

Welcome back!!!

On behalf of the staff at École Sifton School, it is my pleasure to welcome you back!! We are very excited to be planning for the start of a new school year. Although we know that this school year will look very different than any one before it, we are also excited to resume regular classes and to be able to reconnect with our students and their families. We also know that students and their families have many questions about what back to school will look like this year. Our hope is to provide you with some of this information prior to classes resuming for at school learning on Thursday, September 3rd and at home learning which will start on Tuesday, September 8th. Please note that all bus passes will be distributed to students by their homeroom teacher on the first day of classes. Students will not require bus passes for the first 2 days of school. This plan will take a great deal of collaboration between our school staff and families and we look forward to working together to have a very successful school year!!

École Sifton School is pleased to welcome some new teachers to our staff this year. Ms. Heschel-Smith and Mr. Kennedy will be teaching our grade two French Immersion classes. We would also like to welcome Mme Jutai back as she is returning after being away last year. We are excited to have them joining our teaching staff this year and we look forward to working with each of them..

What Will School Look Like This Year?

Our plans for re-entry this year follow those guidelines provided both by Alberta Education and Battle River School Division. Our staff have been planning since last fall on how to implement many layers of safety to ensure we have a safe, welcoming and caring learning environment. We look forward to working with our school community to help implement these necessary aspects of our re-entry plan which include the use of cohorts, screening for illness, strict illness protocols, hand washing & sanitization, cleaning standards, physical distancing and use of personal protective equipment and masks. Much of the information provided here is also available in the [BRSD School Re-Entry Plan \(Fall 2020\)](#) which was emailed out to families earlier this month and is available on the BRSD website. There is also a [Parent Q & A](#) document on this website to help answer any other questions you might have. The following will provide some clarification regarding how this plan will be implemented at École Sifton School.

Screening for Illness/Strict Illness Protocols:

As directed by Alberta Education, all parents will need to complete a [Daily Assessment](#) with their child(ren) each day before sending them to school. This is a checklist for parents' use and does not need to be submitted to the school. This assessment will also be required for all our staff and any BRSD staff that need to enter the building. It will be necessary that families

supply at least 3 emergency contacts numbers for all our students. If students develop symptoms during the day, even mild ones, we will need to contact families to pick them up immediately. For any students that have pre-existing conditions that are the same as the symptoms of Covid-19, parents can complete the [Baseline Medical Information Form](#), so that our staff will be aware of existing symptoms. Students will need a Covid - 19 test with negative results at the time this form is submitted.

Cohorts/Use of Masks/Physical Distancing :

Maintaining cohorts at the school will be a fundamental strategy to help keep students safe. As much as possible students will stay within their own grade and will be in contact with one other class at the most. This will also be the case before/after school and during recess/nutrition breaks. As soon as students arrive at the school they will join their cohort. It is important that students are not dropped off at school prior to 8:15 to ensure that we are keeping students within their assigned cohorts. There will be no supervision prior to 8:15 drop off time. Students will have a designated location to meet their teacher immediately after drop off. Each class will be assigned an entrance for their use that will help ensure physical distancing between cohorts. Teachers will be taking their students in their assigned entrance and directly to their classrooms.

As indicated in BRSD's Re-Entry plan, parents will not be able to come into the school with their child(ren) and will not be able to drop in without pre scheduled appointments.. Our school doors will be locked throughout the day. Any parents that need to meet with staff are encouraged to meet via phone call or Google Meets. In person meetings can be set up by calling the office and making an appointment. Parents that are dropping off students late or picking them up early are asked to call the office and we will help with these arrangements. In the event, students are late or returning from an appointment, they will need to enter the building through the main front entrance. As the doors will be locked, we ask that you call the school when you arrive so we can welcome your child into the building. The number for the school is 780-672-2980. There is also a doorbell if you are unable to call. As this bell sounds throughout the school we ask that you only use it if you cannot reach the school office or if you need assistance after hours. School playground equipment will be available during recess breaks for students but will not be available for student use before and after school for students.

All students will be met outside in a designated area on the first day of classes. Students in grades 4 and 5 will be provided with their two masks that Alberta Education has provided for them at this time. Students in these grades will be required to wear masks in hallways, common areas and in classrooms when social distancing is not possible or when the activity they are engaged in makes them necessary. Students in Kindergarten to grade 3 may also wear masks.

Breakfast Club/Bell Schedule:

There have been some significant changes to our breakfast club program and hot lunch program this year. These programs can no longer be supported by volunteers and all food items must be individually wrapped and supplied by a commercial supplier. Students will not be able to share food and we ask that goodies such as cake are not sent for the class to share. We are also not able to have food brought in through a food delivery service for classes, staff or students. We will be looking at ways to provide breakfast and snack options for our students that meet the necessary requirements.

To help promote a balanced day of eating and physical activity, and to help assist with staggered recesses for cohorts of students, our bell schedules have been adjusted significantly. Students will have two opportunities each day to eat and to get outside for exercise. These eating times will be longer in length (15 to 20 min) which will allow students to eat something substantially bigger than just a snack. Times will be staggered which will allow our students out on the playground at different times and will make social distancing between cohorts possible. Please see the attached [bell schedule](#) for times of recess/lunch and nutrition breaks. Dismissal for our students is at 3:15 but teachers will begin to bring their classes out for pick up before this time. Students that are being picked up can come at 3:05 and will be dismissed upon your arrival. Those students that are walking home will be dismissed and asked to go directly home, playground equipment will not be available after school. Those students that are taking the bus will be sent to their buses at 3:15. Students enrolled in the afterschool OSCAR program will also be dismissed and will be expected to go directly to their designated area.

We recognize that for our students and families, school is going to look very different this year. Our staff is excited about the opportunity to welcome all of our students on the first day and to ensure they have a great school year. Thank you for your support and patience as we work through some very new routines and procedures. We know that these will need to evolve over our first few days and/or weeks and we thank you in advance for your flexibility as we communicate these changes to you. Teachers will be connecting with our families by early next week to provide additional information for their specific classes. Please visit our website to find school supply lists under the "Family" tab. Thank you again for your support in making this re-entry plan successful. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school if you have any additional questions.