

Some Frequently Asked Questions:

Will my child attend school every day?

No. This is not possible due to the size and layout of the school, the children's needs and the staffing capacity. To accommodate all requests children will be in small groupings. We will put in place a 'blended' learning system. Children will spend some time in school learning and sometime continuing distance learning at home.

Year Groups	Days to Attend
Nursery (Morning)	Mon - Thursday
Nursery (entitled to 30 hours)	Mon - Thursday
Current Keyworker Pupils (Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5) Groups A, B and C	Mon - Thursday
Reception Pupils Groups A, B and C	Mon - Thursday
Year 1 Pupils Groups A and B	Mon - Thursday
Year Six will be split into 4 isolation bubble groups	
Year 6 Pupils Groups A and B	Mon and Tues
Year 6 Pupils Groups C and D	Wed and Thurs

Please note: The school will be closed each Friday.

Will I be able to enter the school site?

Parents and carers are not allowed onto the school playground and the car park will be used for staff cars only. There will be a one-way system; we ask you to follow the arrows and to adhere to the social distancing as much as possible. During the first few days, there will be members of staff to guide you. We are also having to stagger entry and collection to avoid congestion, so punctuality is key to ensure safety here. If your child is unsure/upset about coming to school, staff will only be able to encourage verbally and not physically support you. If this is distressing, we would ask you to leave the school and contact us to arrange a suitable time/day when your child feels ready. At the allocated pick up times, we would ask you to queue and adhere to social distancing where you can collect your child.

Where is the drop off and pick point?

The double green gate by the main school entrance and colourful facade.

A staff member will wait at drop off point to greet and guide the children onto the playground. Another member of the staff will be waiting on the playground. Children are expected to independently make their way to their classroom door. At the end of the day, the children will queue and wait here for collection. It is important you collect your child at your allocated time slot promptly.

How will my child enter school at the start of the day, especially Early Years?

If your child is in Early Years (Reception) parents will not be allowed to escort children into classrooms /cloak area for obvious reasons. In fact, our youngest children need more thought – like using Velcro or slip on shoes to limit interact and closeness to others and staff, easy close coats etc. Children should also be happy to leave their parents at the gate entrance to meet the staff member waiting to greet them. Although it saddens me greatly, we will be unable to coax and comfort them off parents as we would normally or lead them by the hand into the building. It is important you speak and prepare your child for their return to school.

What will happen if I choose not to send my child to school?

This decision as to whether you wish your child to return to school, is yours. The Government has stated that there will be no penalties for non-attendance at this time.

If I am a key worker, can my child continue to attend school on the days I am required to be at work?

Yes – however please see the Priority Category List.

Is there after school clubs?

The government have requested we stop providing after school clubs for now in order to avoid different groups of pupils mixing with each other.

Can I just pop into the school office if I have a question or if I want to give school staff a message?

Parents and carers cannot come into the school building. The government guidance is very clear about this. Please communicate with us by telephone or email the school office to let us know that you would like us to call you. Please bear in mind teachers will be teaching all day and will only respond each Friday during their planning time.

If I have a child in two different year groups due to return this term, which drop off and pick up time should I use?

Please use the earliest drop off and pick up time as indicated in the table above.

If I choose not to send my child to school, will they still receive distance learning?

Yes. We will prepare distance learning for all the children which reflects the learning in school. The children will do some of the activities when they are in school with us and others at home. The Government has lifted all requirements to follow a specific curriculum at this point and recognises that the children's wellbeing, enabling them to settle back into very different routines for a while, is essential. The focus will consolidation of basic skills in reading, writing and maths. Please bear in mind teachers will be teaching all day and so will only respond each Friday during their planning time.

Will the same children be allocated the same teacher to reduce social groups? Will staff assigned to teaching groups be consistent and remain the same for full days?

Our plan has children in one room across the day with the same adults. There are challenges to manage here, including the fact that, as with most schools, we have a number of part time staff. The adult may not be your child's regular teacher and the room may not be the usual classroom. We will endeavour to follow the guidance to ensure there is no social interaction with other 'bubbles' in school. Pupils will play out with the children in their 'bubble' at set times to avoid contact.

Can the school realistically be able to keep the 2 metres social distancing for children in early years?

An honest answer, no. The guidance accepts that young children will find social distancing very difficult. We will try our best to reinforce this and Reception provision particularly will have to look very different. Reception pupils will not be able to free flow as normal nor will they have access to the range of resources they currently have as the guidance requests that we limit resources to those that can be easily cleaned.

What are social bubbles? How will you ensure children are socially distancing?

Our experience over the last few weeks tells us that this is incredibly difficult to maintain. Therefore, we are adopting the Government '**bubble**' model whereby the pupils in one particular group will be encouraged to socially distance themselves but it will not be rigidly adhered to through sanctions. This also means we can teach PE lessons and the children can play with each other at playtimes. Each 'bubble' will be socially distant from another 'bubble' and rules will be in place to ensure this is followed by all pupils. Where a child is deliberately not adhering to the expectations or is repeatedly spoiling the learning ambience within a classroom and poor behaviour continues to persist, they will be asked to continue their learning at home for the rest of the week.

