

Coronavirus Q&A for Parents September 2021



How will the school keep me informed?

We will use the website and app as our main point of information. Any updates will be prompted by TEXT/APP message.

We ask that you regularly check our website for updates.

When will the school open?

The academy will open to all pupils from Thursday 2nd September 2021. All children should arrive for a 9 a.m. start.

What is the academy doing to make school safe for my child?

With the easing of restrictions the government have published guidance to education and childcare settings in relation to actions required during the pandemic. Restrictions around contact and mixing no longer in place and this means that we will no longer work in 'bubbles' and staggered starts and ends to the day are no longer necessary.

Some measures continue to enhance safety levels in the academy, which include:

1. Ensuring **good hygiene** for everyone

We continue to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene. Pupils should continue to wash/sanitise hands regularly, particularly before and after eating and use the 'catch -it, kill-it approach' to respiratory hygiene.

2. Maintaining appropriate **cleaning** regimes

- We will continue to provide a level of enhanced cleaning across the academy. *Children's resources will be cleaned regularly*

Keeping occupied spaces **well ventilated**

Ventilation is a key measure against the spread of COVID-19 and we will be ensuring that our ventilation systems are in full use and that windows are kept open wherever possible and particularly in communal spaces e.g. main /small hall. Please ensure pupils are wearing vests and have coats with them in colder weather.

3. Following public health advice on **testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases** of COVID-19

We will continue to follow guidance as published. From we expect pupils to

- stay away from the academy if displaying COVID-19 symptoms and obtain a PCR test (routines to send pupils with symptoms home remain unchanged)
- stay away from the academy if an LFT test is positive and obtain a confirmatory PCR test
- isolate for the required period with any positive result - a negative PCR taken within 2 days of a positive LFT overrides the self-test result and pupils may return to school

The academy is no longer responsible for track and trace routines. The NHS will alert anyone who is considered a contact of a positive case and advise of required action.

Do I have to send my children to school?

The answer to this question is yes, all pupils are expected to attend however, there may still be some key reasons why your child cannot attend. For example;

- *If they are generally ill*
- *If they have COVID-19 related symptoms or have taken advice to self-isolate*
- *If they have had a positive test result themselves, or have taken advice to self-isolate*

- *Shielding advice for all adults and children is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19> some children may not be able to attend school following clinical and/or public health advice.*

In any of these cases we ask that you get in touch with us as soon as you can to discuss so that we support accordingly. We ask that you also get in touch if you have taken a family holiday that may impact upon your child's return to school.

If I need to keep my child off school to isolate will work be provided?

The academy will continue to provide remote learning for pupils who need to isolate due to coronavirus and they are well enough to work.

Will the school day be the same?

The school day will return to a more 'normal' structure that includes assemblies, hot-lunch service, extra-curricular activities and trips and visits. Drop off and pick up will return to 'pre-covid' practice. The plan is shared on our website.

Whilst restrictions have been lifted we do ask that families continue to be mindful of others and limit mixing/ keep your time on school grounds as brief as possible.

Arrival

*We will welcome pupils into the academy between **8.50 a.m. and 9.00 a.m.***

Departure

We will dismiss pupils from the academy as follows:

3.15 p.m. for FS, Y1, Y2 pupils

3.20 p.m. for remaining pupils in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6.

Will the classrooms look the same?

We are now able to use our classroom resources to their full potential. Any shared resources will continue to be cleaned.

What will happen if my child is upset? Will a member of staff be able to comfort my child?

The restrictions around contact and mixing have now been eased however we will remain cautious. Where there are concerns over a child's well-being or safety, including where a child is upset or is hurt, staff may need to come closer to the child to help and/or comfort them. This includes when administering first aid. Where this is necessary and it is not in an emergency situation staff will wear a mask or appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Will my child need to wear a face mask? Will staff be wearing face masks?

Public Health England does not require the use of face coverings in schools.

Some staff may wear masks in school as specified due to the tasks they are undertaking e.g. to attend personal hygiene, medical needs.

We are happy for any staff or children to wear masks as they wish. We do however request that masks (water resistant) are worn rather than face coverings.

Where mask/face coverings need to be removed they should be safely removed using the ear loops. If it is a disposable mask the child will be asked to place it into the bin. If it is a face covering (fabric reusable mask) the child will be given a plastic bag to place the mask into to keep safe until home time.

Will school activities continue as normal?

School activities will resume as normal. The academy does, however, have a contingency plan that may restrict certain activities should cases of COVID-19 increase.

Will the children be learning?

Children will be learning a broad and ambitious curriculum in all subjects.

Swimming will return as usual for our Year 5 pupils.

All statutory assessments (e.g. SATs for our Y6 pupils) will return this academic year.

Will my child have the same support in place, which they normally have?

Staff will be in place to support pupils who would ordinarily receive individual and/or additional support that was in place in the last academic year.

Will my child be expected to wear uniform?

We expect pupils to come to school in their usual clean uniform on a daily basis. To enhance ventilation in school windows and doors may be open and so we encourage children to layer up on cold days.

Will they need to bring hand sanitiser in to school?

No, we have plenty of dispensers around school at key entry and exit points and in classrooms, we also have sinks in every classroom with access to soap. We will continue to promote and model good hand hygiene including catching sneezes in tissues so that they can 'catch it, bin it, kill it.'

Will Out of School Club be open?

Out of School club from 7.45 a.m. and until 6.00 p.m. The clubs will take place in a combination of classrooms and the main hall. Please contact the office for further details.

My child has Asthma, is there any special guidance?

Please ensure that you are vigilant in ensuring that they are sent with an up-to-date inhaler. For further information, please refer to <https://www.asthma.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Am I able to attend the academy during the day in order to give my child medicine?

We would encourage you to administer any medicines before and after school. However, should you be unable to manage medicines in that way then please speak to our Health Support Worker to see how we can help.

Will the academy continue to provide school meals?

A hot service, served in the main hall will resume in September 2021. Meals can be ordered using the SchoolGrid system. Lunch is free for pupils in FS, Y1, Y2.

As well as having a school lunch will there be any snacks, e.g. fruit etc. or do they send in their own?

Fruit will be provided as usual. We request that children do not bring anything else into school.

What will happen if a child becomes unwell at school?

Our sickness routines remain the same. If anyone displays symptoms associated with COVID-19 i.e. a new continuous cough, visual high temperature or lack of smell we will seek to send them home immediately.

Will the school tell parents to keep their child at home due to COVID-19?

We encourage parents to be responsible in their decision making and consult the guidance available in making their choices.

Parents will be expected to keep their child at home if they:

- if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and are awaiting test results*
- have tested positive for COVID-19 – this means they have the virus*
- have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace (anyone who is a contact of a positive case but who are under 18 years, 6 months old are not required to isolate)*

We encourage all parents to actively engage with the NHS Test and Trace process and ask to be informed if a child has a positive test result.

How long should we self-isolate for?

- If someone has tested positive for coronavirus, they will usually need to self-isolate for at least 10 days after the first day of symptoms.*

If someone develops the coronavirus in school, would the whole school close or would it just be the group that the person has been in contact with?

If a pupil or member of staff displays symptoms during the school day they will be isolated/sent home and asked to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

The academy is no longer responsible for the test and trace process and will not send pupils or staff working in the same class to isolate – the NHS Test and trace team will advise contacts to isolate rather than the school.

If the academy or our local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, decisions will be made on what measures to implement to help contain the spread. As always guidance will always be followed and communicated.