

These FAQs are supported by the following document: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

**Q: Does my child have to attend school from September?**

A: Yes, all children should attend full time education from September. Education becomes compulsory from this point. Children showing symptoms should not attend for any reason and should communicate with the school immediately.

**Q: I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is, should I send them back to school?**

A: Yes, children should be back at school. You need to consult your doctor if you are worried or concerned in the first instance, the government envisage all children being back despite previous shielding.

**Q: What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?**

A: We will

- follow the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#)
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments
- 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 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')
  - ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
  - consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
  - ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
  - where possible, all spaces should be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units
  - prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation

**Q: Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?**

A: We will be following the guidance from the DfE and Government advice which states that children should be taught, wherever possible in class bubbles.

The scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission and therefore we will be making use of our outdoor environment when possible. Children will spend most of their time in the classroom. Consistent groupings help to reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. The Government are aware that younger children cannot socially distance from staff or each other – bubbles provide an additional protective measure. Staff are also encouraged to maintain a social distance where possible of 2m or 1m if 2m is not possible, however, the Government recognise that this may be difficult in a primary school, particularly with younger children.

**Q: How will children be seated?**

A: Current guidance states that schools should make small adaptations to the classroom to support distancing where possible. That should include seating pupils side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on, and might include moving unnecessary furniture out of classrooms to make more space. However, we are mindful that younger children do not learn in their environment in the same way and younger children might may not be sitting at desks in rows.

**Q: How will they move around the school or use the hall for PE?**

A: We will be following the guidance from the DfE and Government advice for PE. Schools have the flexibility to decide how physical education, sport and physical activity will be provided whilst following the measures in their system of controls.

Pupils should be kept in consistent groups, sports equipment thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups, and contact sports avoided.

Outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene.

**Q: How will lunch time work to ensure children are safe?**

A: The schools will run a staggered lunchtime to maintain as much spacing as is possible in the hall. Lunches will return as the Government has requested “schools are expected to reopen their kitchens and ensure that meals are able to be prepared and served safely”. Lunches will be similar to when we broke up where we can order your child a packed lunch as normal. We hope to resume hot school dinners ASAP.

**Q: How will you make school safe for my child?**

A: In addition to social distancing and hygiene measures mentioned above, we will

- give children a designated classroom for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing
- regularly cleaning the setting and resources will take place
- regularly clean the children’s personal resources when used in class
- not allow children to bring in their own resources
- use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes as identified in our Risk Assessments
- confine resources to rooms to minimise sharing and when sharing is essential, clean resources before transference
- organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently
- carry out a corridor protocol- one way system and keep clear corridor spaces as far as is practical to allow maximum width space for walking
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them
- employ a set of agreed non-negotiables on safety in the classroom. These will make every attempt to maintain social distancing for staff and pupils and limit any potential contact
- removal of unnecessary items from classrooms
- removal of soft furnishing, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean

**Q: Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?**

A: Where possible, children will be given their own equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. They must not bring any equipment in from home apart from their reading books. Any resources that are shared (e.g. school laptop, PE equipment) will be thoroughly disinfected after use. Pens and pencils, games, toys etc. will be shared in the Reception class and these will be cleaned regularly. Children need to be able to access the early years’ curriculum and therefore will need to operate differently than classes in the older years.

**Q: Will everyone arrive at school at the same time causing an increase in risk?**

A: The school has organised a staggered drop off and collection time for pupils. You will be familiar with this system already as it was in place from 1<sup>st</sup> June. These will be altered slightly as we have more classes, children and parents to accommodate and shorter times between children entering the school.

- Drop-off times and locations
  - Robins: **8.45am** via the main gate and Robin’s class outside door
  - Starlings: **8.40am** via the front of the school, going in via the side gate
  - Owls: **8.50am** via the main gate and the Owls outside door
- Pick up times and locations
  - Robins: **3.15pm** from the Robins outside door
  - Starlings: **3.20pm** via the front of the school, exiting via the side gate
  - Owls: **3.20pm** from the Owls outside door

Only one parent or carer should accompany the child to school to minimise risk, where possible. Parents will not be invited to enter classrooms but will drop off as described above.

**Q: Will the school have assembly/acts of worship?**

A: Classes will have an opportunity for reflection within their daily session, but there will be no mass gatherings or daily acts of worship as a school and no group singing. The school will use videos and Zoom for weekly worship for children in different ways. I am aiming to try and use Zoom for the Friday celebration Worship and will let you know if I can organise it to include you all in this too.

**Q: My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?**

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. Sharing social stories can be really helpful for young children and help to express the situation in a clear factual way, reducing emotional responses.

It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending. It will also be important that they are aware that schools, classes and pupils may be sent home for periods of time in the event of an increased number of the public having symptoms.

