

Covid update for reopening school

The new government guidance for schools on COVID 19 planning allows us to return to as close to normal in September as we could have hoped. Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils.

- No longer required to keep children in year group bubbles
- No longer required to have staggered start/finish times
- Staff and children will be able to move freely around the school
- We can return to assemblies in the main hall – although for now

COVID 19 PLANNING

We have updated our COVID risk assessment and outbreak management plan based on the new guidance(available on the school website).

What stays the same:

- All children are expected to attend school unless they have COVID symptoms, a positive COVID test result or another illness that means they cannot attend school.
- Children must not attend school if they are symptomatic or have a positive test result.
- Children who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive will have access to resources on Its Learning to work or learn from home, if they are well enough to do so.
- Staff are also asked to continue to do two lateral flow tests, at home, each week, until the end of September, at which point further guidance is expected.
- Continued good hand hygiene – children will be encouraged to wash/sanitise hands regularly
- Good ventilation - teachers will be encouraged to keep classroom windows and doors open; this will help reduce the normal winter round of colds/flu as well as help prevent COVID transmission .
- Enhanced cleaning regimes – frequent sanitising of frequently touched surfaces will continue
- We are encouraging older children to come to and from school as independently as possible.

What is being removed:

- No zoning or bubbles
- No staggered start or social distancing (timings for the school day for everyone are attached by way of reminder) – although we will ask families to use specific gates for year groups and encourage older children to enter/leave the school independently to relieve congestion and bottle necks at the beginning and end of the school day
- No masks – although children who want to continue to wear masks – at least in the short term – will be allowed to do so. We may contact you if your child continues to wear a mask so that we understand your concerns and help in other ways if we can.
- We are no longer required to identify ‘proximity contacts’ of children who are symptomatic or test positive for COVID or for sending home groups of students to self-isolate. This will be done by NHS Track and Trace.
- Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.

Stepping measures up and down

We very much hope that we will remain open to all children for the whole year. However, we have to be ready to step measures back up in the event of a ‘local outbreak’, as defined by Public Health England.

If required, we will be ready to re-introduce any of our 2020-21 arrangements (zoning, bubbles, staggered start etc) or return to remote learning if necessary for a particular year group or indeed the whole school.

Government has published threshold guidelines for us to follow. In the event that we have an outbreak we have an outbreak management plan.

