

20th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Review of Year Group Bubbles

We would like to thank all children, parents and carers for their support during this tricky time. You have all been amazing. The current system of year group bubbles has worked really well in controlling the spread of the virus and keeping the children safe. As with all things, we continue to look and try to find even better ways of doing things, whilst still putting the safety of our children first. Using year group bubbles has meant closing whole year groups when there is a positive covid case and this means children aren't in school as often as we would all like as well as making it difficult for you as parents and carers. With this in mind, we have been planning a move into class bubbles for after the half term holiday (Monday 2nd November). We have also been refining our contact tracing of direct and close contacts within a class. As always the arrangements will be determined by:

Government guidelines;
The rate of infection;
MAT Directors decisions;

A class bubble system would mean that only a small number of pupils and staff would need to isolate should there be any positive cases in our school community. This will mean that it may not be necessary to send home entire classes, only those considered to be close or direct contacts as per public health guidance. Sadly, this does mean that pupils would only be allowed to mix socially within their own classes.

Start and end of the day

As part of the change we are also reviewing start and end of day arrangements. As we move towards colder and wetter weather, we would like to ensure that nobody needs to stand in a wet, cold playground for too long. We will have 2 start and end times where children will be given a space to line up in their classes and their teachers will collect them promptly.

Nursery and Years 1, 2 and 3 (8.55am - 3.15pm)

Nursery children will enter school from the **Ainsworth Lane gate** and will free flow into their classroom. **Year 1** will continue to enter school via the **Stott Lane gate**. **Years 2 and 3** will enter school via the **Brierwood gate** and line up in the middle playground and be collected promptly by their teacher at **8.55am**. They will also be released at the end of the day at **3.15pm** from the same place.

Reception and Years 4, 5 and 6 (8.45am- 3.05pm)

Reception children are to enter school from the **Ainsworth Lane gate** and will free flow into their classes. **Years 4 and 5** will enter school via the **Brierwood gate** and line up in the middle playground and be collected promptly by their teacher at **8.45am**. Year 6 will continue to enter school via the **Stott Lane gate**. They will also be released at the end of the day at **3.05pm** from the same place.

To support social distancing, parents who wish to wait can do so on the large yard (Brierwood gate side), children in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to enter the middle yard to line up for their teacher.

Head of School: Mrs N. Whittaker

Tonge Moor Primary Academy, Brierwood, Bolton, BL2 2PF

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We also require that **adults wear a face covering**, when on the school site and keep a **2 metre distance from others**. To avoid large gatherings we ask that only **one adult accompanies your child/children** to school and that **everyone arrives promptly** at their specified time to minimise risks. At the end of the day, teachers will release the children from the same designated space for collection.

School gates will close at **9:10am** promptly to ensure safeguarding. Children arriving after this time **must be signed in at the school office** and social distancing must be observed.

If you can foresee any issues arising from these proposed changes or have any useful solutions please email the school office office@tongemooracademy.org so we can make further considerations.

Once again we thank you for your support and understanding during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N Whittaker
Head of School

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