

FAQs

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

The Government has asked primary schools to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 alongside priority groups. The Government's ambition is to bring all primary school year groups for the last month of the Summer half term if conditions nationally make it feasible. This will be kept under review.

2. Why aren't all the children coming back?

The DfE have based this on the need to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus. So they have taken account of the need to reduce numbers returning as a gradual process and smaller groupings in classes can be maintained.

3. If one of my children is eligible to return can't their sibling come back too?

Sadly siblings cannot attend unless they are in another of the selected year groups. This would raise the number of pupils attending the school.

4. Does my child have to attend?

No. It is parental choice. Parents WILL NOT be fined for non-attendance. No one with symptoms should attend for any reason.

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

Children and young people who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield and will not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable, as defined in the social distancing guidance, including those who are pregnant, can attend.

6. How big will the classes be?

The DfE is recommending class group size should not exceed 15 pupils per small group and one teacher plus a TA where required. The Local Authority believe that the number should be approximately 10 and that is the number we will be aiming for. Where there are not enough teachers, Teaching Assistants will lead a group. Desks should be as far apart as the room allows.

7 How will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?

We will of course do our best to support distancing, but parents must understand that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will touch adults and one another and come into close contact. The nature of the school site and the age of our children is such that this is unavoidable and we cannot be expected to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are able to do and use this to inform their decision making.

What we are doing:

- **Placing children in designated rooms and groupings (bubbles) to minimise opportunity for mixing and movement**
- **Regular hygiene routines**
- **Regular cleaning of setting and resources**
- **Deployment of 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**
- **Be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them**
- **Removal of unnecessary items from classrooms**
- **Removal of soft furnishing, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean**

8 How do I explain social distancing to my child?

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make the children feel safe.

For younger children, you and your child can find out how the Gruffalo handles social distancing at www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52153696 .

There are some great stories to help: https://youtu.be/DA_SsZFyw0w and also some simple explanations <https://youtu.be/2HTA3ql6uWY>

For very young children who may not understand the concept of viruses and germs, this video from Sesame Street's Grover is a great way to show them the "good" and "bad" of being far away and too close up to someone. <https://youtu.be/xOrt8WMwVEo>

9 What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?

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, 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 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

10. Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?

Government advice on the Scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. With the Summer weather coming we will be getting the children outside, where possible. However outside of this we will keep children, where possible, within one set classroom for the day.

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

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”. Free School Meal children not in school will continue to receive their meals from Molly’s.

12 How will you make school safe for my child?

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

- give children a designated classroom and group (which we are going to refer to as their bubble) 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 (pencils etc)
- not allow children to bring in their own resources such as pencil cases.
- 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
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them
- speak to the children about how they can maintain hygiene and social distance
- removal of unnecessary items from classrooms
- removal of soft furnishing, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean

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

Children will be given their own packs with their own equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. They must not bring any equipment in from home. Any resources that are shared will be thoroughly disinfected after use.

14. I am a critical worker and my child has been in the childcare provision throughout. My child is in YR, Y1 or Y6 what will happen to them?

Your child will join their year group and we would encourage them to attend school every day. Depending on numbers, a rota may be necessary but this will be clarified once we have the official number of children in.

15 I'm a critical worker and I have only needed my child to access school childcare sometimes. They are eligible to return in YR,Y1,Y6. Do they have to attend every day from 1st June?

Ultimately, it is the decision of parents. A full week attendance is obviously easier for us to plan and prepare for and the child will be already be exposed to others on the days that they are in.

16. My child is in the childcare provision currently but is not in the year groups above?

Critical worker group children will continue to come to school. They will be in a separate class 'bubble'. There may be the possibility of joining a year group nearest to theirs but this will depend on class numbers.

17. Will everyone arrive at school at the same time causing an increase in risk?

There will be a range of times to drop off your children. The approach for critical worker children will be marked out with a 2m queue and drop off zone. Reception and Year 1 children will wait with their parent outside the classroom doors. Year 6 parents will not be entering the school grounds and the Year 6 children will use their normal entrance.

Only one parent or carer should accompany the child to school to minimise risk.

