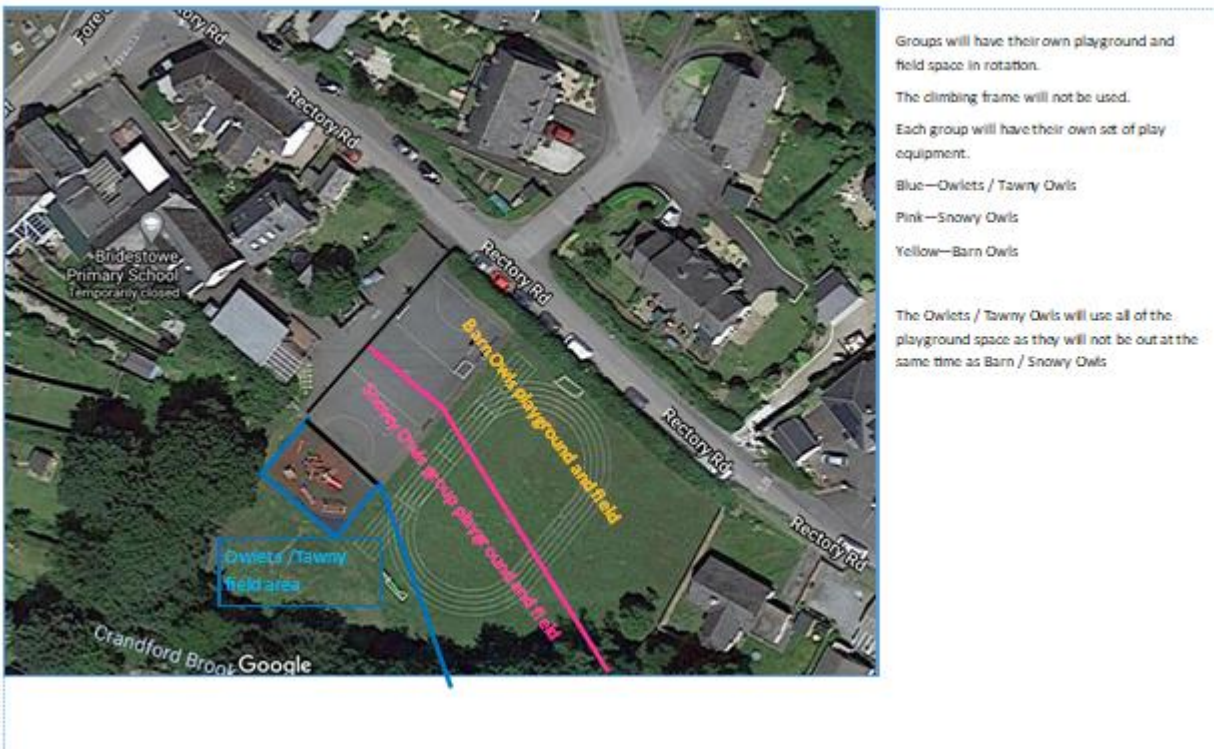


Adam Hill
Head of School

Appendix A: Classroom and toilet map



Appendix B: Playground map



- Children will have staggered playtimes
- Climbing frame will not be used
- Each group will have their own set of play equipment.

Appendix C: Drop off and collection map

Arriving and leaving school procedure

Please arrive at the specified time: 8.50am

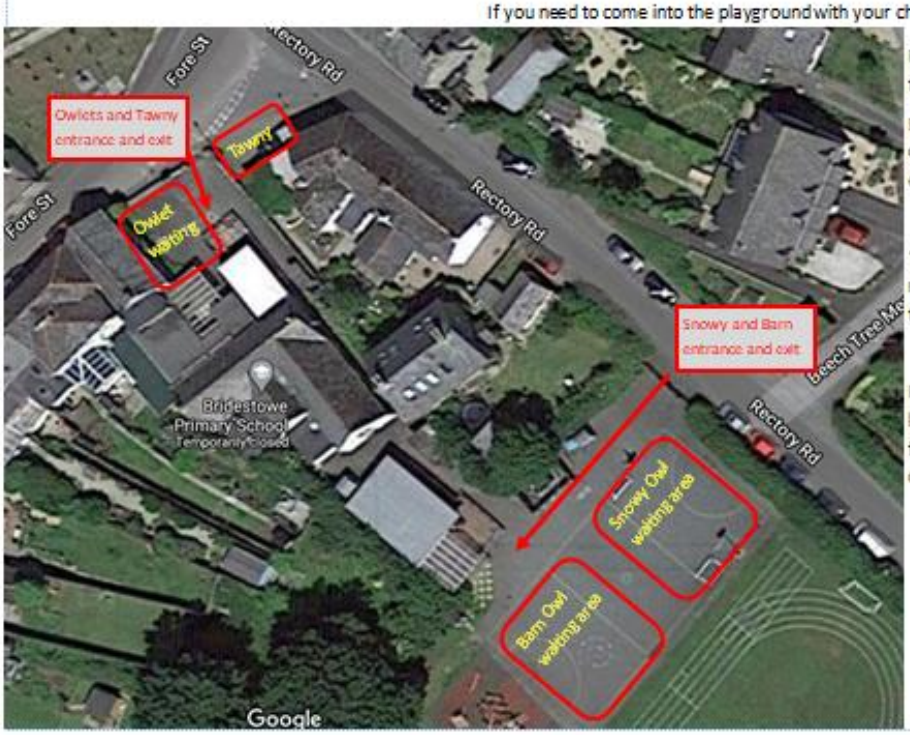
If you are late, please wait until 9am before entering.

Owlets and Tawny Owls will enter and leave via the front gate.

Snowy and Barn Owls will enter and leave via the back gate

Please leave your child at the gate where possible in the morning.

If you need to come into the playground with your child, please wait until it is safe to leave.



Please collect your children at the specified time: 3.15

Please wait for your child outside the gates or in the areas shown and observe social distancing.

*For all children Year 4 and below, we need to visually see an adult to release them to.

Parents, carers and visitors will not be allowed into the school building unless performing essential tasks for the safe running of the school.

Appendix D: Break and lunch timetable

	Activity	Time
Owlets and Tawny Owls	Morning Break	10.30 – 10.45
	Eating lunch	12.00 – 12.30
	Lunch break	12.30 – 13.00
	Afternoon break	14.30 – 14.40
Snowy Owls	Morning Break	10.50 – 11.10
	Eating lunch	12.30 – 13.00
	Lunch break	13.00 – 13.30
	Afternoon break	As required
Barn Owls	Morning Break	10.50 – 11.10
	Eating lunch	12.30 – 13.00
	Lunch break	13.00 – 13.30
	Afternoon break	As required