

What will school be like in September?

Updated FAQs for Parents – 24.08.2020

This document will hopefully answer many of the questions that you might have about how school will be operating in September and how we will all have to work to keep each other safe. It has been updated in line with the latest guidance and if there is something that has been missed, please let me know in the usual ways.

The main headlines for the new term include:

- Whole classes will be bubbles – All children will be taught by their class teachers.
- There will still be a lot of hand washing and hand-sanitising.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be in bubbles.
- No school assemblies.
- Normal attendance rules apply again.
- Changes to the start and the end of the day.
- Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms will be sent home and will need to be tested – This may lead to the year bubble being closed and children learning at home.

I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Friday 4th September.

Chris Hutchinson
Acting Head Teacher

Will all children be coming back to school in September?

Yes. The school will be open for all children.

Do I have to send my child in to school when it opens? What if I choose not to?

During the Summer term, the usual procedures around school attendance have been relaxed by the government in response to everyone's worries about Covid-19. This has meant that there have been no consequences for children not attending school.

From 1st September, all of the usual procedures will apply again. This means that attendance at school will be mandatory again. We expect all children to attend school every day and on time. The usual letter about the attendance procedures will be sent to all families at the beginning of the school year with more details.

Are the timings of the school day going to be different?

Yes. The current guidance from the government suggests that *'schools should consider staggered starts or adjusting start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school.'*

Our response to this is to have a **'soft' start to the school day for all children**. This means that you can drop your child off at school at any time between 8:30am and 9:00am. We know that some families would prefer an earlier start and that a later start works better for others. As a

rough guide, please aim for the following times so that we can avoid lots of families arriving at the same time:

- 8:30- Y5 & Y6
- 8:40- Y3 & Y4
- 8:50- Y1 & Y2
- 9:00- Reception

As long as your child is in school by 9:00am, they will be considered to be on time and present. If you have children in different year groups, it doesn't matter which time you aim for as long as the general effect is a gentle and crowd free arrival at school.

At the end of the day, we are going to have two home times. Reception and Key Stage 1 will go home at 3:00pm and Key Stage 2 will go home at 3:15. It will be particularly important for families of Key Stage 2 children to respect social distancing at 3:15pm. If you have children in different key stages, it will be necessary to wait on site for your Key Stage 2 child in a socially distant way.

Year Group	Home Time	Entry and Departure Point
Reception	3:00pm	Reception side gate
1	3:00pm	Main entrance
2	3:00pm	Y2 classroom door
3	3:15pm	Hall door
4	3:15pm	Classroom door next to the greenhouse
5	3:15pm	Hall door
6	3:15pm	Main entrance

Will there be Key Worker / Vulnerable children provision?

There will be no need for this separate provision as all classes will be open and all children attending. Key Worker / Vulnerable provision ended on Friday 17th July when the school closed for the Summer holiday.

How will I stay safe on the school site?

As there will be many more people on the school site at drop-off and collection times it will be much harder to keep a 2m distance between people. Please help everyone to feel safe by standing at least 2m from other family groups and ensuring that bottlenecks and passageways are kept clear of people on the school site.

Are the Breakfast Club, After-School Club going to re-start?

The Morning Club and After-School Club will be open from 7th September. The Breakfast Club has been re-organised to be a Morning Club so that it can be more responsive to parents' needs. For £1.50 a day, children can be dropped off at the Hall door from 7:45am. There will not be any breakfast provided though. The After-School Club will run as usual in the After-School Club room. Mrs Orford will be sending out more detail before the end of term.

How will the children be grouped in school?

The current advice is that the children's classes will be considered as their bubbles from September onwards. This means that they will stay in their class bubbles all day. There is some flexibility for group activities such as phonics and intervention groups, but these will be arranged in the safest way possible. The staff who lead these groups will maintain at least a

2m distance from the children so that they can move between bubbles as required. At lunchtimes, each year bubble will use separate tables (which are to be sanitised between use) but will be spaced out in the main hall and After-School Club room.

Will the children be socially distancing in school?

The government advice states:

'We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.'

With all children and staff coming back to school, 2m social distancing will not be possible within class bubbles. We cannot guarantee that the children will always be socially distant, but we can say that we will use the following approaches consistently:

- Class bubbles that do not mix with each other.
- Regular hand washing and sanitising.
- Regular cleaning of the school.
- Movement around the school to be limited.
- Altered start and finish times.
- Children facing the front of the class, not each other.
- Close supervision and guidance from school staff.
- Different class bubbles using different areas of the playground.
- Positive reminders for children from staff about social distancing.

What will the classrooms look like?

The classrooms and learning spaces will be set up so that all children will be facing the front of the class, rather than facing each other. This is so that if a child coughs or sneezes, it will not be straight towards the face of another child. It will feel a little like a step back in time, however it will be done in the name of safety and the children will still be able to interact with each other in a safe way.

Will my child's teacher be teaching them?

