



September 20, 2020

33130 Bevan Road, Abbotsford, BC V2S 1T6 604.853.8374 godson@abbyschools.ca

Principal: Mr. Steve Laird

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Deborah Chenier

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, September 23rd- Full Day Kindergarten Begins

Thursday, September 24th – Terry Fox Run

Friday, September 25th- Non-Instructional Day #1 (no school for students)

Wednesday, September 30th- Theme Day – Orange Shirt Day; PAC Meeting @ 6:30 PM in large gym

Monday, October 12th – Thanksgiving Day holiday

Thursday, October 22nd – Parent/teacher interviews (no school for students)

Friday, October 23rd – Non-Instructional Day #2 (no school for students)

Monday, November 2nd – Joint Partners Meeting @ 6:30 pm (for Admin and PAC)

Wednesday, November 11th – Remembrance Day Holiday

Welcome Back to All

It has been so wonderful having students back to school! And, we all know how important it is for students to learn and to socialize at school. Although this year will be different, it is so good students are back in classrooms. Know that we will continue to do our best to ensure guidelines and protocols are followed to keep everyone safe. Listed below are the district protocols we will be following. Please review these guidelines to become more familiar. We would also ask that you regularly review this with your child, as we work to all be consistent in keeping everyone safe. Thanks in advance!

Important Safety Guidelines and Protocols

General Safety Measures

- The district follows the provincial government recommendations for K-12 settings found <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school#health-safety>
- Parents will fill out daily health check each morning, either online or paper copy
- Parents are expected to keep child home if symptomatic
- Adults needing to meet with staff must make an appointment before coming in to the school. When possible, meetings are encouraged to take place outdoors.
- Parent volunteers are not currently permitted to be in classrooms
- Students will be part of a learning group not exceeding 60, including staff

- Bells will be turned off because of staggered arrival/outside/dismissal times
- Staff will watch for children who are showing signs of COVID, besides regular symptoms due to allergies
- Children who are symptomatic will be brought to the office and be immediately given a mask: while supervised, and family will be contacted for immediate pick up.
- Students who go home with symptoms are welcome back once a medical professional has been consulted.

Physical Spaces

- Students should avoid travel through hallways, except going to their learning group's assigned bathroom
- Stay to the right of traffic flow in hallways
- Bathrooms have been designated to learning groups and have a bathroom pass
- One student in bathroom at a time

Student Expectations at School

- Students should not play on the playground(s) before school and after school
- Students line up with physical distancing outside designated entrance doors
- Students will put personal effects in designated places in the classroom
- Students will wash hands when entering school in morning
- Students will wash/sanitize hands before and after gym, LLC, recess and lunch
- Students are expected to minimize physical touching at all times
- Not interact with students outside of assigned learning group
- Will NOT share snacks and will clean up own eating/learning area

- Will eat at own desk
- Wash/sanitize hands before and after eating
- When student sneezes, coughs, sticks fingers in mouth, eyes or other orifices (but does not appear to otherwise be sick) they must immediately wash hands.

Classrooms

- Minimize physical contact between students in learning groups
- Ensure good ventilation, eg. Working with doors and windows open
- Supplies may be shared between students within learning group, including centers, if students sanitize before and after use

Transitions and Play

- Learning groups travel together with an adult from classroom to other locations, including outside for recess and lunch
- Supervision is available before/after school, recess and lunch. Each supervisor will have an assigned area.
- Schedules will be created with learning group play locations and rotated each week
- Outdoor education is recommended (weather permitting), including walking field trips.

Cleaning Regime at School

- Daytime custodian will wipe down high touch surfaces such as door knobs, toilets, sinks, and taps.
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned 2x within 24 hour period
- Students may share supplies within own learning group and they sanitize before and after use.
- Lysol wipes may be used on technology
- If cleaning is not possible, the resources should be set aside for 2 days before using again

For further information please refer to Tol'itcha (district restart plan) and BCCDC

Starfish Backpacks

Clearbrook Rotary Club and the Abbotsford Food Bank is offering backpacks with food for the weekend. If a backpack would be helpful for your family, and you have not received a request form, please contact the office.

Non-Instructional Day – Friday, September 25th (no school for students)

This Friday, all Godson Elementary Staff will be participating in a professional development day. In the morning staff will participate in an online inservice, delivered by the Neufeld Institute at UBC called Keeping connected through Covid (summary of session below)

Keeping Connected through Covid

How do we maintain connections with our students and help them feel safe - both physically and emotionally? In this context, how do we help our students navigate the new protocols, disrupted routines and awkward transitions in this unprecedented time of restrictions and alarm? We will explore these challenges together and look at practical ways of keeping connection and learning alive.

In the afternoon, teachers will be working together in their grade/learning group to learn about, and to plan and coordinate social emotional learning (SEL) and Literacy (Reading) programs.

Terry Fox Assembly and Run – Thursday, September 24

Due to the new Health & Safety guidelines we must follow, our Terry Fox Run will look different this year. In their classrooms, students will learn about Terry Fox, the Marathon of Hope, and Terry's desire to raise money for cancer research. Staggered throughout the day, each learning groups (made up of two classes) will participate in a 20-30 minute run. Primary aged students (gr.K-3) will circle our school field; and intermediate students will do a lap of Mill Lake.

In the past, we have collected donations (i.e. toonie for Terry), but are asked not to collect money this year. In place of this, an online donation can be made. We encourage all staff and students to contribute an online donation to help reach our goal of \$600.00. A great goal for a very worthy cause. It should be a great day of learning and activity. Click on the link below, to make a donation.

<http://www.terryfox.ca/GodsonElementary>

To School on Time

It is IMPORTANT for ALL students to arrive to school on time. Students with poor attendance (either late or absence) often find themselves stressed, anxious, disorganized as they miss important instruction. Be sure to make it a priority that your child(ren) get to school on time each day.

Lunches

We ask that students bring a nutritious lunch and snack each day. This would include what we call “Brain” food (no pop, no chips). Please note that hot lunches cannot be dropped off at the school at this time.

Leaving Early

Does your child need to leave early for an appointment? If yes, please make sure you message the teacher and/or office beforehand. This way, the teacher will have him/her ready for the time required.

Safety Over Convenience

We need your help in keeping our students, your child/ren safe. These are ways that you can help us:

1) Entering/Exiting the School

We ask that ALL parents enter and exit the school via the front doors and sign in. Please drop off your child in line and then walk around the school to enter via the front doors. Again – Safety over Convenience.

2) Parking

Parking in our fire lane: is NOT an option. The fire lane is on the East side of the school near the small gym.

Staff Parking Lot: NO Parking at any time – no excuses. We have more staff members than we do parking spots, which means some staff have to double park in designated areas.

Bus Lane: We do have 3 buses that pick up and drop off students on a daily basis. Please do not park in the bus zone.

Drive Through Lane: Please do NOT stop or park in the middle of the lane or on the left side of the lane. Let's be respectful to the people behind you.

Handicap Parking: In order to park in these spaces, the vehicles should have a visible handicap decal.

Parking in our Additional Parent Parking Lot: Please do not park along the fence. It makes it difficult for cars to back up from their stalls.

Brundige Avenue: Additional parking has been created by the City of Abbotsford with a new sidewalk. Please park as per the city signs. Please do not block any driveways.

Stevenson Street: The school district widened the cul-de-sac in order to fit more cars. Please do not block any driveways.

Neighbouring Streets: Please note that we have been given permission from the city of Abbotsford to park on the neighbouring streets where city signs are posted “Residents only”. The permission is during PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF TIMES ONLY.