Parents will not be invited to enter classrooms but will drop off as described above, on the playground.

Schools have no power under the law to enforce social distancing with parents other than to make that request. However, the school site is private property and so we would have to contact the police if particular issues arose.

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

Little groups may have a reflection within their daily session, but there will be no mass gatherings or daily acts of worship as a school.

19 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. It will be different.

It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending.

We will post pictures and videos for the children to ensure they feel as prepared as possible.

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

Whilst we will try and get the children back into the normal curriculum, the initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, 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. All staff, in particular Mrs Hartland, will be on hand to support your child.

21. How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?

In addition to that mentioned above, there will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play, rebuild friendships and have 'break out' or 'chill out' spaces for times when they may feel overwhelmed.

22. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

We are following the government guidance:

“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. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings”.

At the moment school's thinking is that this is an individual family and staff member decision. If parents or staff insist on wearing face masks we will not prohibit them from doing so, apart from when it becomes a danger to the child. Parents will need to exercise their own judgement around this and MUST understand that we cannot guarantee that your child will keep a mask on or wear it properly and should be able to put it on and off themselves.

Staff will have PPE available if required for :

- Caring for pupils with intimate needs such as toileting in EYFS for example.
- First Aiders where there is close contact with pupils
- Caring for a child with Covid.19 symptoms before collection to go home.
- Where required in close contact with a pupil is required due to illness or injury for example.

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

The most important thing is to ensure that the children have freshly washed clothes every day. Children can wear their own clothes and they should be suitable for school and the weather please. Parents must be mindful that they may become spoiled or stained if children are outdoors and being involved in 'arty' activities.

PE kits are not required to be in school as this will be problematic for little ones when trying to get changed.

24. Will the breakfast club and after school club be open?

This will be reviewed but initially this will only be available to children of critical workers to help maintain that social distancing bubble. However, we are looking at how we can provide these clubs and support our families.

25. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

No. Until the situation is deemed to be safe, we would prefer to minimise additional adults coming in and out of school. There may be some contractors who need to come in to school. They will be made aware that they should keep away from others and maintain the necessary hygiene procedures.

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

No. These bring too many children into contact and mixes the school 'bubbles'.

27. Will the school office be open?

Yes but sometimes there may be a reduced staff. This is a very busy time of year with new admissions and leavers. Please support us with this and try to be as organised as possible. We do not want parents to come into the school reception unless this has previously been agreed. Where possible I would ask that parents ring/email the school as opposed to presenting in person. There will be a box outside the main office to drop off anything you need to hand in at the office.

28. Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children who do not return to school?

We will continue to set home learning activities, during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. With school reopening to a greater number parents will need to be mindful that teaching staff will not be as responsive to parent emails during the time children are within school and will need time in the evening to relax and prepare for the next day.

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

The government advice is:

When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

30. Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers. See the [full list of essential workers](#). Education settings as employers can book tests through an online digital portal. There is also an option for employees to book tests directly on the portal.

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

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to the PPA room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. A window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE will 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).

In an emergency, we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.

32. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group will 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 or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

33. Will the school take my child's temperature every day?

No, but we may use a non-invasive thermometer which points to the forehead if we suspect a child of having symptoms.

34. What if another child 'coughs' deliberately in someone else's face?

School will take this very seriously. We will explain to the child the dangers and consequences of these actions. Parents will be contacted if such an incident occurs.

35. Will there be any trips once school opens on June 1st?

No. There are no plans to take the children out of the school grounds until further notice.

36. How can I speak to the class teacher if we are socially distancing?

You can contact your child's class teacher by emailing them. If you are unable to do this, you can email the office who will then pass the message on.

37. What should my child bring to school each day?

Your child should only bring their packed lunch (if required). This should be brought in a disposable bag. Your child should also bring a clean coat (depending on the weather). Children should not bring book bags or anything else to school.

38 Where can I find more information about returning to school?

The Government information is provided here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

39 When will I find out about next year?

After half term, we will decide on staffing for next year and pass the information to parents. It will obviously be difficult to have a transition in the usual way.