



Boxgrove Primary School

September 2021

Return Newsletter



A 'Hello' from Mr Rae

Hello everyone! I do hope everyone is having a fantastic summer break!

I am delighted to take on the role of Acting Head of School at Boxgrove Primary School. Those of you I met during my visits before the summer break have made me feel very welcome, as have the staff, governors and children.



Staff, children and governors have clearly worked very hard to make Boxgrove the fantastic school it is today and I feel very fortunate to be joining a school with such a good reputation in the local community.

I know how important it is to work in partnership with parents and carers in order to make school a positive and rewarding experience. I am really looking forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks. I will be out and about in the playground before and after school when we return back to school, however, please do get in touch if there is anything I can do to help and support you with your child's learning and/or wellbeing at school.

My priority as Acting Head of School is to ensure that the children who attend Boxgrove continue to be safe, happy and make the best start possible when we return. With this in mind, I wanted to get in touch with you all with regards to our new procedures for school re-opening in September.

Welcome New Staff

Children, parents and carers were informed of their new class teacher before the summer break. However, below is a reminder of classes.



Your child's previous class name is on the left in blue, your child's new class teacher and the name of class is on the right. Staff highlighted are phase leaders – Miss Turner for Early Years, Miss Byrne for Key Stage 1, Miss Pratt for Lower Key Stage 2 and Miss Phull for Upper Key Stage 2.

We also welcome a number of new staff to our Boxgrove school community, and we are excited by the skills they can bring to our school.

<i>Previous class names</i>	2021 - 2022 class teacher and class name
	Ms Thompson - Nursery
Nursery	Miss Cowcher – ROC
Nursery	Miss Turner - RET
RET	Ms Osafo – 1SO
RJM	Miss Smith - 1MS
1OC	Ms Buchanan - 2KB *
1MS	Miss Byrne - 2ZB
2FD	Mrs Marsh - 3PM
2ZB	Miss Burkert - 3TB
3SM	Ms Samson-Ledger - 4LS
3MT	Miss Pratt - 4LP
4RA	Mrs Choudary - 5AC
4LP	Mrs Oke - 5DA
5HF	Miss Phull - 6SP
5SP	Miss Foskett – 6HF

* Ms Buchanan will join us again after the October half term, with Ms Pearce the class teacher for 2KB in the interim.

Start of Day Procedures

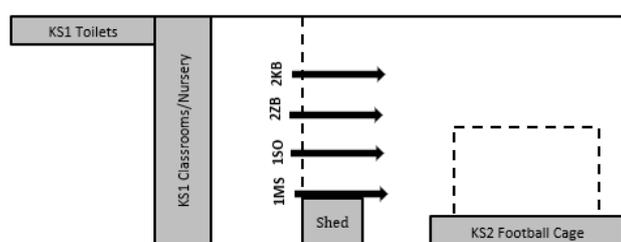
With many restrictions lifted, we are now able to remove a number of restrictions that were in place last academic year. For those children, parents and carers who have been at Boxgrove for a number of years, for the majority, we will be slowly returning to 'the way things used to be'. For those new to the school, hopefully the information below will help. Please do speak to a member of staff at the school gate or in the playground if you are unsure.



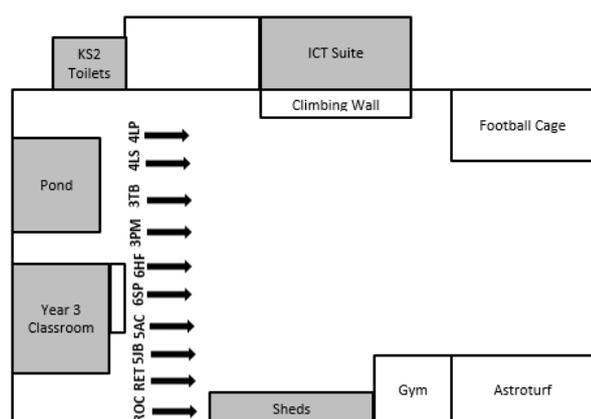
At the start of the school day, all children will be able to enter the school via two entrances only. This will be the side gate by the staff car park and the main gate via reception. These gates will open at 8:40am, for parents and children to make their way onto the main playground. Please continue to sanitise your hands upon entry to the school site!

