



Nettlesworth Primary School COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions – September 2020

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

The Government has announced that all pupils, in all year groups, should return to school full time at the beginning of the autumn term 2020.

2. Does my child have to attend?

Yes. Now the circumstances have changed and 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.

While our aim is to have all pupils back at school in the autumn, we have also planned for the possibility of a local lockdown and how we will ensure continuity of education. All communication will be via the ParentMail platform and home learning will be provided by our staff via the school website as per the current arrangements.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

3. How big will the classes be?

Children will return to school in the same class sizes as they were in before the national school closures in March 2020. Desks should be forward facing where possible.

Class 1 Children (Reception) – 8.45am-3.00pm



Class 2 children (Years 1/2) – 9.00am-3.15pm



Class 3 children (Years 3/4) – 8.30am-2.45pm



Class 4 children (Years 5/6) – 9.15am-3.30pm



4. How will you guarantee that social distancing takes place?

We will of course do our best to support distancing, but parents must understand that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will touch adults and one another and come into close contact. The nature of the school site and the age of our children is such that this is unavoidable, and we cannot be expected to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are able to do and use this to inform their decision making.

5. How do I explain social distancing to my child?

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make the children feel safe.

For younger children, you and your child can find out how the Gruffalo handles social distancing .

There are some great stories and simple explanations to help:

Time to Come In, Bear: A Children's Story About Social Distancing Written by Kim St. Lawrence Read by Ryan St. Lawrence. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA_SsZFYw0w&feature=emb_logo

How to Explain Social Distancing to Kids

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HTA3ql6uWY&feature=emb_logo

For very young children who may not understand the concept of viruses and germs, this video from Sesame Street's Grover is a great way to show them the “good” and “bad” of being far away and too close up to someone.

Grover and Social Distancing

As long time fans of Sesame Street, we thought that there would be no better way to spread some educational truth about staying safe during the COVID-19 outbreak....

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOrt8WMwVEo&feature=emb_logo

6. What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?

We will:

- follow the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance.
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Hand sanitiser is in classrooms and other learning environments.
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as tables, chairs, toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more regularly than normal.

Ensure that all adults and children:

- frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly and/or use hand sanitiser
- clean their hands-on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing, are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
- Promote good respiratory and hand hygiene become the normal school culture, promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently.
- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition.
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day.
- where possible, all spaces should be well ventilated using natural ventilation e.g. opening windows and doors (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding).

7. Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?

Government advice on the Scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. However outside of this we will keep children within one set classroom for the day.

8. How will lunch time work to ensure children are safe?

Lunches will return as the government has requested "schools are expected to reopen their kitchens and ensure that meals are able to be prepared and served safely". Children will have lunch in their classrooms. School meals will be offered for all children as per our arrangements pre-lockdown. Children will choose between a selection of hot meals, a range of sandwiches and filled jacket potatoes. Menu's are available on our school website

From September, School Meals for pupils in Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be increasing in price to £2.10 per day, which means a week's dinners will now cost £10.50. Meals for those in Reception, Year 1 & 2 will still be free.

*Pupils moving from Year 2 into Year 3 will need to pay for their dinners in September via ParentPay unless they are entitled to Free School Meals.

* If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals and haven't applied, or your circumstances have changed, please email the School Office for a form for us to do a check with Durham County Council.

Children can also choose to bring packed lunch and their bag will be wiped down with anti-bacterial when it comes into school.

[Interim Menu after Lockdown Autumn First Half Term 2020](#)

9. How will you make school safe for my child?

In addition to social distancing and hygiene measures mentioned above, we will:

- give children a designated classroom (which we may refer to as their bubble) for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- regularly cleaning the setting and resources will take place.
- regularly clean the children's personal resources (pencils etc).
- children will not be allowed to bring in their own resources such as pencil cases, crayons, etc, We will provide resources for children. (individual stationary packs)
- use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes as identified in our Risk assessments.
- confine resources to rooms to minimise sharing and when sharing is essential, clean resources before transference.
- organise staggered playtimes so again minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- Have lunch in classrooms
- carry out a corridor protocol- keep clear corridor spaces as far as is practical to allow maximum width space for walking.
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them
- employ a set of agreed non-negotiables (class/school charters based on Rights Respecting Schools Ethos) on safety in the classroom agreed by all the children and staff at Nettlesworth Primary School. These will make every attempt to maintain social distancing for staff and pupils and limit any potential contact.
- removal of unnecessary items from classrooms.
- removal of soft furnishing, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean.

10. Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?

