

Starting in Reception



September 2020

September Opening

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child to school in September.

We hope that you find this information useful. Please read this alongside the Reception Parent Guide. This information is about some of the measures and routines we have in place due to Covid19.

Please do ask us if you have any questions.



Being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing, and we are fully supportive of the Government's intention to ensure all pupils can be at school from the start of the autumn term.

We expect the guidance to change as the school year develops so all the plans we have made are for the first half term only. We will re-evaluate our plans regularly.

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

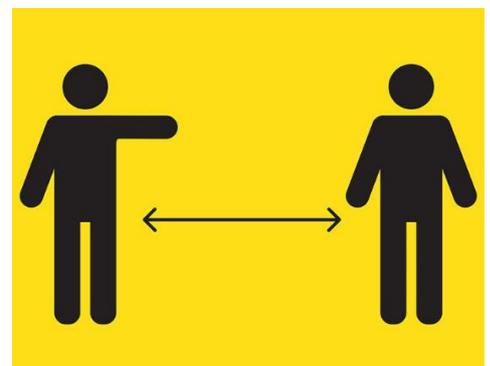
Headteacher

Social distancing?

The Government recognises that primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff, and with up to 30 children in the class, this would not be practicable.

In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, the government has taken this into account. We will work through the hierarchy of measures:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of rooms and shared areas
- minimising contact and mixing through the use of 'bubbles', staggered drop off and collection, and staggered breaks



Adults in school, including parents, will be expected to observe social distancing at all times.

Drop Off and Collection

In order to reduce the number of children and parents coming in and out of school at any given time, we will continue to stagger the beginning and end of the school day. Please adhere to these times as closely as possible in order that we can manage everyone safely.

For Reception children, we will permit one adult to accompany them into school. We would politely ask parents to leave the school site as soon as your child has gone into class.

At the end of the school day, we will allow one parent to wait on the playground (maintaining a 2 metre distance from other adults) and we will ask you to leave the school site as soon as you are reunited with your child.

We know that staggering the drop off and collection times will be difficult for some parents, especially those with more than one child in the school. Please do contact us through the office email if you need any support or help.

It is very important that children arrive just before the time indicated below. We do not want children to mix with children from other classes.

Class	Start Time	End Time
Birch	8.30am	3.00pm
Chestnut	8.40am	3.10pm
Oak	8.50am	3.20pm
Willow	9.00am	3.30pm

Packed Lunches and Fruit Snack

In order to maintain our 'bubbles', most year groups will eat lunch in the classroom. We would not be able to maintain the distancing between bubbles if we were all using the halls. Reception classes will eat in the hall, as they do not have tables and chairs set up in their classroom in the same way as older classes.

We will not be providing a hot school meal during this period, but we will be able to provide a packed lunch for all children if pre-ordered by parents through ParentPay. Your child will be offered this free-of-charge (school meals are provided through government funding for children up to, and including, Year 2).

Your child will also be offered a fruit or vegetable snack during the day, through the nationally funded scheme, and a drink of milk if you have ordered it through <https://www.coolmilk.com/> (free for under-5s).



Your agreement with us

We are working hard to follow the government's guidance in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

In September, as we all return to school, we would ask that you ensure all the following:

- Follow all guidelines issued by school
- When not in school, continue to follow the latest government guidance, e.g. social distancing
- Inform school immediately if there is anyone in your home with any coronavirus symptoms and keep your child at home – you will need to co-operate with the NHS Test, Track and Trace procedures
- Be available by phone throughout the school day
- If your child is ill during the day, collect him or her as soon as possible
- Adhere to the staggered start and end of day times and one-way routes
- Only come into school if you have an appointment



School Uniform, Equipment, Book Bags and More!

We are expecting children to wear full school uniform from the start of September. A full guide to our school uniform, and our suppliers, can be [found here](#).

We will provide the stationary items that your child needs - your child will have a personal pack of resources which won't be shared.

Please ensure that your child brings in a clearly named water bottle, filled with fresh water, each day. We will ask them to bring it home each day so that it can be cleaned and refilled. We will not be using any water fountains in school.

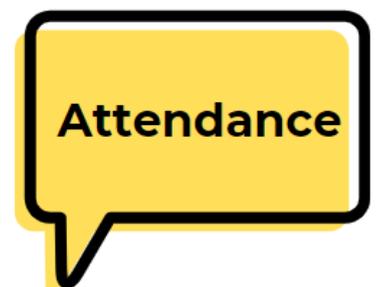
Children will be able to bring reading books home. A school book bag is ideal for this. We do not want to see any large rucksacks, backpacks or bags in school.



School Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply. We will expect parents to inform the school if their child is unable to attend for any reason.

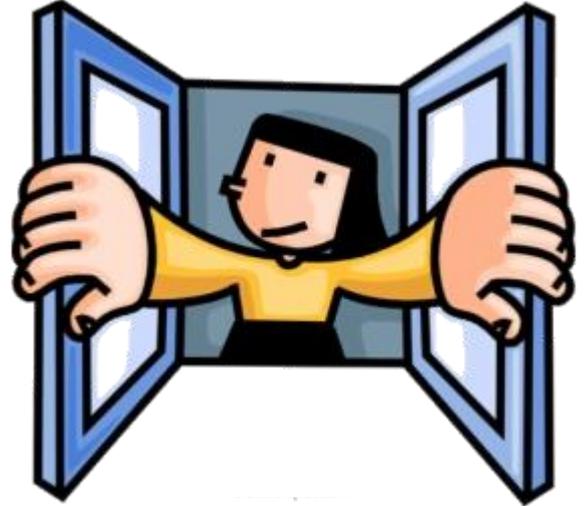
We expect children's attendance to be at least 96% through the school year, and we know that many children will have a higher rate of attendance.