Class teachers will arrive in the playground just before 8:55am. The school bell will ring at 8:55am, to allow children time to move into the school building and ready to start their learning at 9:00am. Below is an image of where in the school playground children should line up, before the school bell rings at 8:55am.

KS1 Playground Layout



KS2 Playground Layout



As mentioned previously, if you are unsure, please do ask a member of staff. Where classes line up will be clearly signposted in the school playground.

All entrance gates to the school playground will shut at 9:00am. If your child arrives after 9:00am, they will need to enter and be signed in via the main school office and late gate.

Please do consider the best start to your child's day. There should be no football being played or equipment out before the start of school. Scooters and bikes should not be ridden on any area of school property. We would always encourage calm lining up prior to the school bell ringing at 8:55am, to start the day in the best possible way.

End of Day Procedures

The entrance gates to the school playground at the end of the day will open at 3:25pm for parents and carers to make their way to the school playground. Parents and carers should make their way to the lining up area used for the start of day. Children, with their class teacher, will make their way to the playground to be dismissed at 3:30pm.



Please note, if you are happy for your child to walk home from school, the school office needs to be informed of this by a parent/carer. As before, if your child is being collected by a different adult than usual, please do let the school office know.

Class teachers do request patience for the first week or so as they get to know faces of parents and they will need time to check people are who they say they are. This is vitally important. I am sure you will understand that this forms an integral part of our safeguarding procedures and your understanding of any potential delay at a busy time is much appreciated.

Children will be taken back in to school at 3:40pm, so collection after this time will need to take place via the main school office. If parents and carers are going to be potentially late for collection, as always, it would be appreciated if you could contact the school office.

Uniform

I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind the school community of our uniform expectations, especially with a new school year and fresh start on the horizon!

It is our policy that all children wear full school uniform with pride. We believe that by the children wearing our uniform it helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school.

Most of the uniform can be purchased from local high street stores but we do expect that the children wear either a Boxgrove jumper or cardigan (both of which can be purchased at the School Office).

Our uniform expectations are as follows:

- Black school shoes (no colourful heels or laces)
- Black school trousers/skirt or black shorts or light blue summer dresses in warmer weather.
- A white shirt or polo shirt *
- A navy-blue school jumper or cardigan
- Tights should be grey, black or navy blue with no patterns on them
- Headscarves worn for religious reasons must be plain navy blue, black or white.

** Boxgrove polo shirts and jumpers are available to purchase from the school office.*



Please ensure all items of clothing have your child's name clearly marked one of the labels, this is to enable us to assist in locating misplaced items for you.

Due to health and safety reasons, the only jewellery permitted in school are:

- One pair of plain stud earrings
- A watch
- All jewellery must be removed for P.E. lessons and children are expected to do this independently.

PE Kit

From September, PE kits should be brought in to school in a separate bag on your child's PE day, and school uniform should be worn. Children will change in to their PE kit when it is their time to complete their PE lesson. PE kit is important for both safety and hygiene reasons.

The day your child's PE day will be will be sent out to parents and carers by class teachers as soon as possible.

We really want our children to wear school and PE uniform with pride, and as a reminder, our P.E. kit expectations are as follows:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Navy or black shorts or jogging bottoms
- Plimsolls or trainers (these must be a change of footwear from their school shoes)

Please note, those children attending school without appropriate PE kit will be given school PE kit in order to complete their lessons.

Lost Property

Please speak to your class teacher with regards to any item of lost property. Your child's class teacher will be able to have a look in the classroom and in school for the item. Staff will always try their best in finding any lost items, however we would also like to remind parents and carers to label clothes with names and classes.

Coronavirus Procedures

As I am sure you are aware, July saw a new phase in the government's response to the Covid-19



pandemic, 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. Below are some reminders of procedures in place, and notification of changes that are coming to our school in September.

