



Parent/ Carer Questions and Answers Sheet

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

The Government has asked primary schools to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 alongside priority groups. The Government's ambition is to bring all primary school year groups for the last month of the Summer half term if conditions nationally make it feasible. This will be kept under review. This will depend upon the staffing availability in schools, priority groups and younger children will be prioritised first in line with Government guidance. If a place is available for your child, you will be contacted and a return date given along with a discussion regarding if you wish for your child to return.

2. Why aren't all the children coming back?

The DfE have based this on the need to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus so a gradual process and smaller groupings in classes can be maintained.

3. If one of my children is eligible to return can't their sibling come back too?

Sadly, the answer to this is 'no'. Siblings cannot attend unless they are in another of the selected year groups or in a priority group. This would raise the number of pupils attending the school too quickly.

4. Does my child have to attend?

No one with symptoms should attend for any reason. All children in the selected groups are encouraged to attend unless self-isolating or shielding, however parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time and schools will not be held to account for attendance levels.

5. I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is. Should I send them back to school?

Children and young people who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions. As we will not be able to socially distance children within their class group, it would be advisable for these children to remain at home. Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the social distancing guidance and including those who are pregnant, can attend. DfE May 2020

6. How big will the classes be?

The DfE is recommending class sizes should not exceed 15 pupils per small group. However, due to the size of our classrooms and through our own risk assessment children will be working within groups of 8-10 pupils.

7. Will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?

DfE guidance 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. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.*' Parents need to know that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will touch 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 regarding allowing children to return.

8. What hygiene measures will be in place to prevent transmission?

We will:

- ensure a robust risk assessment is in place which has been agreed with the Local Authority, Chair of Governors and has been shared with all staff and unions.
- follow the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available and that children are reminded of this frequently and the younger children are supervised with this.
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches more regularly than normal
- ensure that lidded bins for tissues are emptied each day or if lidded bins are unavailable waste is double bagged to minimise transmission.
- where possible, ensure spaces are well ventilated.
- prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation.

We will ensure that all adults and children:

- frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- 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
- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- where possible help children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- we will consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition and visual aids.
- Support children with additional needs to follow the guidance through appropriate use of resources

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

Yes. We will keep children within their identified classroom environment during the day and stay with the same group of children.

10. How will lunch time work?

All school meals will be collected and eaten in the children's classrooms to ensure reduced movement across the school site. Free School Meal children will continue to receive vouchers if they are not attending school. The children will have a short time on the playground with the other children from their classroom group. School meals will be packed lunches. Children can bring their own packed lunch if they require.

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

Where possible, children will be given their own equipment in an individual learning pack, which they must not share with anyone else. Any resources that are shared (e.g. school iPads) will be disinfected after use.

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

The school will organise a staggered drop off and collection time for pupils. (More details to follow) The approach to drop off areas will be marked out with a 2m queue (just like a supermarket) and there will be a drop off zone from where the teacher will invite pupils in. Only one parent or carer should accompany the child to school to minimise risk. Latecomers will need to phone the school office before entering the building. Your child will then be collected and taken to their class by a staff member.

14. Will the school have assemblies?

There will be no mass gatherings as a school for the time being. We will however hold assemblies in the smaller class groups.

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

Please prepare your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different.

16. Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the National Curriculum?

No, not to begin with. The 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 have all been through an incredible period of change and may have experienced loss on a number of different levels. We will work hard to establish new routines and once children feel safe and secure we will commence more formal learning. We will be led by the children and their needs in this respect. We will continue to upload weekly home learning plans on our website for the children remaining at home. These materials will form the basis of the learning in school.

17. How will you support my child's emotional well-being?

In addition to that mentioned above, all staff will be available to provide support. There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play and develop new friendships.

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

We would encourage wearing uniform if this still fits, however if this is not possible due to your child no longer fitting into uniform we understand, and their own clothes are fine. The important thing is clothes worn each day are clean on in the morning. PE kits will not be needed but if children can wear trainers to school this would help for outdoor exercise. We advise applying long lasting sun-cream before coming to school rather than bringing cream in. We will not be able to apply sun cream to children.

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

We only want your child to bring their lunch box if they are packed lunches. Filled water bottles must also be brought into school daily and must be taken home each day and washed. Coats and/or hats may be needed. P.E. kits, book bags, ruck sacks, etc will not be required and will help to ensure that classrooms are as clutter free as possible.

20. Will the breakfast club be open?

No – at this time breakfast club will remain closed to ensure we reduce the number of adults accessing the site.

21. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

No until the situation improves, we would prefer to minimise additional adults coming in and out of school.

22. Will extra-curricular clubs run?

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

23. Will the school office be open?

Yes, but parents and children should refrain from using the main school entrance unless this is the agreed drop off point (more information to follow) to help meet social distancing requirements. Where possible we would ask that parents ring/email the school as opposed to presenting in person. Teachers will have boxes for you to put dinner money, forms, etc. in during drop off/pick up time. The Acting Headteacher and Acting Deputy Headteachers mobile numbers are on the school website in case of an emergency.

24. Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children who do not return to school?

We will continue to set home learning activities during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. These activities will, in the main, be what the children in school are accessing. The class email addresses will still be in use but please be aware there may be a slight delay in response to these emails if staff are in school teaching.

25. Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?

The government advice is:

When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

26. Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to testing is available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers.

27. 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, 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 (although this will be offered to any member of staff if the case arises) 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.

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

We will follow the Government guidance set out below. When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, 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. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms. As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.