**Q: Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?**

A: The initial focus in September will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. They have all gone through an incredible period of change and experienced loss on a number of different levels. All have had changes in routine, loss of communication etc. and some may have sadly even experienced the loss of a family member. This shouldn't be ignored. We will be building in structure quickly as we are keen to minimise gaps in knowledge but this will not be to the detriment of their social and emotional needs. Daily reading, phonics, maths and English will continue in a focused way and the staff have already reviewed the curriculum areas to look at how they recap and teach the areas of priority. What we will be teaching will be shared in September as staff are busy completing plans over the summer.

**Q: Will Government tests take place?**

A: Yes. Primary assessments will take place in summer 2021. The Early Years' Foundation stage profile, and all existing statutory key stage 1 and 2 assessments, should return in 2020 to 2021 in accordance with their usual timetables. This includes:

- the phonics screening check
- key stage 1 tests and teacher assessment
- the year 4 multiplication tables check
- key stage 2 tests and teacher assessments

**Q: Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?**

The current Government guidelines state, '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, young people and students 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.

If a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.'

**Q: Will Breakfast Club be open?**

A: Yes. We will be opening Breakfast Club from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September for 5-mornings a week. This will need to be booked in advance so we can accommodate the children safely. We will endeavour to keep children in their class bubbles and rotate activities but we will arrange this each day/week, when we know who will be attending. Please contact Jackie Astley in the Office for details. We cannot accommodate any child if you just turn up and have not booked in.

**Q: Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?**

A: Yes, we are able to invite our peripatetic teachers. Unfortunately no other visitors (including parents and parent helpers) will be able to come into school in the short term. We will review this again as soon as the guidance changes.

**Q: Will the school office be open?**

A: Yes but only if really necessary. Where possible I would ask that parents ring/email the school as opposed to presenting in person.

**Q: Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children who do not return to school?**

A: We will continue to set home learning activities, during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. Remote learning will be important in the event of a localised breakout or needing to isolate bubbles of children. The government has requested that a remote learning policy is in place. There will be a separate document explaining how home learning will look and will be shared in the next few weeks.

**Q: Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?**

A: At present, the Government advice is:

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

The Government will ensure that it is as easy as possible to get a test through a wide range of routes that are locally accessible, fast and convenient. We will release more details on new testing avenues as and when they become available and will work with schools so they understand what the quickest and easiest way is to get a test. By the autumn term, all schools will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that they can give directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at school, where they think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. Advice will be provided alongside these kits.

Schools should ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

**Q: What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?**

A: We will follow the Government guidelines set out below:

- If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

- If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age and needs of the child, with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation.
- If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom must be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
- PPE must 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). More information on PPE use can be found in the [safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) guidance.
- As is usual practice, in an emergency, call 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Anyone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.
- Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.
- Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with normal household bleach after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

### **Q: What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?**

A: We will follow the Government guidance set out below. However, we are aware that this guidance is constantly changing and may well change by the time term starts again next week.

Schools must take swift action when they become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)'. They should get a test, and:

- if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#)

If schools have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, they may have an outbreak, and must continue to work with their local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group bubble. If schools are implementing controls from this list, addressing the risks they have identified and therefore reducing transmission risks, whole school closure based on cases within the school will not generally be necessary, and should not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.

**Q: Will the school take my child’s temperature every day?**

A: No, but we may use a non-invasive thermometer which points to the forehead if we suspect a child of having symptoms. PHE is clear that routinely taking the temperature of pupils is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying Covid19.

**Q: What if another child ‘coughs’ deliberately in someone else’s face?**

A: School will take this very seriously and it will be classed as an assault. We will explain to the child the dangers and consequences of these actions. Parents will be telephoned and may have to come and collect their child resulting in a fixed term exclusion.

**Q: My child has dry hands, can they use cream?**

A: Yes. They will need to be able to administer themselves and will have to keep it in their designated box at all times.

**Q: What happens to medicines?**

A: Inhalers should be kept in their boxes, please make every effort to administer medicines before/after school. If a child needs medicine whilst at school, we will aim for them to administer themselves and staff will maintain 2m distance where appropriate. If staff need to administer they will wear PPE equipment.

**Q: What should they bring to school?**

A: Children only need to bring in a coat/sun hat, named water bottle, named lunchbox (if bringing own) and a named book bag.

**Q: If they forget something, can I bring it in?**

A: Unless it’s an emergency please refrain from bringing it in. We will only accept medication and forgotten packed lunches. Nothing else allowed to be brought to school.

**Q: What should they wear?**

A: School uniform and school shoes please every day except on their PE days when we would like them to come in PE kit and trainers – this avoids having to get changed.

**Q: What is happening to trips, residential and diary events?**

A: Currently only day trips can go ahead as long as a detailed risk assessment from the school and place being visited is in place. Currently overnight residentials are not permitted. We hope that year 5 and year 6 residential will be able to take place but we currently just do not know.



**Q: What about the new reception children?**

A: Unfortunately we are unable to invite parents into school as we usually do and we cannot complete home visits. However, we have contacted all families before the summer break and are looking forward to welcoming them in from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.