Attendance

As a reminder to all parents and carers, attendance is mandatory for all pupils. This means it's your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly. If you have any concerns about your child attending, please do speak to a senior leader at the school as soon as possible.

If it is suspected your child has coronavirus or has had a positive test

Do not send your child to their nursery or school if:

- they are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are [required to quarantine](#)
- You should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#).

If your child has symptoms of Covid-19, the school can take the decision to refuse your child's attendance, if in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. We would always request a PCR test is completed to keep everyone in our school community safe. Your understanding and cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Tracing and self-isolation

When we return to school in September, as with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. As parents or carers, you may be contacted to help with identifying close contacts.

The biggest change to guidance is that children are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. We



strongly recommend that children take a PCR test and if negative, they should continue to attend school as normal. Unless they are advised to isolate by NHS track and trace, or develop symptoms.

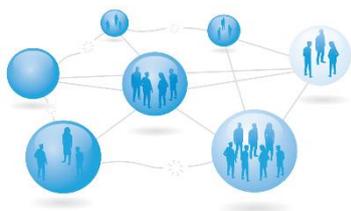
Instead, NHS Test and Trace will inform affected individuals, children or their parents or carers that they have been in close contact with a positive case, and advise them to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households](#).



Mixing and 'bubbles'

Following the most recent guidance, it is **no longer necessary** to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') or to keep groups apart as much as possible.



This means that bubbles will not need to be used at Boxgrove Primary School from September. This means that playtimes and lunchtimes will no longer need to be staggered and split, and this also means that pick up and collection can take place from the main school playground at the same time. More good news is that assemblies and larger group activities like Christmas and Summer Fayres can hopefully resume!

If there is an outbreak at our school, or our school is graded as an enhanced response area, we may need to reintroduce bubbles or to keep groups apart for a temporary period to reduce mixing between groups. The school does have a rapid contingency plan in place if this situation arises, and you will receive information from the school if/when this needs to happen.

Face coverings

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. We do advise our school community to manage these risks responsibly, especially with regards to busy times like pick up and collection.



If there is an outbreak at our school, or our school is graded as an enhanced response area, we may advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn by parents/carers and/or staff where possible. Once again, you will receive further information if/when this needs to happen.

Remote education if your child cannot attend school

If your child is unable to attend school due to following government guidance or law relating to COVID-19 (for example if they need to self-isolate, or if they have tested positive but are well enough to learn from home), our school will once again be providing remote education and resources via our learning platform 'Showbie'. Further information on Showbie can be found by [clicking here](#). All children should already have their username and passwords. New children to the school or those joining us in Key Stage 1 will receive their usernames and password when back in school. Please do speak to your talk to your child's teacher or a senior leader if you have any queries or questions.



Assessments in primary schools

For future information, the Department for Education are planning a return to a full programme of primary assessments to take place in the 2021 to 2022 academic year. This will include the introduction of the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment and Multiplication Tables Check for pupils in Year 4. We will confirm full details for 2021 to 2022 primary assessments when further information is received.

Holidays and travel abroad

As before, the school is unable to authorise any holidays during term time. You should plan your holidays within school holidays as usual. You should make sure any travel is in line with [national travel guidance](#). Keep in mind that you and your children may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. Any self-isolation should also fall within the school or college holidays. The red, amber, green classification of countries can be changed at any time and at short notice and you will need to respond to the latest rules on international travel, even if you have already left the UK, while also minimising the impact on your child's education. Please do get in touch with the school urgently if your child is unable to return to school due to a change in travel restrictions.

Mental health and wellbeing

We know that some children and young people may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, stress or low mood as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Support for children and parents

Encourage your child to talk to you or their teacher when we return if they are feeling anxious or stressed. We have a number of resources and adults in school that can help if required.

Online resources to help you support your child with mental health and wellbeing, include:

- [MindEd](#) - a free educational resource on children and young people's mental health
- [Every Mind Matters](#) - an online tool and email journey to support everyone in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing
- [Bereavement UK](#) and the [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) - information and resources to support bereaved pupils, schools and staff
- the [DfE blog](#) - includes [mental health resources](#) for children, parents, carers and school staff.

