

PARENTS' / CARERS' GUIDE TO THE FULL RE-OPENING OF SCHOOL ON 8 MARCH 2021

Coming to School

Who is school opening to and when?

School will be reopening to ALL pupils on roll.

All children are expected to come to school from the 8th March.

It is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

What about pupils who are shielding or self-isolating?

A small number of pupils may still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable and are in receipt of a shielding letter, is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice.

How will the NHS Test and Trace process affect us?

Parents/carers will need to be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test.

Is it safe for my child to return?

The school has put in, and will continue to put in, very extensive and robust systems of control to help prevent any spread of infection and to also be ready to respond to any infection.

These systems are detailed in our risk assessment. We will be sharing the full details of our risk assessment with parents so that you can see for yourself the specific range of measure which will be in place.

Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

What if I'm anxious about sending them back?

If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned, then please look carefully through our risk assessments and preventative measures. You may also call our Health and Safety Manager, Mrs Brown, to discuss your concerns. However, parents do need to clearly understand that all pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the pupil has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance etc).

Will children still be in 'bubbles'?

Yes, children will still be in year group bubbles. This means that children in one year group will be kept separate, as far as possible, from children in other year groups. They will, for example, have separate drop-off/ pick up arrangements; school entrances /exits; playgrounds/ playtimes, separate 'After-School Club' provision. This arrangement is necessary to help prevent any spread of infection. At the same time, it allows for the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

What time does my child start and finish?

There will be a window of time, between 8.30 and 9.00am, for children to come into school in the morning.

Please come at a time that best suits you within this window.

At the end of the day, each year group will have an allocated time for the children to be collected.

All children will be dropped off and picked up at the external door for their individual class.

For full details, please see our separate guide to drop-off and pick-up routines for each year group: [Parents' Guide to Drop-Off and Pick-Up Routines.](#)

Only one parent should accompany each child and must then **leave the site promptly.**

What if I've got siblings in different year groups?

The drop-off and pick-up times have been designed to allow parents to drop-off and collect each child from their classroom, one after the other, without undue delay.

How will I know where my child's external classroom door is?

All external doors will be clearly marked to identify which class they are. A map of the school indicating the location of classrooms and drop-off and pick up points will be sent out as part of the Parents' Guide to Drop-Off and Pick-Up Routines.

Can I have a chat with my child's class teacher when they are collecting/ dropping off?

No, parents must not try to talk to staff at the classroom door. This puts both our staff and you at risk. Our staff will be prompt in collecting and dropping off. If you need to talk to the school about anything, you will need to ring or email the office or use the ClassDojo App (please note the ClassDojo app is for non-urgent communications only, all urgent communications, such as reporting your child's absence, must be notified to the office).

Can I use the school car park?

No. There is no use of the school car park for parents.

The only exception to this is after 4.30 for parents collecting from the 'After-School' Club.

What if I'm late?

Parents late for drop off will ONLY be allowed to enter via the pedestrian gate at the front of the school. They will then need to wait outside the entrance to the main reception, but not enter the building. A member of staff will then come out to you.

How can I help prepare them for return to school?

Please talk to your child about the measures that school has taken to keep everyone safe.

Encourage them to:

- Wash their hands frequently, for 20 seconds, with soap and water. Singing a song to accompany this will help e.g. "Happy Birthday" or "Wash, wash, wash your hands" to the tune of Incy Wincy.
- Walk on the left hand side of pavements/corridors
- Keep 2 metres distance
- Keep their hands away from their face as much as possible

Are parents allowed in to the office?

No. Parents must telephone or email the office.

Do parents need to wear face coverings?

Parents are requested to wear face coverings whilst on the school site.

Once in School

Will children be kept up to 2m apart?

No. Keeping children 2m apart would make it impossible to reopen to all pupils and is no longer advised by Government.

The overarching principle is reducing the number of contacts between pupils and staff. This will be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals. These are not alternative options.