Yes. As a class will be considered to be a bubble, the class teacher will be teaching all of the children in the class. As teachers are entitled to PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time, there will be times when another adult leads the learning in this class. This movement of adults between bubbles is permitted under the government guidelines as they will maintain a 2m social distance whilst in front of the class.

Will school meals be available?

The school kitchen will be open as usual. Children who order a hot meal will eat in the main hall at staggered times and those who have a packed lunch will eat in the after-school club room. Meals can be ordered in the usual way on the School Money system.

Will my child be expected to wear school uniform?

It is expected that all children will be attending school in school uniform. The current guidance states that there is no need for extra washing of clothes due to Covid-19.

What will happen on PE days?

On the days when your child has a planned PE lesson, they should come to school in their PE kit and wear it all day. The adults will do this too. This is to reduce the amount of equipment that is being brought into school.

Does my child need a school bag or book bag?

To keep the school Covid Secure, we need to reduce the amount of equipment that everyone brings in to school from home. We will not be sending things home from school as we will use Tapestry and email as much as possible. If your child needs to bring in a lunchbox or certain personal items (please discuss these with the class teacher), please use the smallest and most discrete bag possible. All un-necessary items should be left at home.

How is the school going to be cleaned?

The school is following the government's guidance on cleaning. This means that all high contact areas in the school will be sanitised twice a day on top of the usual cleaning procedures. If someone in school displays symptoms of illness, then extra cleaning will take place in the areas that the person has been using.

How will personal hygiene be maintained?

Children will wash their hands on entering the building, after break time and before and after lunchtime. They will also be encouraged to wash their hands in-between these times as required. Hygiene and personal responsibility for cleanliness will also be part of the in-school curriculum. (At an age appropriate level.)

On arrival at school, the children will be able to use the outdoor hand-wash stations to wash their hands. Parental support with this would be gratefully appreciated.

What if someone is showing symptoms of Covid-19 on site?

The guidelines from the government state that...

'Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive [for Covid-19], the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.'

This means that if any child or adult in the group shows symptoms of Covid-19, they should apply to be tested and if positive, the whole group will be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days (or until they have tested as negative for Covid-19). A thorough clean of the group's learning space and surrounding area will then take place. All other groups will be unaffected by this and will attend school as normal.

What should I do if I want to speak to a member of staff or the school office?

During this time, we are going to limit the number of people who enter the school building to minimise the chance of people becoming infected with the coronavirus. Informal discussions with classroom staff are going to be difficult as they are going to be supervising the children, unless they happen at the end of the day and in an outside area from at least 2m.

If you need to speak to a member of the leadership team or the school office, please use the enquiry tent to the right of the main entrance, where you can talk to a member of office staff. If a more detailed conversation is required after this, then an in-school appointment can be made between 10am and 2pm during which hand washing and social distancing will be observed.

Should people be wearing PPE (face masks, gloves, aprons etc...) in school?

The current guidance from the government states that it is not necessary for children or staff to wear Personal Protective Equipment in school. The only times when it would be required is if the member of staff is providing first aid treatment to a child who is displaying symptoms or if it is necessary to provide intimate care to a child. In every other circumstance, there is no need for PPE to be worn. Parents and children are welcome to wear PPE on-site if they chose to.

What curriculum will the school be offering?

The government have stated that it is expected that schools may adjust their normal curriculum to meet the needs of the children as they return after this pandemic. We have been working hard on our curriculum during the school closure and are keen to get it up and running as much as possible from September. There will be adjustments made to meet children's needs in the form of additional support in English and maths as well as emotional and mental health support too. By the Summer term of 2021, it is expected that the school curriculum will be back to normal.

Will there be assemblies?

It would not be possible to manage social distancing during traditional assemblies. It would also not be possible for the group bubbles to stay separate either. Assembly topics will be covered in the group bubbles as a form of class assembly instead. These will be led by the class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (from outside of the room).

Will the school be providing home learning resources for children who are not in school?

For all children, the learning provision will be available in school. If a child is not in school for an authorised and agreed reason (such as a diagnosed case of Covid-19 or self-isolating), then learning will be provided through the Tapestry platform by the class teacher.

Will SATs and other assessments be taking place?

The current advice from the government states that all statutory assessments will take place in the Summer term in 2021. This includes:

- The Year 1 phonics check
- Key Stage 1 SATs and teacher assessment
- The Year 4 multiplication tables check
- Key Stage 2 SATs and teacher assessment

Will educational visits be taking place?

As classes are bubbles, they will be able to go on educational visits during the day. It will not be possible for any visits to take place that involve an overnight stay or foreign travel at the moment. This might change, and if it does, we will let you know how this will affect the usual visits that each year group normally enjoys. For each visit that is possible, we will plan very carefully to make sure that it is as safe as possible in the current situation.

How will the tutoring and catch-up support work?

Each school will be provided with some additional funding to support the provision of catch-up work and tutoring for identified children. We don't have any more details on this at the moment, but when we do, we will let you know how it is expected to work.