

Important information please read regarding the reopening of our school

We want to share some key information with you about what you and your child should expect on their return to school during this phase of the lockdown. The information is expressed in the form of frequently asked questions, please note this information is subject to change. We have also created a detailed Risk Assessment, which has been shared with staff and the federation's Governing Body. The Risk Assessment is on the website of both schools and is also attached to this e-mail. You must read it before confirming that you still wish to send your child back to school.

Are you opening full time for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on June 1st?

No. We are planning a structured return that will potentially see the first additional children restart on June 8th. Our current plans would see us open 5 days a week for Nursery, Reception and Year 1. We will also be continuing our provision for Vulnerable Children and those of Key Workers. Due to staffing and space, we are unable to offer places to Year 6 children at this time. Remember all children will need to bring in their own water bottle. Packed lunches will be provided for all Nursery, Reception and Y1 children in school, however you can send your own if you prefer. Children should wear suitable casual clothing and footwear. They do not need to wear school uniform.

What will the arrangement be for the beginning and end of the day?

Drop off and collection arrangements have been altered and timings staggered.

- Only 1 parent or carer should drop off or collect their child;
- There should be no gathering or waiting at any times;
- Children in each year group will be split in alphabetical order to limit group sizes.

Drop Off and Collection Process:

- A strict 1 way system will be in place, parents should wait by the pedestrian gate at the front of the school;
- As parents arrive at the front of the "queue", their child will be directed into the playground where they will be met and escorted to their classroom by a member of staff who has been allocated to their group
- Staggered Times: for **prompt** drop off and collection:

Nursery and Reception Group A: Monday 8th June - Drop off 9.45, pick up 2.45

Nursery and Reception Group B: Wednesday 10th June - Drop off 9.30, pick up 2.30

Year 1: Monday 15th June - Drop off 9.15. Pick up 2.15

Places have only been allocated to those children where they have been requested by parents.

If you have children in multiple age groups, they should all be dropped off and collected at your first time slot.

Year groups will be split up, does this mean my child will not see their friends in school?

Each year group will be split alphabetically into groups of no more than 10 children at this stage, to aid social distancing. These small groups could be seen as "Bubbles" that will be kept separate from all other groups. That means different play and lunch times. As far as possible, each "bubble" will have the same adults working with them. Parents will not be able to request which teacher or "bubble" their child goes with.

So, in these “bubbles” can you guarantee 2 metre social distancing?

No! Whilst we will encourage social distancing, we do not believe it is possible to maintain 2 metres. Although it is easier with the older children to have social distancing in the classroom, it has proved very difficult with younger children. Also, the Nursery and Reception class curriculum is based around shared experiences and learning through play. This is the reason we are creating “bubbles”, so while children will wash hands between activities and be encouraged to maintain social distancing, when they do get too close to another child, it will only be a child in their “bubble”, therefore limiting potential spreading of the infection. We understand this model isn’t perfect, but it is the most practical solution.

What will they be taught in school and will home learning activities continue?

Pupils’ health and wellbeing will be a focus, as well as core reading skills for younger children and transition activities for our eldest (when they return). But to ensure consistency, English and Maths lessons will follow the same structure as they do currently for home learning, meaning the same content will be delivered in school as you can access at home, through the Oak Academy Trust online materials.

What happens if someone in my child’s ‘bubble’ shows symptoms of COVID-19?

If a child is showing symptoms then they are expected to get a test. Tests are available for all children aged 5 years and above. Where there is a positive test for a member of the class, their “bubble”, including adults, will all be sent home for 14 days social isolation. In the event a parent does not take a child for a test, we will assume it to be positive.

Will staff be wearing PPE, could that be scary for my child?

Safety is important. Whilst guidance states PPE is not essential for staff in schools, there will be certain times we are insisting upon it, such as first aid. We have also given the staff the option to wear PPE for their own peace-of-mind. We do not want children to become upset with this, so please talk to them about it.

Is this the final plan, will there be any more updates ?

We need to make it clear this is an evolving situation, the Government are closely monitoring the rate of infection and may change the plans to open schools.

What about a wider opening for other year groups and what happens in September?

It is too early to have any more information at this time. We do not expect any further information at this stage, but, if you have any emerging concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.