



Covid-19 Return to School Parent & Carer Guidance



Will school definitely re-open?

Schools will only re-open and stay open if the 5 key tests set by government continue to be at safe levels:

1. The NHS has the capacity to provide critical care right across the UK
2. A sustained and consistent fall in daily deaths from coronavirus
3. The rate of infection decreased to manageable levels across the board
4. Testing and PPE are in hand with supply able to meet future demand
5. Confident that any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections

We will keep you updated with any information as and when we have it.



Can you guarantee that my child will be safe?

Unfortunately, we cannot promise with 100% certainty that your child will not pick up an illness whilst in the school environment. We can, however, assure you that every consideration has been made in ensuring that risks are kept to a minimum.



What measures have you taken to keep my child safe?

- Initially, children will be split into teaching groups with a maximum of 12 children and 2 adults. Children will remain in their groups for the entirety of the school day and will not mix with other groups.
- Staff members will stay with the same group of children to minimise interaction with others.
- Desks have been spaced two metres apart and walkways have been marked out for pupils to enter and exit school via a one-way system.
- A space has been marked out at the front of the room for the teacher.
- Children will have an allocated desk (in EYFS a carpet space). They will keep all of their belongings at their desk and will not swap desks.
- Timetables have been adjusted to ensure staggered arrival, breaks, lunch and home time; this will limit the number of pupils moving around school at any one time.
- Cleaning will take place more regularly and each classroom will have cleaning products available for staff members to use.
- Children and staff will be expected to wash their hands more regularly throughout the day.
- Doors will be wedged open where possible to reduce contact with handles.
- Only one pupil will be allowed in each toilet block at a time.
- Parents/Carers will not be allowed on the premises without a prior appointment and we advise that only one adult drops off and collects.
- Children will have their own stationery set (provided by school).
- Any physical resources will be cleaned after use.
- Resources will be placed on pupils' desks prior to pupils entering the room.
- Pupils will eat at their allocated desk or outside.
- Any unnecessary furniture/resources will be removed from classrooms.
- Staff will wash hands before and after handling pupil books and equipment.



Will my child attend school full time?

We will be open 5 days a week during term time, in the same way that we were before lockdown. However, the working day will be slightly shorter to allow us to have staggered start and finish times. This is to limit the number of people entering and leaving the building at one time. Please refer to last week's letter for start and finish times.



Does my child have to attend in school uniform?

Yes. It is important that children come to school in **clean clothes** each day and we are asking them to wear school uniform. However, we will be spending a significant amount of time learning **outdoors (whatever the weather)** so it is important that children have a change of footwear and a coat in school every day.



Will my child get to spend time with their own teachers?

As a result of having to place pupils into smaller bubbles to support with social distancing, your child may not be with their usual teacher. All teaching and support staff are working in school to support with the children's return to school. However, whilst it is likely that your child may well be with a member of staff they are not familiar with, rest assured their class teachers are helping to plan the work. The same staff members will be working in the bubbles every day to help us limit social interaction across school.



Will my child get to socialise with their friends?

Children can socialise with the other children in their bubbles, adhering to 2m social distancing. At playtime, the yard and field have been organised so that two bubbles can be out at the same time in different areas but with a 2-metre gap – this way they can talk to children in one other Bubble.



I have a child in nursery, Year 2, 3, 4 or 5. Can they return to school when their sibling does?

If you are a keyworker, we will continue to provide provision for children from any year group. If you are not a key worker, we can only accept your child/ren if they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6.



Will you be teaching lessons as usual?

Our first priority is to educate pupils on new routines and rules. They will need a good understanding of the measures that we have taken and why we have done so. Your child's teacher will be explaining this and using 'Bob's Bubble' to help with this.

Children will need time to share their experiences of lockdown as these are very likely to be quite different for some individuals. Staff will work on establishing relationships with their 'bubble' and identify children who may require additional pastoral support.

Only when children are settled, happy and confident in being back in school will we begin to think about teaching. We believe that the best thing we can do for our pupils in Maths and English is to ensure that they are secure in basic skills that they can transfer to other areas. Initially, the children in school will complete the same or similar work that is set online.



What transition will my Year 6 child be offered?

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we are not able to offer transition in the usual sense. Children cannot switch between teachers. Secondary schools are unable to offer their usual transition package and they will not be offering taster days as they usually would. Secondary schools will be in touch with you directly to give any information about September. For other year groups, school will establish its own 'transition' plan once we have a better idea of what September will look like.



What if somebody becomes unwell?

If anybody becomes unwell, they will be sent home. If a child shows symptoms of a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or complains of an unusual sense of smell or taste, they will be kept separate from the rest of the school until a parent/ carer comes to collect them. Once home, families are advised to follow COVID-19 guidance and self-isolate and arrange for their child to be tested.



What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus at our school?

If a staff member or child develops coronavirus symptoms, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members will be advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

Where a child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group and their supervising adult will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days.



What if I still feel it is unsafe for my child to attend school?

We welcome any questions and will be happy to discuss any concerns that you have. We recognise and respect that you know your child/children and your personal circumstances best, so we will not be pressurising any parents/carers to send children into school, nor will families be penalised for keeping children at home.



Where will I find more information?

Our risk assessment is available for all parents to read – this can be found on our website under the COVID-19 tab. Please read this and the other information that can be found there and that has been sent out to you.