

Dear parents and carers

We are delighted that we will be able to welcome back all pupils to our school in September. We are excited about meeting our new reception children and hope that they are excited too. We have missed our school being full of children and the fun and joy that they bring to us. We have spent time considering the best way to open in September, following the government guidelines, and are pleased to be able to share the following plans.

Staff for September

Mrs Bloxham has been at River Bank since it opened in 2013 and was the reception teacher for our current year six pupils. She played an important role in the opening of the school but has decided that she would now like to spend more time with her own children. We thank her for her important contribution to our school and wish her a fond farewell. Mrs Deacon (formerly Miss Totty) has also decided that now is the time for her to return to be closer to her family in Wales. She started her career with us and has been a huge part of our recent success – shaping our science curriculum and playing a significant role in our drive to be innovative and forward thinking. We wish her continued success in Wales and will miss her a lot! We are also sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Kozowy and Miss Brookes, who are leaving to join schools closer to where they live. We wish them all the best for the future.

Mrs Betts and Mrs Ali will not be returning immediately in September. They are both due to have babies at some point soon so will start their maternity leave over the summer holidays. We will miss them both so much when they are gone but look forward to welcoming them back next year.

We are fully staffed in September and are excited to be working with the teachers who will be joining us. We look forward to working with Mrs Bollom (Ladybird), Mrs Billingham (Kingfisher), Miss Akthar (Robin), Miss Gray (Woodpecker), Miss Gannon (Starling), Mr Whelan (Otter), Mrs Bailey (Badger) and Ms Lewis (Rowan). We are also looking forward to welcoming back Mrs Trainor and Mrs Dynek (Fox and Badger) from their maternity leave.

School in September

Pupils will be kept in strict year group bubbles from September. Year groups will not be able to mix with each other in school so it will be necessary for year groups to have separate break and lunch times. Spaces that will have to be shared will be cleaned after each year group bubble has used it e.g. lunch hall. Regular hand washing, regular cleaning and strict year group bubbles will be the most important protective measures that we take in the new academic year.

New Reception Children

Reception children will be invited for a short 'stay and play' session between the 1st and 4th September. The rest of their phased start will go as follows:

Monday 7 th to Friday 11 th September	08:30-11:30 (no lunch)
Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th September	08:30-12:30 (with lunch)
Monday 21 st September and onwards	08:30-15:00 (12:30 on Fridays)

Uniform

We will return to normal school uniform in September. Pupils should wear uniform each day that is washed as normal. Pupils should bring a small bag so that it fits in their classroom tray. They should not measure more

than 35cm x 24 cm (A4 sized). The biggest change around uniform will be that we will ask pupils to come to school in their PE kits on the day that they have PE. This will give us more time in the day, allow us to lengthen PE lessons and reduce any issues around lost property. Your child's PE day will be as follows:

Day	Year Group to come in PE kit	Classes to come in PE kit
Monday	Year 1 and Year 3	Kingfisher, Robin, Wren, Lark, Hare, Mole, Squirrel
Tuesday	Year 5	Rowan, Maple, Willow, Sycamore
Wednesday	Year 4	Badger, Fox, Otter, Deer
Thursday	Year 2 and Year 6	Starling, Woodpecker, Dove, Ash, Oak, Elm
Friday	EYFS	Ladybird, Dragonfly, Butterfly

School Times

To prevent parents and pupils mixing at the beginning and the end of the day we will have to operate slightly different start and finish times for pupils. All pupils can be dropped off between 08:30 and 09:00. Allowing a half an hour window would mean that everyone is spread out as they arrive at school. Any child arriving after 09:00 will be recorded as late. We will keep the one-way system that has been used successfully this term. Parents should pick up children at the time of the oldest child if there is more than one school aged child in the family. Only one parent should bring the child and social distancing should still be a priority.

