**Back to School – FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)**

**Why are you doing things like you do in school?**

In school I have a huge list of guidance documents that I have to stick to so please be assured that anything that you see happening on the school side of the fence has been planned to the smallest detail then passed by the council. Everything is done to keep the children safe. Let me tell you about some of your concerns and why we do it like we do.

**Why is pick up at the Juniors so messy?**

We have considered many ways of doing the pick up after school, and already we have changed it a bit, once we see that working we will tweak it again.  The real problem for us is the lack of space outside the gate and we are trying our best to work out a solution while sticking to the rules and regulations. We have considered doing it by siblings - I understand that siblings go home together even though they are in different bubbles. What we can't do is, at the end of the day mix up all the bubbles as this is what we would be doing if I had another door just for siblings - your girls in Y6 and Y4 would be then mixing with children with siblings from Y3 and Y5 too - I'm just not allowed to do that. Once again it is the lack of space that lets us down.

Pick up is a nightmare for us all and we have changed how we do it already. We depend on parents playing their part so please be patient with us. We are going to let it run for a bit longer this new way to see if it gets better.

**What is a bubble?**

In school,we have to "bubble" our children to run the school. Our bubbles are year group bubbles - this means that a year group does not come into close contact with another. Within these bubbles children can mix freely. The main way within a bubble that we protect each other is by washing our hands and being aware of how we have to distance from other groups. This is government advice, we cannot move from it. The bubbles can be any size so ours are 60 children plus the number of staff needed to run it. This means that if one person in that bubble tests positive then we only have to isolate that bubble - again this is from the government.

**How do dinners work?**

Dinners are working really well right now and the children have about 25 minutes to eat. We have split the hall into 2 sides so that the children don't have to cross over - they stick to their side. The hall is well ventilated (doors open) and the two years that are in there at a time are separated by 2 metres - once again, government guidance. The children are in there for half an hour and we are really strict about them only being in their half of the hall. They then use separate doors to exit as the other years come off the yard, once again they don't cross.

Cleaning is done once all children have exited their seats - we are using the recommended products and there are lots of staff doing it so we can get it done quickly - we have to! Once again we are advised on the types of cleaning stuff to use and we stick to those only.

**What about the toilets?**

Toilets - when classes go together then there is only one year group at a time but during other times they are allowed to go individually - perhaps other children from other year groups are there at the same time. Once again this is allowed in our guidance from the government. This is because we now have a full time cleaner on site all day and the toilets are being cleaned much more regularly now - we have 2 full time cleaners now, one in the infants and one in the juniors. This is in addition to the 5 others that we have doing normal duties before.

**Masks - Why are staff not wearing them?**

Masks - government guidance for staff in primary schools is that masks are not to be worn in school - that is why when the teachers bring their classes up they don't have them on. Teachers are with their bubbles all day and if they have to move to another class or for a break or to go to the toilet we are keeping social distancing strictly amongst ourselves too. There are only 5 people allowed in the staffroom at a time now - it can hold 20+. Sometimes if staff are working at close contact with a child they will wear a visor. This is to protect the child and the member of staff.

**Masks – Why have you asked parent to wear them?**

I have asked parents to wear a mask just yesterday because pick up is not right yet - no social distancing, people crowding round and so on. This is the bit that I don't have a lot of control over - parents outside the school. Staff who are outside the gates with parents may wear a mask because they have to be in the middle of it all. I have asked the council to come and see this and to do something about the road.

**Thank you!**

We are trying to keep the children safe and stop our school from having to close again and we just have to ask you to be patient as we try to do this. None of us have ever been in this situation before so it is trial and error with the home times right now, but everything else is carefully thought out. Thank you for supporting us through this very difficult time.