We recognise that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group. Children will be allowed to sit together on the carpet. For example, EYFS children will not spend their time seated behind desks and they will be allowed to have access to their continuous provision areas, very much like normal.

At the same time, older children within school are still encouraged to keep their distance within groups where possible. Where children sit at desks, they will be forward facing with 2 children per desk.

Can children go home for lunch?

No. We do not have the staff capacity for supervising bubbles, keeping them safe and at the same time escorting children on and off the premises.

Will there be hot meals on offer?

Not to begin with. Our priority is to establish our essential systems for the operation of the school. After that, we will look to see if we can re-introduce a hot meals service. Given the amount of time that children take to eat lunch, the need to keep year groups separate, ensuring appropriate lunchtime supervision, and the essential need to clean the dining room between year group sittings, the provision of a hot meals option is likely to be on a rota basis, if and when it is reintroduced.

Will there be any Breakfast Club provision?

No. The breakfast club will not be running. However, classes will be open from 8.30 am to support parents going to work.

Will there be After School Club provision?

Yes. It will be located within school. It will run from the end of the school day up until 5.00pm. It will close at 5.00pm to allow for cleaning.

Children attending will be allocated to a group based on their year group. Details of where to pick children up from will be issued by the After-School club in due course.

What does my child need to bring to school?

Children should ONLY bring **essential** items into school:

- A water bottle with their name clearly marked on it
- A packed lunch if they are not having a school packed lunch – clearly labelled
- A coat, if required
- Sun cream – clearly labelled - and Sun Hat (as normal operation)

Children must not bring anything else: e.g toys, games, etc.

Can my child bring in their own hand sanitiser?

No. The school will continue to provide ready access to hand sanitiser in every class in school. This can be supervised to prevent young children from applying excessive amounts and inflaming their skin or ingesting it.

Should my child wear a face mask?

No. This is not recommended for children in primary school.

Do they need to wear school uniform?

Yes. Children will be expected to wear normal school uniform. But they will be allowed to wear trainers every day. Our staff will be helping to encourage active play during playtimes to help make up for the restrictions that children have had on their natural active lifestyles. These playtime activities will be optional, but we hope they are fun enough for children to want to get involved.

Will my child need a PE kit?

Children should come to school on their main PE day in PE kit.

Year Group	P.E. Day
EYFS	Tuesday
Year 1	Friday
Year 2	Wednesday
Year 3	Monday
Year 4	Tuesday
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Wednesday

Children may wear trainers every day to encourage them to be more active during their playtimes.

Contingency Planning

Are there times when school or parts of school may need to shut at short notice?

Yes. Year groups, parts of school or the whole of school may need to shut at some time in the future if Public Health England instruct us to, in response to local Coronavirus outbreaks.

Does the school have contingency plans in case part or all of school is closed?

Yes. Our contingency planning will allow us to switch immediately back to online learning if required for a short time. We plan to still utilise Google Classrooms as our main platform for distance learning should it be required. We shall therefore keep our online classrooms set up. We will also continue to make use of other educational Apps such as Lexia, ReadingPlus, DoodleMaths and SpellingFrame to support homework whilst reducing the amount of paperwork that needs to go to school and home.

What if my child is ill?

If a member of staff or child at school is concerned they have COVID-19 they must follow the latest NHS guidance and, if advised to self-isolate at home, they must follow the guidance from Public Health England. They **MUST NOT attend the school** if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household and you must notify the school. If a positive test for COVID-19 is received within a household, you must notify the school.

What if my child gets ill at school?

If a child presents symptoms during the school day, they are to be isolated in a separate sub-divided room where they will be supervised whilst awaiting collection by their parent.

The school will notify parents of children in the same bubble, so that they can be alert to symptoms presenting subsequently in their child.

The children who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.

What if there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus?

If a member of staff or child tests positive, children and teaching staff within that bubble must be notified and advised to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Public Health guidance. Households of the children or staff need not self-isolate unless the person from the bubble with whom they live develops symptoms.