	Drop Off	Pick Up Mon-Thurs	Pick Up Friday	Pick up from this classroom if collecting at a later time
EYFS	08:30-09:00	15:00	12:30	Ladybird classroom
Y1 and Y2	08:30-09:00	15:15	12:45	Y1 – Lark classroom Y2 – Dove classroom
Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6	08:30-09:00	15:30	13:00	

- *Example 1:* if you have children in EYFS and year six; you should collect them both at 15:30. Collect the year six child from their normal collection point and the EYFS child from Ladybird class.
- *Example 2:* if you have child in year two and year four; you should collect both children at 15:30. Collect the year four child from their normal collection point and the year two child from Dove classroom.
- *Example 3:* if you have a child in EYFS and year 2; you should collect both children at 15:15. Collect the year two child from their normal collection point and the EYFS child from Ladybird class.

Car Parking

We will no longer allow parents' vehicles on site in September. All of our car parks will remain closed unless the driver is registered as disabled and is in possession of a blue badge. We have additional staff this year and more pupils and managing the car park has become problematic. We continue to encourage all families to use alternative methods of transport such as cycling or walking. Our analysis shows that the vast majority of pupils live within one mile of the school and should therefore aim to walk as much as possible.

Curriculum

We will keep learning and lessons as normal as possible. We have already identified what learning pupils may have missed and will build that in to lessons in the next academic year. Year six children will be invited to stay

for additional lessons and parents of children in this year group have already received a letter about this. We will not drop any subjects and will set up support for pupils who may need individual catch up programmes.

Lunches

Lunchtimes will be split. Hot meals will be available to order using our normal system. We have, however, had to reduce the choices available. Children will be able to bring in packed lunches as normal.

Breakfast Club

This will happen as usual. Pupils can attend breakfast club by booking in using our online system. Pupils that are not booked in will not be able to attend. Year groups will be separated during breakfast club.

After School Club

Our paid after school club will restart as normal between the end of the day and 16:45. We will keep year groups separated in this club. Pupils will need to be booked in. If a child is not collected from school and they are not booked in; parents will be called and a charge will be made. Parents should pick up children from after school club at the Bumblebee classroom door – not the office.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We will run a programme of after school clubs although there will be fewer than normal. This is because the clubs will have to be for one year group only. In the past we have run, for example, Y3-6 football club. We aren't able to do this under the new guidelines.

Late Collection

Pupils should be collected on time. Teachers will wait with your child for ten minutes. After that, your child will be taken to the **main hall** where they will wait with a senior teacher until they are collected. They should be collected from the main hall doors off the playground – not from the office. A charge will be made to parents who are more than ten minutes late in accordance with our after school club prices. This will be strictly enforced.

Assemblies

We will continue to hold year group assemblies and class assemblies for parents to come and watch. Whole school assemblies will not take place. Assemblies will still take place but are going to be presented to one year group whilst being broadcast by video to the other classrooms.

Attendance

Attendance will be compulsory in September. If you are anxious about sending your child back to school; please get in touch so that we can discuss what we can do. If your child continues to clinically shield following advice from a specialist – home learning can be provided although medical evidence will need to be provided.

Suspected case of COVID-19

If we have a suspected case of COVID-19 in school; the adult or child will be sent home and asked to book a test. Nobody else will be sent home at this point. The adult, or parent of the child, should then inform the school of the test result. If it is negative, the adult or child can return to school.

Confirmed case of COVID 19

If we experience a positive case in school, we will inform the health team at Luton Borough Council. With them, we will work out who has been in close contact and we will contact families of affected children with instructions to self-isolate. If we have a case in one particular year group; it is probable that the entire class or bubble will receive these instructions. The children and adults affected will need to self-isolate for 14 days; but not other

family members; including siblings who may still come to school. Home learning will be provided for those who are self-isolating.

We look forward to seeing you all in September. Any queries over the holidays should go to info@riverbankprimary.org and not the year group emails.

With my best wishes

David Sansom