Where possible, children will be given their own equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. Children should not bring in any equipment from home. Only school books/homework will go home/school and will be in a plastic wallet. KS1 (Reception-Year 2) can bring in PE kit but KS2 (Year3-6) will wear PE kit on PE days. Teachers will send out details on first day back of PE days. Any resources that are shared (e.g school IPADs) will be thoroughly disinfected after use.

11. Will everyone arrive at school at the same time causing an increase in risk?

We have organised a staggered drop off and collection time for children and their parents. We ask just one parent/carer to collect their children and to preferably observe a 2m social distance space around each family.

Only one parent or carer should accompany the child to school to minimise risk. Parents will not be invited to enter classrooms but will drop off as described in letter before summer, outside school gates.

12. Will the school have assembly, concerts, sports days, etc?

Little groups will have an opportunity for reflection within their daily session, but there will be no mass gatherings as a school. Head Teacher will visit classrooms twice a week to hold assemblies

13. My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?

We ask that you help support your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different. We will be doing a lot of work at school around this. Sharing social stories can be really helpful for young children and help to express the situation in a clear factual way, reducing emotional responses. It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending.

14. Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?

No, not to begin with. Although we will work towards implementing our traditional class timetables, our initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. The children, their families and our staff have all gone through an incredible period of change and experienced loss on a number of different levels. All have had changes in routine, loss of communication etc and some may have sadly even experienced the loss of a family member. This should not be ignored. Whole school focus on making Nettlesworth Primary School what it is, will support children's learning. We will of course ensure that learning and skills are developed in all subjects of the National Curriculum.

15. How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?

In addition to that mentioned above, a team of staff will be available to provide support. Our SENCO will work to ensure that children's needs are met. There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play, rebuild friendships and have 'break out' or 'chill out' spaces for times when they may feel overwhelmed.

16. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

The Government guidelines state, 'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way.
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable

gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.’

Additionally, if any child or adult feels unwell, staff supporting that person will wear PPE to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19.

17. Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

Yes. We are asking that our school uniform policy is adhered to in the autumn term. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.

18. Will the breakfast club and after school club be open?

Yes. Parents will need to book this via ParentPay. This will be set up the week prior to breakfast club starting- week commencing Monday 7th September. No cash or cheques can be accepted by the school. After school tuition will also run for all children in years 1-6 week commencing 7th September. Information will be sent out by class teachers when we return to school. This is a free club.

19. Will extra-curricular clubs run (football club, dance club etc)?

No. These bring too many children into contact and mix the school groupings.

20. Will the school office be open?

Yes. This is a very busy time of year with new admissions and leavers, please bear with us. Where possible I would ask that parents ring/email the school as opposed to presenting in person. We will communicate with parents electronically via ParentMail, email or phone where possible.

21. What will your response be to any infection or possible infection of COVID-19?

The government advice is:

Schools must ensure they understand the NHS Test and Trace process and how to contact their local [Public Health England health protection team](#). Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they 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. 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. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

The government will ensure that it is as easy as possible to get a test through a wide range of routes that are locally accessible, fast and convenient. We will release more details on new testing avenues as and when they become available and will work with schools so they understand what the quickest and easiest way is to get a test. By the autumn term, all schools will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that they can give directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at school, where they think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. Advice will be provided alongside these kits.

Schools should ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

22. What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance.

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20

seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance.

23. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will take swift action when we become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual 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 individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home. To support them in doing so, we recommend schools keep a record of pupils and staff in each group, and any close contact that takes place between children and staff in different groups (see [section 5 of system of control](#) for more on grouping pupils). This should be a proportionate recording process. Schools do not need to ask pupils to record everyone they have spent time with each day or ask staff to keep definitive records in a way that is overly burdensome.

A template letter will be provided to schools, on the advice of the health protection team, to send to parents and staff if needed. Schools must not share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)'. They should get a test, and:

- • if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- • if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'

Schools should not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation.

Further guidance is available on [testing and tracing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

24. Will there be any swimming lessons or trips once school opens on September 1st 2020?

No. There are no plans to take the children out of the school grounds until further notice.

25. How can I speak to the class teacher if we are socially distancing?

You can contact your child's class teacher by emailing them using the same email addresses set up for correspondence since the national closure of schools. If you are unable to do this, you can email or telephone the office who will then pass the message on.

26. What should my child bring to school each day?

We want your child to bring the least amount of items into school as possible. Permitted items are:

- Lunchbox
- PE kit for Reception-Year 2
 - School reading books/homework books

For further reading, please may I recommend:

DfE Guidance for full opening: schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>