Public Health England emphasises the importance of taking 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Youth Sport Trust and [Sport England](#) have advice and support on helping children and young people stay physically active. NHS mental health services remain open and have digital tools to connect with people and provide ongoing support. Please use your local children and young people's mental health service when needed.

Support for children and young people

The school offers a variety of support services in school for children, please do speak to a member of staff for further information. Outside of school, children can get free, confidential support by:

- texting SHOUT to 85258
- calling Childline on 0800 1111
- calling the Mix on 0808 808 4994

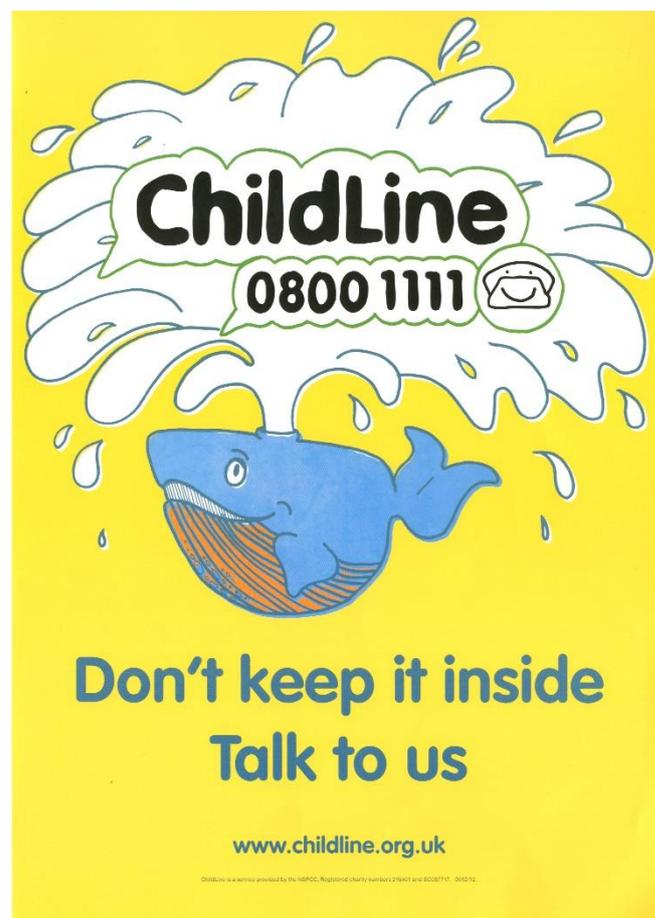
Find help online through:

- [Young Minds](#) - information on COVID-19 and mental health
- [Think Ninja](#) - a free app for 10 to 18 year olds to help build resilience and stay well
- [Every Mind Matters](#) - building resilience and supporting good mental health in young people aged 10 to 16

PHE has also launched new [e-learning which can help parents and carers](#) to support their children and young people in emergency or crisis situations.

Barnardo's [See, Hear, Respond service](#), provides support to children, young people and their families who are not currently seeing a social worker or other agency, and who are struggling to cope with the emotional impacts of COVID-19. Use the See, Hear, Respond self-referral webpage or Freephone 0800 151 7015.

Report any safeguarding concerns you have about any child to a member of school staff and/or contact the [NSPCC helpline](#).



MEET THE TEACHER

This short meeting will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher, to see their classroom and find out about expectations and routines.

The meeting will take place in your child's classroom and will last no longer than 45 minutes.

Please see below for your child's class, date and time:

Reception classes – Wednesday 8th September at 1.30pm

Years 1 and Year 2 – Wednesday 8th September at 3.40pm

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – Thursday 9th September at 3.40pm

Further information will be sent out to Parents and Carers, however if you have any questions, please do speak to a member of school staff.

Unfortunately, due to current Covid 19 restrictions, we are unable to run a creche as we have done in previous years.