



Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

You are probably aware that more announcements were made yesterday afternoon about school. We are still processing the very detailed guidance that was published yesterday about our return to 'normal' in September. However, the main headline is that every child will return to school full time in September.

The senior leadership team with staff will need to work out the details for what that means for our school and then we will share our plans with you as soon as possible.

The detailed guidelines published yesterday afternoon outlines the following:

Preparations for all pupils to return in autumn

School attendance will be mandatory in autumn and the usual rules on attendance will apply. That includes your responsibility to record attendance and follow up on absence.

On 1 August, the government will [pause it's advice](#) for vulnerable people to shield, **if** there's a continued decline in coronavirus transmission rates. This means that pupils affected by those rules should be able to return to school.

However, some pupils may still be unable to attend because they're complying with clinical and/or public health advice given to them (e.g. if they're self-isolating and waiting for a test result).

In that case, they shouldn't be penalised absence and schools will offer them access to remote education.

Class groups may need to increase in size

Schools may need to increase the size of 'bubbles' to allow everyone to return to school.

- In early years settings, schools won't need to arrange children in small consistent groups in autumn, but they should reduce mixing and schools may want to keep age groups apart
- In primary schools, 'bubbles' may be the size of a full class
- In secondary schools:
 - For pupils in Key Stage (KS) 3, 'bubbles' may be the size of a full class
 - For pupils in KS4 and KS5, they will likely need to be the size of a year group to allow you to deliver the full range of curriculum subjects (but if schools can achieve this with smaller groups, they should do that)

Whatever the size of the group, they should be kept apart from other groups where possible and older children should be encouraged to keep their distance within groups. This will result in staggered start and finish times and separate lunch/break times.

Staff can work across different groups in order to deliver the school timetable, but they should keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can (ideally 2 metres apart).

Equipment and resources can be shared within groups

Classroom-based resources like books and games can be used and shared within a group. Clean them regularly, as you do for frequently touched surfaces.

However, people still shouldn't share individual and very frequently used equipment like pencils and pens.

Any resources shared between groups, such as sports, art and science equipment, should be either:

- Cleaned frequently and meticulously, and always between groups using them; or
- Rotated so they can be unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different groups

Schools should follow similar rules for books and other shared resources that pupils might take between school and home. But everyone should avoid unnecessary sharing, especially where it doesn't contribute to pupil education and development.

New measures for responding to infections

If someone has symptoms

School will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that we can give to parents collecting a child with symptoms or staff with symptoms.

Parents and staff must inform us immediately of the results of a test.

If there's a confirmed case of coronavirus

If we become aware that someone has tested positive, we will contact our [local health protection team](#). This team will also contact us if they become aware that someone at your school has tested positive.

The team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who's been in close contact with the person when they were infectious, and make sure they are asked to self-isolate.

Close contact means:

- Direct close contact - face-to-face contact with an infected person for any length of time, within 1 metre, including:
 - Being coughed on
 - A face-to-face conversation, or
 - Unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- Proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected person
- Travelling in a small car with an infected person

If there's a possible outbreak

If there's 2 or more cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus is suspected, we will work with our local health protection to decide if additional action is needed.

In some cases, the team may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate as a precautionary measure, such as the whole year group.

Whole-school closure will not generally be necessary, and we shouldn't consider this except if your local health protection team advises it.

If an outbreak is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to our school.

New expectations for our curriculum

We will need to modify our curriculum substantially at the start of the academic year, but aim to return to our normal curriculum for all pupils by summer term 2021.

We will assess pupils' starting points and address gaps in their knowledge and skills, and use this to inform changes to our curriculum.

Primary schools

For pupils in **early years**:

- For children in nursery: focus on the prime areas of learning, including communication and language; personal, social and emotional development (PSED); and physical development
- For children in reception: focus on the above, but also assess and address gaps in language, early reading and maths, particularly ensuring children's acquisition of phonic knowledge and extending their vocabulary

- For all children: follow updates to the [disapplication guidance](#) for the Early Years Foundation Stage and consider how all groups of children can be given equal opportunities for outdoor learning

For pupils in **KS1 and KS2**, prioritise:

- Identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress in the 'essentials' (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and maths)
- Identifying opportunities across the curriculum so they read widely
- Developing their knowledge and vocabulary

Keep the curriculum broad, so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year (e.g. sciences, humanities, the arts, PE, RE).

The Department for Education is planning on the basis that statutory primary assessments will take place in summer 2021, although it has delayed the introduction of the new [reception baseline assessment](#) until September 2021.

Some trips can start again

We can resume non-overnight domestic educational visits. We must make sure any trips are in line with protective measures, such as keeping pupils in their 'bubble'.

Consider resuming breakfast and after school clubs

We need to think carefully about how we can make this provision work alongside our wider protective measures, like keeping pupils in their 'bubbles' when possible.

Return to our usual school uniform

.Uniforms won't need to be cleaned any more than usual, or with methods different from normal.

No routine Ofsted inspections in the autumn term

Ofsted has suspended routine inspections for the time being. However:

- Inspectors will visit a sample of schools to discuss how they're managing the return of all their pupils, but these visits won't result in judgements. The insights that inspectors gather will be aggregated nationally to share learning with the education sector and beyond
- Ofsted can still inspect a school in response to any significant concerns, such as safeguarding

The government intends for routine inspections to restart from January 2021, though the exact timing is under review.

Standard inspections from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) also remain suspended, and are intended to start again at the same time.

We understand that some children may be feeling rather anxious about their return to school and many of you have concerns that your child may have fallen behind academically. Please be reassured that our main aim in September will be to settle them in, reassure them and work on their basic skills, closing any gaps in learning. Remember if your child would like to speak to their class teacher or new teacher please contact us. We could also arrange for their teacher to meet your child at the school gate for a quick chat.

The children, who have been able to return to school the last three weeks have quickly settled back into routine and are just back to school as normal, happy to be with their teachers and friends. We are all looking forward to September when all of the children can do this.

Thank you again for all your care and support. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need to.

Many Thanks

Donna Lee
Head Teacher