The guidance states: ***Familiarise yourself with the maximum safe group size***

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.

You should, therefore, work through the hierarchy of measures set out in [implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#):

- *avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- *frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- *regular cleaning of settings*
- *minimising contact and mixing*

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, so children, young people and staff where possible, should only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group should stay away from other people and groups. If you can keep older children within those small groups 2 metres away from each other, you should do so. While in general, groups should be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk. For primary schools, classes should normally be split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher (and, if needed, a teaching assistant). Where desks are used, they should be spaced as far apart as possible.

Can school demonstrate that they can safely and effectively deliver education while being able to support the children's social skills with the practical limitations they have? How can teachers teach effectively without coming into close contact with the children? How will mental wellbeing be addressed when children want to hug/play with their close friends and are unable to?

This will be a significant challenge and it is clear the lessons and teacher delivery will be very different from that which we are used to. We will try our best to make sessions engaging and interesting but pupil/teacher interactions will not be the same as they were. All our staff are very talented and committed to all the children in their care, they will do their best in difficult circumstances, but it would be dishonest not to accept this is going to be a challenge.

What are the teachers' views about the children returning to school after the 15th June? Do they feel that they can keep themselves safe and the children safe?

It is probably impossible to outline every view, and equally probably not fair if specific personal opinions are shared. However, as teachers and support staff are also family members and parents themselves it is fair to say they share the same anxieties that you as parents do. Safety is a key concern as is the mental well-being of the children in their care. We would love to have all our children back in school, but we can only manage a limited number back on site, that meets socially distancing guidelines and maintains safety for all concerned, children and staff. Staff share many of the concerns that are laid out in these questions.

What would protocol be if a child injured themselves?

Again, another challenge, however, we as professionals looking after children would do what we are expected to do in our loco parentis role - if we can support the child from a social distance we will, but if not staff would use PPE, gloves and other equipment. We would then follow the hand wash protocols.

Year Six children will miss out on so many end of Primary school events. What can be done? Will it be possible for the school to organise a get together with children? The staff at our school miss the children very much and are looking forward to a time when we are all together again. The teachers look forward to speaking to the children and are planning a transition project which will support them as they prepare for Year 7. However, we must adhere to the government policy on social distancing.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus?

If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. All staff and children in the group will be advised to get tested. Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child or staff member test positive, the rest of the group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Other household members of that group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms.

What steps are you taking to keep the school clean? The school will be cleaned twice a day and will include the disinfecting of door handles, light switches, tables, chairs, etc. Basically, any equipment which is touched will be cleaned. To make this manageable, we will reduce the use of some equipment or remove equipment which is difficult to clean. Tables and chairs in the rooms will be limited to ensure we clean exactly what has

been used e.g. 10 chairs. We have been unable to have 2 metres across each table but have achieved around a metre and a half. Children will wash hands as they enter the school building and the recommended 5 times a day.

Will the staff be wearing PPE? Are staff and children expected to wear masks?

Currently the government advice is no PPE will need to be worn except if a child with possible COVID-19 symptoms is being supervised prior to collection to go home or staff have to undertake more intimate care tasks. However, staff will have provision of gloves, face masks and visors should they feel the need to use them at any other time and their right to do so is respected.

Where will children eat their school lunch?

Children will eat within their classroom. Tables will be wiped before and after lunch. We must avoid children moving around the building. We will facilitate outdoor lunch when the weather allows.

Do children still need to wear school uniform?

No, children will be required to wear comfortable clothes and trainers (no laces for our Nursery or Reception pupils) instead of school shoes so they can more easily take part in outdoor learning and also avoid the use of PE kits. Additional clothing is being discouraged at this time.

Each child will be required to bring in a full set of spare clothes in case of accidents, as we will be unable to loan out clothing (Nursery and Reception)

We strongly advise that all clothes should be washed each day after the children return home from school.

What happens if my child is ill or has an appointment and I cannot enter the school site during the school day?

Please telephone the office from the main school gate entrance and we will bring your child to you.

How will you maintain a level of social distancing at lunch and break times?

The groups will play in separate areas of our beautiful grounds, in rotation, closely supervised by staff.

What steps are you taking to keep staff safe?

The safety of staff is essential; we will look to limit the number of people in the building and work to support each other to stay safe in school. We have identified a variety of protocols to follow such as how the staff room can be used safely, not taking books home to mark and washing hands afterwards, etc. They will be able to wear PPE if they choose to. Risk assessments have considered all areas of school life and Governors are involved in monitoring. There are staff who will need to remain shielding. The dedication of our team has been excellent at all times, the entire team are committed to our families.

Where can I find further general advice? The following links may be helpful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>