



Back to school!

In March, Barrow Hedges was closed for most of our children so that we could all keep ourselves, and each other, safe. Some children (who were in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as well as some children whose parents had to do important jobs) came back to school in June. But we really missed having everyone in school. Our Prime Minister has now told us that all children can come back to school. The teachers and teaching assistants are very excited to see you but the most important thing is that we continue to keep safe!

Things are going to be a little bit different

Mrs Wood, the teachers and teaching assistants have been working hard to get the school ready and keep as much as possible the same for you, but there will be some changes.

You will be in your new class with all your friends (and perhaps some new children will join you). All the classrooms we had last year are in the same place, with the same class names. So that's all the same as normal. The teachers made videos to introduce themselves to you and it was great that so many of you came in to say goodbye to your old teacher and meet your new teacher. Of course, one class have the same teacher this year!

Your classroom will look different to how they might usually look because all the tables will be facing the front. You will still sit next to others and be able to share ideas and learn lots of new things like you did before. Your teacher(s) will talk to you about your new classroom and how you will be able to enjoy your learning and where to find everything.

Just like we did right before the school closed, you will wash your hands lots of times throughout the day! This is to keep you and everyone else healthy and safe. So make sure you wash your hands properly! The adults will also make sure that equipment you used is cleaned regularly. You will keep your own things on your own desk. This is so that it is easier for us to clean your classroom each day. You must bring your own water bottle with your name on it.



If you are in Years 3 to 6 you will bring your own packed lunch which you will eat in your classroom. Children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 will eat in the hall. We will clean the tables in between each year group. Everyone will still enjoy going out in the playground at break time and lunchtime - it's good to be outdoors! We have made lots of different rotas and timetables so that year groups can use different parts of the school at different times. Your teacher and other adults will explain what you are going to do and when.

So you now know that you will be back in a full class and it will be very much like it was before which is great! Each class will only be able to spend time with other classes who are in the same year group. This is called your **Year Group Bubble**. Although you may have brothers and sisters at home who are in different year groups, when you are in school you can only be with children who in your **Year Group Bubble**.

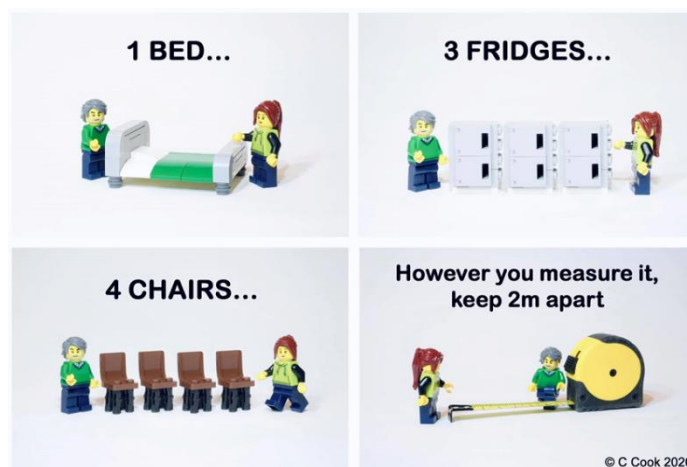
For this reason, there are some things that we can't do just yet - like have whole school or key stage assemblies. But assemblies are important because they give us time to think and talk about lots of important things so we have planned to have assemblies in our classrooms, or maybe sometimes, in classrooms in your Year Group Bubble. Sometimes you might all watch the same assembly on the computer.

Have you heard the adults talking about *social distancing*?

Our Prime Minister, the doctors and other adults keep reminding people about social distancing! Although you will be close to your friends and other children in your year group bubble, it is still very important that we don't get very close to adults if this is possible. Your teachers will still be able to help you with your learning and comfort you but if we can then it is still better to stay 2m apart from others.

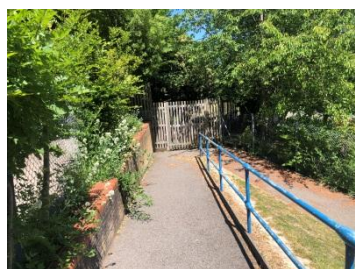
This picture helps to show you how big 2m is.

Your parents should also be socially distancing from other adults especially at the end of the school day when there are lots of people in the playground or in the mornings by the gate.



Times of the school day

We have already sent a special Parent Handbook home and your parents will know what time to drop you off and pick you up. This year you might use a different gate to the one you used to arrive at or leave through. Here are pictures of all of our gates as a reminder:



Harbury Road



Nursery



Radcliffe Gardens



Beans

Don't worry because on your first day and for the first few weeks there will be lots more teachers and other school staff out in the playground to help you find your classroom so that

you learn what to do! They will also be there to help everyone remember where to go and to use our one way system.

Because you are in a Year Group Bubble there are different toilets for each year group to use. It is important that you only use the toilets that have been given to your year group or class. But don't worry, these are all labelled in case you aren't sure. And of course, wash your hands carefully after you have used the toilet!



If you need help from a first aider there will be adults in school to look after you. They will look a little different to usual, but they will still be ever so nice and look after you like always. They might look a bit like this.

You might also notice that some adults are wearing a face mask but this will only be in the playground or corridors and not in the classrooms.

Although we won't have as many visitors to the school as usual, some adults will still come in to school for different reasons and some of these adults might wear a mask.

But we are sure that you will have already seen lots of people wearing masks so this is something that we are all starting to get used to!



We are here to help!

You might feel worried when you are at school, or sad that you are not with your adults at home after such a long time together. We have been working hard to make sure that the learning and activities you are doing will help everyone to settle back in to school. All the adults in school will be ready to support you.

We will all look after each other like we always do at Barrow Hedges! 😊

We cannot wait to have you back and look forward to seeing you!

Keep safe and keep smiling! 😊