

Returning to school in September: Information for all parents and carers.

It is the government's intention that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term. The government's decision to proceed with this is based on the change in circumstances since the partial opening of schools in June. The prevalence of coronavirus (Covid-19) has decreased, the NHS Track and Trace system is up and running and the government say they are clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in school.

The Governors and I agree that returning to school is vital for children's education and well-being. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19).

In preparing for the full opening of school in September we have followed the government's guidance to schools. We have completed risk assessments and as a result we are putting in place proportionate and protective measures for children and staff.

What measures will be in place to ensure my child doesn't get infected by COVID-19?

We cannot guarantee that anyone will not catch COVID-19 as a result of our school fully opening. All we can do is put in place actions that serve to reduce the risk and deal with it effectively should it happen. We will follow the system of protective measures identified by the government which include:

- A requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

Does my child have to return to school in September?

In March, when the coronavirus outbreak was increasing the government made it clear that no parents would be penalised for children's non-attendance at school. Now that the circumstances have changed, school attendance will be mandatory again. It is vital that all children return to school to minimise the longer term impact of the pandemic on children's well-being, education and wider development.

From September, the usual rules on school attendance will apply; including:

- Parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school
- School's responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices.

We do understand that some parents and children may be reluctant and/or anxious about returning to school in September and we will have support available to address this. Plans will in place to re-engage pupils with school and to develop systems of pastoral support for pupils who need it.

What if my child or a family member is shielding?

A pupil will be unable to attend if they are self-isolating because they have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has a confirmed case of coronavirus

Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August. This will mean that the majority of pupils can return to school even those who are on the shielded patient list and those who have family members who are shielding. Parents of these children should take advice from their health care professionals.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, the children will be offered remote education via Seesaw and Microsoft Teams.

If rates of the disease rise in local areas, children may be asked to stay away from school.

Will children be wearing school uniform?

Children will be expected to be back in full school uniform in September. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual. Please see the school website for the uniform policy.

How will we drop off and pick up our children?

Pick up and drop off times will continue to be staggered and we will continue to maximise full use of site space to reduce mixing and promote social distancing. Children will be dropped off using open external doors of classrooms and queuing will be avoided. Parents will be informed about details of where and when to pick up and drop off their children at the end of August.

It is essential that we continue to reduce the number of people on site by, wherever possible, asking only one adult from each family to pick up and drop off children and siblings staying at home whenever it is safe to do so. Parents should not stay any longer than necessary on the school site.

Will there be breakfast club and after school club?

Yes. Breakfast club and Twiglets will commence on Thursday 3rd September. Breakfast Club will continue to run from 7.45 until 8.45am and Twiglets will run from 3.15 – 6pm. Children will be organised within wraparound care so that social distancing between bubbles can be maintained where possible. Parents will be provided with further details at the end of August.

How will the children be grouped in school?

Children will continue to be grouped together within class 'bubbles' and contact between bubbles will be avoided where possible. With the full opening of schools these 'bubbles' will have between 21 and 32 children in them. Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. In the event of a positive case it makes it quicker and easier to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keeps that number as small as possible.

Children will be in their class groups for the majority of the classroom time, but they will mix into wider groups for specialist teaching such as phonics lessons and wraparound care.

Staff will continue to maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible. Where staff need to move between classes they will try and keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can.

How will the classrooms be organised?

School Re-opening 3rd September 2020: Plans to manage and reduce risk.

Children will, in the majority of classrooms, be seated side by side facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on.

Non-essential furniture and resources will be removed from classrooms to provide more space.

To avoid the sharing of resources we would ask that children bring their own named pencil case to school with the following equipment in it:

- Pencil
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Coloured pencils
- Glue stick
- Handwriting pen

We will be able to provide children eligible for free school meals with a pack of resources where needed.

Children will need full PE kit in school.

Classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day

Who will teach my child?

Children will be taught by their class teachers and teaching assistants for the majority of the time. Supply teachers and cover teachers will be used where necessary but they will minimise contact and maintain as much as distance as possible from children and other staff.

What happens at lunchtime and playtimes?

Children will be restricted to playing within their class 'bubbles' in their marked out 'zone' on the field at playtimes. In order to reduce social contacts, the bubbles will not mix.

We will not be able to offer any hot meals in September. Packed lunches can be ordered from Caterlink, the school caterers via Parentpay or children can bring in their own lunches and drinks.

How will the curriculum be organised?

The children will follow a broad and balanced curriculum however at the start of the autumn term we will be assessing the children to ascertain where the gaps in learning are so we can plan how to address these. Children may find that there is a greater emphasis on phonics, reading, writing and maths at the start of the academic year. We will also focus on children's mental health and wellbeing using a variety of resources to promote positive mental health, re-engage children with school and address any anxieties children may have.

Will there be after school clubs?

Teachers will not be running any after school clubs in September. We will continue to review this as we progress through the term.

Will there be music lessons?

There will be no on-site music lessons arranged in Term 1. This will be reviewed as the autumn term progresses. Where peripatetic teachers are offering remote lessons, parents will be informed.

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Will staff or pupils be wearing PPE or face coverings?

Pupils do not need to wear face coverings. The majority of staff will not require PPE. PPE would only be needed when an individual becomes ill with coronavirus symptoms whilst in school or where a child has intimate care needs.

What if someone gets infected – what will you do?

By avoiding mixing then we are acting to minimise the spread of infection to others outside of the group. In the management of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, we will follow the guidelines from Public Health England which are summarised below:

Scenario	Action
Pupil or staff member with symptoms of coronavirus – suspected case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact PHE • Advise the pupil/staff member get tested • Person to isolate for 8 days – rest of household for 14 days or until negative test result. • Clean and disinfect rooms where suspected case has been using PPE. • If negative case can return once well and contacts can stop isolating. • If negative – follow procedure for confirmed case
Confirmed case in child or staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact PHE • Ensure case isolates at home for 8 days. Rest of household for 14 days. • 'Bubble' sent home and advised to isolate for 14 days. Household of wider group do not need to isolate unless the child/staff member develops symptoms. • Advise anyone with symptoms gets tested. Use NHS 111 online portal • Clean and disinfect rooms using PPE. • Follow cleaning guidance from PHE.
2 or more confirmed cases in a class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact PHE • Ensure case isolates at home for 8 days. Rest of household for 14 days. • 'Bubble' sent home and advised to isolate for 14 days. Household of wider group do not need to isolate unless the child/staff member develops symptoms. • Advise anyone with symptoms gets tested. Use NHS 111 online portal • Clean and disinfect rooms using PPE. • Follow cleaning guidance from PHE. • South West Health Protection team will support the school with communication and infection control advice.

What will happen if schools are required to close again as a result of another spike in cases?

The decision to close schools will be made by the Local Authority and/or the Department for Education. If the school is forced to close again teachers will immediately switch to remote learning using Seesaw and Microsoft Teams. If parents are unable to access online learning due to connectivity issues the school will support parents in ensuring pupils have access to a high quality education.