

Bakewell Methodist Junior School
Stoney Close
Bakewell
DE45 1FR



Derbyshire Healthy Schools
Community Award



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Headteacher, Mrs Sarah Owens

Sunday 3rd January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Arrangements for the new Term- January 2021

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a good Christmas holiday and were able to spend it with your children and at least some of the people who are important to you.

I know you will have seen the news and that it may be worrying for some of you. I know you will want to know what is happening so that you can plan to go to work.

At the present time the guidance from Derbyshire County Council is that all primary schools (that includes our school) should open as normal, if possible. You will have heard that some unions are advising their members not to go to work if they feel unsafe. Our teachers have contacted me to say they will be attending work if school is open, they are well and have no COVID symptoms.

School is due to reopen on Wed 6th January and will do so. Of course there are other things that may cause the school to close, snow for example, but this is not forecast.

I am very much looking forward to seeing your children on Wednesday 6th January.

I will be working with the Governors to make sure our Risk Assessment is still fit for purpose and an updated version will be on our website by Tuesday evening.

Transmission rates in the Derbyshire Dales remain below average at 152 cases per 100,000 people in the latest week 22nd Dec-28th December. In comparison, the average area in England had 307 cases per 100,000 people in the same week. With this I mind, can I remind you to follow our COVID rules that help to keep rates low and to keep children and adults safe at school?

Stick to the Tier 4 rules.	Stay at home if you can. Households must not mix.
Stick to the allocated time for dropping off and picking up your children.	Some children have been arriving 10 minutes early which means they are mixing with children from a different bubbles.
Wear a face covering at the gate.	

Walk to school.	If you cannot do this, park respectfully and legally. Use our informal one way system, do not reverse on Stoney Close, and share this information with Grandparents.
Send you child with a warm waterproof coat and sturdy, black shoes	It is safest to be outside and so breaks, PE and some lessons will be outside in most weathers.
Be available to collect your child promptly if they develop COVID symptoms or are unwell.	Make sure we have your up-to-date contact details.
Continue to follow Government guidance on self-isolating and getting a test.	Information about this is on our website.

We will review the safety of our after school activities at the end of the week and I will let you know by Friday 8th Jan whether they will go ahead.

After School Club will continue to meet as normal and children will be kept in bubbles or family groups.

This is a difficult situation for everyone and I am grateful to my teachers and other staff for working so hard to make our school as safe as it can be. It is also a changing situation and I will try to give you as much notice of any changes as I can. I am optimistic that life will return to normal soon, but we must get through these next few weeks as safely as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on sowens@bakewell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk before the start of term of give us ring on when school opens on Wednesday.

My very best wishes to you and your family for the year ahead.

'Facts not fear. Clean hands. Open hearts.'

Yours sincerely

Sarah Owens