Frequently Asked Questions

Although your child may not yet be among the Year Groups that we are planning to bring back as part of wider opening this term, this FAQ (based on parent survey responses) will provide you with a clearer idea of some of the measures we have put in place to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff.

What protective measures are we taking in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)
First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend the setting. That includes children and staff who work here.
- Keeping our children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles, teaching and learning aides and play equipment.
- Windows opened to allow ventilation.
- All rooms have been decluttered to aid cleaning and excess furniture has been removed and stored elsewhere
- Toys, puzzles and equipment will be cleaned at the end of each day and high use toys will also be wiped down at appropriate times in the day.
- Encouraging children not to touch their eyes, nose or mouth if their hands aren’t clean.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- Asking children not to bring toys or other items from home to school, unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing.
- Limit shared materials and resources to take home.
- Supervising the usage of play equipment and ensuring it is cleaned between different cohort groups and never used by mixed cohort groups at the same time.
- Lesson specific equipment will be cleaned before other bubbles use the equipment.

What will children do differently?
- Children must bring in their own water bottle
- Children of the key worker groups in Y1-6 will be given an allocated seat so they can work at the same table space each day
• Break and lunchtimes will be staggered and allocated outdoor spaces for each group (bubble) will be given to reduce mixing
• Children will use specific toilet areas for their bubble
• Toilet areas will be monitored to ensure they are not over crowded
• Children will wash hands frequently: on arrival, before eating and after lunch.
• Pupils will be lined up at 2m intervals and regularly reminded to walk 2m apart when travelling around the school site
• There will be no whole school assemblies or events on site
• Children will be reminded on the need to stay apart but they will find social distancing very hard and parents must understand this cannot be guaranteed.
• Children cannot bring anything other than a lunchbox and water bottle to school – no toys, bags or PE kit
• Reading books will not be sent home to limit the exchange of take-home resources between children and staff.
• There will be no Breakfast or after school clubs due to staffing availability.

How will the children be grouped?
Children will be allocated a teaching bubble and that will be their teaching group for the foreseeable future. DfE guidance is very clear that children should not be mixing beyond small groups and to help children and staff safety, we have planned to ensure contact with as few staff and children as possible. These bubbles are a maximum of 15 and are year group specific apart from the children of key workers in Y2 -6.

Will my child have their normal class teacher?
No. As we can only accommodate maximum 15 children in one class, the remainder of the class may be taught by a different teacher. All teachers will work with the regular class teacher to make sure they know as much as possible about every child’s needs. If a child has a specific need then we will work with their regular class teacher and the parents to carefully plan for their needs as much as possible.

Who will be setting the work for my child?
The class teacher will be setting the work for their bubble and overseeing the learning. If they are not a teacher who works in that year group, it will be directed by the normal class teachers for that year group. There will be some changes in how we deliver home learning which we will inform you of.

How are you going to look after my child’s wellbeing?
We will offer them regular opportunities to share any anxieties and reflect on their experiences of the last few months. Key themes such as staying safe and dealing with our worries will be addressed in class. We appreciate for some children it will take time to readapt to attending school and we will support them through this process. We will work together with the children on adapting to new routines. We will update our behaviour policy in light of these new rules and routines and work with the children on reinforcing these changes in a supportive and proactive way. We will share any changes to our policy with you.

Does my child need a packed lunch?
At the moment, we are asking all children who are coming into school to come to school with a packed lunch from home. If a parent is in receipt of free school meals due to receiving particular benefits, you will have vouchers continuing until the 15th June – we will review this system depending on government guidelines at this point.
Will the day have staggered start and end times?
In order to maintain social distancing we will be introducing staggered start and end times. Details will be sent out for the Year groups returning. All children will need to be dropped off quickly and parents are to spend minimal time on the school site – parents are being asked to not stop to talk to friends and only enter the site during their arrival/pick up slot.

Will the school be staggering break times and lunchtimes?
Yes. We will be aiming to stagger these to reduce mixing between groups. Children will spend play and lunch break within their teaching bubbles and they will have a designated part of the playground and an allocated set of play equipment for break and lunchtimes that will be wiped down daily. Children will be supported to play games that involve social distancing; contact games will not be allowed.

Will my child need to wear school uniform?
Children who are returning do not have to come to school in school uniform unless the parent wishes them to do so however we are asking that if possible children come to school wearing a different set of clean clothes each day.

Will the rest of the year groups be back before September?
Any return of more pupils will be dependent on any changes to government guidance, staff availability, capacity of the school site and if we can demonstrate to the Board of Trust in Learning that everything is in place to protect your children and our staff.

If a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus whilst at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. If the child needs direct personal care until they can return home, the child will be taken to a designated room in the school supervised by a member of staff. Appropriate PPE will be worn if a 2m distance cannot be adhered to.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in the school?
The school will continue to follow the government’s advice with regards to managing individuals who present with symptoms of coronavirus. The current guidance states that when a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home immediately and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and pupils 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 or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group within the school would 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.

Will staff be wearing personal protective equipment?
Current government guidance states that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Therefore, we do not require staff or children to wear face coverings.
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 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
- Appropriate PPE will be worn by staff administering first aid
- If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus at school

**Is it compulsory to attend school at the moment?**
If your child is in one of the year groups that are able to return, you will NOT be fined for not bringing your child to school. You should notify us if your child is not able to attend if you are in a priority group that is returning so staff are aware and can discuss this with you.

**Will we be taking temperatures at the start of each day?**
No. The current government guidance says that routine testing of temperatures is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus.

**Should I keep my child at home if they have an underlying health condition or live with someone in a clinically vulnerable group?**
The current government guidance says that ‘children, young people and staff who are considered as clinically extremely vulnerable should continue to shield.’ We don’t expect people in this category to be attending school and should continue to be supported at home as much as possible. Please follow government guidance and medical advice if your child is clinically vulnerable or living with someone in a clinically vulnerable group.

**How will you keep my child 2m away from another child?**
The government has acknowledged that primary children cannot be expected to keep the 2m social distancing rule. We will of course continue to give them reminders throughout the day and will ensure that the other recommendations can and will continue to be followed:

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand washing and good hygiene practice
- Regular cleaning of settings
- Minimising contact and mixing.