

## **Children Returning To School - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

We have had over 70 responses on our survey and a majority of parents have said that they will be sending their Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 6 child back to school on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Parents/carers, please don't forget what we are asking of you:

- Don't send your child to school if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms (cough, high temperature, loss of sense of smell)
- Send your children in clean, freshly washed clothes each day
- Don't send your children with their own pencil cases, etc.
- Don't send any home learning or reading books back to school (we will not be sending any reading books home)
- Only one adult comes to drop-off/collect children (siblings stay at home too if possible)
- Don't stop to talk to other adults that you meet on the school site (no gathering)
- Keep to our one-way system
  - 'In' gates opposite main school entrance
  - 'Out' gates by red-fenced area and opposite community car park
- Don't come to the class door (stay 2 metres away) and don't try to talk to the teachers – use ClassDojo to communicate instead.

### **What clothing should the children wear?**

Following your feedback, we will allow children to wear their own choice of clothes (but not fancy dress please).

The most important thing is that your children wear clean clothes every day.

Trainers are advisable so that children can join in with all activities (PE kit is not needed).

We make no apology for this... we know it means more washing for families, but this is one of the basic, safe things for all of us to do to look after our children.

We do apologise in advance if we have to contact you to check if your child is wearing clean clothes. It is better to be safe than sorry (so we'll check if there's any doubt).

### **What will the children eat and drink?**

Children will be allowed to drink from their own bottles throughout the day (water please).

We do not plan to give out healthy snacks during the day.

Children will need packed lunches each day.

Children in Reception and Year 1 will receive a free packed lunch from the school kitchen as part of the government's Universal Infant School Meals initiative. Year 6 children who receive Free School Meals will also be given a packed lunch by school.

If any family prefers to send their own packed lunch, rather than the free packed lunch provided in school, that is fine.

### **What group will my child be in and will they know the children/adults?**

At this stage we cannot guarantee which adult/s will be with which groups, but we will let you know before the children come back. Being with a different adult may be disconcerting at first but we can assure you that our main focus will be on nurture and well-being during the rest of this school year.

Children will be with other children from the same year group but they may not be with their 'best' friends. We will make every effort over the days and weeks to foster positive relationships within the groups.

### **Will the children have different start and finish times according to their age?**

Yes... **and it's really important that you arrive on time (to keep everyone safe).**

- Nursery and Reception children will start at 9:05am and finish at 2:45pm.
- Year 1 children will start at 8:50am and finish at 2:55pm.
- Year 6 children will start at 8:35am and finish at 3:15pm.
- There is only breakfast club for children of key workers (drop off between 7:45am and 8:30am).
- Children of other ages who attend our Emergency Provision can be dropped off before 8:30am or after 9:20am. They can be collected at 3:05pm on the dot or anytime between 3:25pm and 4:00pm.

If you have more than one child in your household who will be attending and they have different start and finish times to each other, please contact us and we will help you.

### **How will we help children socially distance themselves and wash their hands?**

Government advice based on the scientific evidence is that children are at lower risk. The decision to allow primary-school age children back to school is based on them not being able to properly social-distance! That's right - they will not be expected to achieve a perfect 2 metres distance from the people around them for every minute of every day.

Children will be reminded / helped several times a day about socially distancing and about how and why it is important, but they will never be 'told off' for not socially distancing properly.

When children are in class, they will mostly sit in their individual spaces / at their own tables, with a variety of things to do during the day. The tables will be set out carefully to give each child the maximum possible space in-between them and the other children in the group.

We will instruct children when to wash their hands and when to use sanitiser. Because the groups will be smaller, it will be easier for us to monitor who has and who hasn't.

### **How will we help children to have a good time and feel happy when they're at school?**

This will be our second priority (after keeping them safe). The children will have numerous opportunities to think, talk and listen about coronavirus, lockdown, etc. The curriculum will be

focused on accessible activities that the adults can give plenty of reassurance and assistance with. It will be a very relaxed and positive atmosphere.

### **What if parents/carers keep children at home?**

That's not what we want, but we do understand and we won't judge you for it.

You won't get the support from teachers that you have been used to, because they will have to focus mostly on the children in school that they are supervising.

You will still be able to access appropriate work - through the school website, but you will not be able to collect work packs from school anymore (work packs will still be available to collect for children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 though).

If your reason for keeping a child at home is having an extremely clinically vulnerable person in your household (i.e. they have received communication from the NHS to 'shield' themselves), please get in touch and we will make every effort to work with you and your family's needs.

If you initially decide to keep your child at home and then change your mind, we will add your child to one of the existing groups, as long as it doesn't take the group number above 15. In that case, we will look at creating a new group and you may have to wait while we do that.

### **How will you keep the school clean?**

We still have our cleaning team on site every day and we aim to have at least one cleaner on site all through the day, working around the toilets and shared areas (door handles, etc.) so that those areas get several cleans during the day.

Because we are not using all the classrooms in school, the cleaning team will be able to focus more on the areas that are being used and they will ensure the highest possible level of cleanliness each day.

We are considering having one deep clean each week, which is only usually done twice per year.

We are using higher-grade sterilising products than we usually do, so that bacteria and viruses are more likely to be killed.

School staff will use anti-bacterial/anti-viral wipes throughout the day in classrooms - for surfaces and equipment that are used.

### **What's happening in the summer holidays?**

We don't know yet.

### **If children are being sent back to school, why are MPs not going back to parliament?**

Because younger children have been shown scientifically to be 'lower-risk'.