Classroom Organisation

Reception and Nursery classrooms will have some adaptations in terms of the resources we use, but will continue to operate in the Early Years style – because this is best for children’s learning.

In all classrooms, doors will be propped open (to reduce the need to keep touching door handles) and the classroom windows will remain open so that our indoor spaces are well ventilated. This means our classrooms will be cooler than usual, especially as we approach the winter. Please make sure that your child always has a sweatshirt or cardigan and a coat in school!



Resources will be freely used within class bubbles, but will be regularly cleaned. Any resources which are shared between bubbles (such as PE or Art equipment) will be cleaned between each use.

School Communications and Office Opening



We will continue to restrict access to the school building for adults. Although this is difficult for all of us, it will help in our efforts to keep everyone safe.

From September, we will have a ‘mobile’ parent information point which will be set up outside at the beginning and end of each school day. Our lovely office staff will be on hand to help you with any queries or forms, and will also be able to take messages to pass on to other members of staff. We hope this innovation will be helpful to you.

If you need to come into school for any reason, we would ask that you contact the office team to make an appointment.

We will also continue to communicate remotely – and we will respond as quickly as we can to emails and phone calls.

Enhanced Cleaning



As part of our plans, we will continue to have an enhanced cleaning schedule within school which will include more frequent cleaning of any shared areas and frequently touched surfaces, such as hand rails and door handles.

Different ‘bubbles’ don’t need to be allocated their own toilet blocks, but toilets will be cleaned regularly and pupils will be encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet – just as they are usually!

We will follow the guidance from Public Health England with respect to cleaning schedules and routines.

Covid-19 Symptoms and Action

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)



For most people, especially children, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If you, or any member of your household, has any of the symptoms above you must:

- stay at home
- arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19
- co-operate with NHS test, track and trace
- inform the school straight away

If a child or adult develops any of these symptoms whilst in school they will be immediately isolated and sent home.

Groups and Bubbles

Consistent groups reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group.

GROUPS

We have used these groups in school throughout the summer term in recognition that primary aged children cannot socially distance from staff or from each other and this provides an additional protective measure.

Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible.

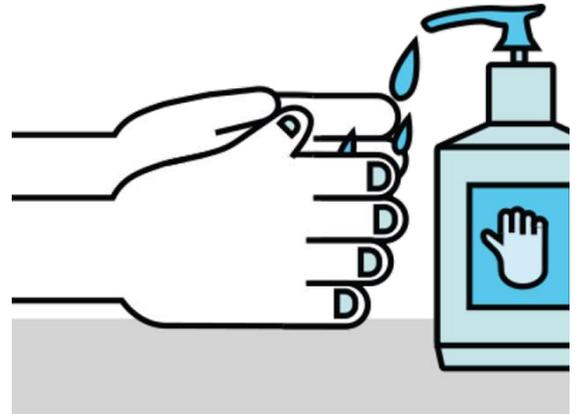
In September, maintaining consistent groups remains important, but given the decrease in the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resumption of the full range of curriculum subjects, schools will increase the size of these groups. For all classes in Year 1 to Year 6, our aim is to keep each class in its own 'bubble'. Reception classes will, together, be considered to be a single bubble. This is so that we can enable full and active use of the shared outdoor spaces during the school day, which we know is so beneficial to their learning.

During the vast majority of the school day, classes will not interact with each other or share indoor spaces. At least for the first half term, we will not be using shared spaces such as the music room, computer rooms or halls. We will modify our curriculum accordingly – and use technological approaches to assemblies and other such 'gatherings'. Classes within a year group will share outdoor spaces together at playtime and lunchtimes, but we will 'zone' areas.

Hand and Respiratory Hygiene

Covid-19 is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. We will ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, before eating and before they leave school at the end of the day. Regular and thorough hand cleaning will become a normal part of everyone's daily routines.

In order to implement this, we have ordered plenty of hand sanitiser for each class, and hand sanitiser 'stations' at each main entrance so that all pupils and staff can clean their hands regularly.



The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

We are ensuring that we have enough tissues and bins available in the school to support pupils and staff to follow this routine.

As with hand washing, this will become very routine for all children and staff.

Face Coverings

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review.

They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication.

We will not, therefore, allow children to wear face coverings once in school.

Face coverings are required at all times on public transport (for children over the age of 11), when attending a hospital as a visitor or outpatient, and in shops. We would expect all our staff and parents to observe these rules.



After School Clubs and Activities

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

For the first half term, at least, we will not be offering our usual range of after school clubs. Most of our clubs draw children from different classes and year groups, and use shared spaces in and around school.

The Government has made it clear that maintaining consistent groups remains important as a key protective measure in the new term, which means that our clubs will not be able to operate.

We will keep this under review with the aim of getting our clubs and activities started up as soon, and as safely, as possible.

Routes into School

In order to manage the flow of people, we are allocating different entrance gates and doors for different year groups. There will be members of staff available to guide you!

