

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

The Prime Minister announced on Monday 22nd February that all primary school pupils will return to full time education on Monday 8th March 2021.

Please read the back to school parent guide and headteacher letters for more information.

2. Does my child have to attend?

Yes, all primary children are to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school.

School attendance will therefore be mandatory from Monday 8th March. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

A small number of pupils will be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). In these cases, school must be informed.

Some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school.

3. How will you make sure parents socially distance?

Our system of staggered starts/finishes and using all available entrances continues to be the best way of maintaining distancing between bubbles. We would reiterate to parents that they only drop off and collect at their allocated time in order to ease congestion further.

We request that parents maintain a distance and wear a mask; however, this is every individual's responsibility.

4. Why aren't the children sticking to class bubbles?

As a larger school, we have adopted a system of year group bubbles rather than class bubbles. Year group bubbles enable us to continue to offer full curriculum provision including deployment of staff across a year group for support and interventions. It also facilitates managing the practical logistics within and around school such as drop off, pick up, break times and lunchtimes. The year group bubbles remain consistent and separate throughout the day.

5. We have travelled abroad – should we come back to school?

If you have travelled abroad for any reason, you are required to quarantine for 10 days, take a COVID-19 test and follow the national lockdown rules. Please follow the latest guidance on [how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK](#) and inform us of your situation.

6. What should I do if my child or someone in my household has symptoms of coronavirus?

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)

Anyone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or who has tested positive in the previous 10 days will not be permitted into school. You should stay at home, arrange a test and follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#).

7. **How big will the classes be?**

Classes will continue to be normal sizes (up to 30 children) but in older year groups, seating arrangements may be different, with children sitting individually and facing the front of the classroom, rather than in groups like they may be used to.

8. **Will you be using 'bubbles'?**

We will continue to use year group bubbles so that staff within a year group are able to work with children across the year group as usual. The majority of time will be spent in classes.

9. **How will you make sure that social distancing takes place?**

It is recognised that the youngest children cannot socially distance from staff or from each other and therefore the school will place emphasis on maintaining consistent bubbles, over distancing, as a protective measure for these groups. Older children should be encouraged to maintain distance within their group and not touch staff and their peers where possible. The school will focus on other control measures as set out in the [Guidance for full opening: schools](#) in order to make the school as safe as possible.

10. **What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?**

In line with our risk assessment, we will

- follow the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#)
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, 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 all spaces are well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or mechanical 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

11. **How will lunch time work to ensure children are safe?**

Lunchtimes are staggered to reduce overcrowding and bubbles will remain consistent at lunchtimes.

12. **How will you make the start and end of the day safe?**

We will continue to stagger the start and end times of the day and use multiple entrances to the school.

We ask that you arrive promptly and that only one parent brings your child and collects them.

We ask that parents do not gather at entrances and leave promptly after dropping off and collecting.

We would advise the wearing of masks for parents.

13. Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, pupils will have their own items and they will not be shared.

Classroom based resources, such as books and games will only be used and shared within bubbles and will be cleaned regularly as with other surfaces.

Pupils and teachers will be allowed to take books and other shared resources home, but unnecessary sharing will be avoided, especially where this does not contribute to education and development of pupils. As with all other shared equipment and resources, these items will be cleaned in between use by different people.

14. What will my child need to bring to school?

Children will be limited on the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials: lunch boxes, hats, coats, books.

Children must NOT bring in their own stationery.

They MUST bring a water bottle as water fountains will not be in use.

15. What if we catch the bus to school?

We would encourage all children to walk or cycle where possible.

We would advise that you observe the mandatory wearing of face coverings/masks when travelling on public transport. We would advise that you do not touch your face or mask whilst on public transport and use hand sanitiser as soon as you exit transport and follow the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#).

16. What are the rules for breakfast club and BASH?

Parents are advised to limit the number of different wraparound providers they access, as far as possible.

Parents using childcare providers or out of school activities for their children are encouraged to seek assurance that the providers are carefully considering their own protective measures, and only use those providers that can demonstrate this.

17. Will the school have assembly/acts of worship?

Individual groups will have an opportunity for reflection within their daily session, but there will be no mass gatherings as a school.

18. My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?

We ask that you help support your child by talking about what school was like before Christmas, and the changes that had already been put in place in school e.g. year group bubbles, staggered lunchtimes, increased hand washing.

Sharing [social stories](#) can be really helpful for young people and help to express the situation in a clear and factual way, reducing emotional responses.

It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences during 'lockdown', what they have enjoyed and what they are worried or looking forward to when they return to school.

19. Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?

No. The initial focus will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing and re-establishing routines. We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed.

Our BRAVE Lite curriculum has been designed to:

- support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement
- address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19)
- support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing

Teachers will be working hard to identify any gaps in learning and we have a plan for how to address these, so please don't worry.

20. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

As it stands, the Government guidelines state, 'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases, including:

- where an individual child or young person becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at schools, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained
- where a child or young person already has routine intimate care needs that involve the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE should continue to be used'

In the event of a child displaying symptoms of coronavirus, the welfare team will wear PPE.

Staff should wear masks (face coverings) in all communal areas and corridors (unless exempt).

21. Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

Yes, all children will be expected to wear their school uniform.

We are asking that children wear their PE kits to school on days when they have PE; these days will be confirmed in the first week back.

22. Will extra-curricular clubs run (football club, dance club etc)?

We are currently not planning for extra-curricular clubs but this will be kept under review as the term progresses.

23. Will the school office be open?

Yes but sometimes there may be a reduced staff. We will not be accepting late arrivals to school via the main front office and request that parents do not come into the school reception unless this has previously been agreed. Where possible we would ask that parents ring/email the school as opposed to presenting in person.

24. Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?

Yes, and we will insist on this should your child become unwell and display symptoms. The most recent guidance states that all children and members of their households in England have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus, including children under 5. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting. Tests can be accessed through the [NHS website](#).

25. What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?

Parents will be contacted immediately to collect their child.

The child will be collected from their classroom by a member of the welfare team. Staff will be wearing PPE.

The child will wait in a designated, ventilated room until collection.

Parents will be provided with self-isolation advice and information about seeking help, testing and notification.

No other members of the bubble will need to self-isolate until we know the test outcome.

26. Will the school provide rapid lateral flow tests?

No, the school will not, but the government has confirmed twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to families and households with primary, secondary and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, to help find more COVID-19 cases and break chains of transmission. [COVID-19 free tests for households](#).

This will not be mandatory but is being encouraged by the government. Testing kits can be ordered [here](#).