



Kintbury St Mary's CE Primary School

11 September 2020

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

We hope you find this FAQ useful to explain the current changes at school. Please refer to the [government guidance](#) for up-to-date information about coronavirus and seek medical advice if you need it. If you have any other questions please [get in touch](#).

How are you keeping my child safe?

All schools are following [government guidance](#) from the Department of Education. At Kintbury St Mary's we have implemented a number of measures as part of this. For full details please refer to our *COVID-19 policy* and *Return to school risk assessment*, both of which are regularly updated in line with government guidance and are available on the [school website](#).

- The children have also been separated into both Year Group (class) bubbles for daily teaching and learning and also Key Stage bubbles for play time and lunch times: KS1 bubble includes Foundation, Year 1 and 2; KS2 bubble includes Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- To ensure good ventilation in school, we are keeping windows open as much as possible, so please ensure your child always has a named school jumper or cardigan with them each day.
- We have implemented stringent cleaning and hygiene routines which are detailed in the [risk assessment available on the school website](#).
- We are limiting the equipment children bring to school each day. Children can only bring essentials to school such as: reading book bags, lunchboxes, hats and coats. Children can also bring reading books and reading records back and forth from home to school; **please do not bring in school bags/ruck sacks or pencil cases**.
- In the classroom, Years 2-6 are expected to face the front, so we have rearranged tables in these classrooms accordingly.
- On the day they have PE, we are asking that children come into school in their PE kit, which they will then wear all day.

How are you keeping my child and parents safe at the start and the end of the school day?

- The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place, so in order to maintain safe distances when dropping off and picking up we have implemented **a one-way system** where parents enter the school via the Main Gate, walk round the back of the school and exit via the Vehicle Gate. We have also introduced **staggered drop-off and pick-up times**, with different times for different classes. **To support social distancing measures please follow these specified timings as closely as possible.**



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- Siblings can be dropped off together at the time given for the earliest child's drop-off. For instance, if you should be dropping off your children at 8:30 and 8:40/8:45, you can drop them off together at 8:30; if you should be dropping off your children at 8:40 and 8:45 you can drop them off together at 8:40. **Please do not enter the school grounds until the specified time to drop off or pick up your children.**
- We request that adults dropping off or collecting children minimise waiting times and do not socialise on the school grounds after children have been dropped off.
- We also request that **children do not play on school apparatus** outside of school hours at drop-off and collection times.

Class	Drop-off time	Drop off at	Pick up time	Collect at
Foundation – Mrs Ulry	8.40 am	EYFS gate	3.05 pm	EYFS gate
Year 1- Miss Court	8.40 am	Downstairs KS1 door	3.05 pm	Classroom door
Year 2 –Miss Floyd	8.30 am	Downstairs KS1 door	3.00pm	Classroom door
Year 3 – Mrs Palmer	8.40 am	Hall door	3.10 pm	Hall door
Year 4 – Miss Hannon	8.45 am	Hall door	3.15 pm	Hall door
Year 5 – Mrs O Halloran	8.30 am	Back Stairs door	3.15 pm	Back stairs door
Year 6 – Mrs Middleton	8.30 am	Back Stairs door	3.15 pm	Back stairs door

Can I pop into the office if I have a question, or do I need to make an appointment?

In order to keep the number of visitors to a minimum at all times in the reception area, please contact the school via phone or email if you have a question or query.

How do the bubbles work?

The children are in Year Group bubbles, as well as in Key Stage bubbles. These are KS1 (Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2) and KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6).

During playtime the KS1 bubble play on the front playground, and the KS2 bubble play on the back playground and the field. The same applies at lunchtimes. Each Key Stage bubble also has their own equipment to use.

At lunchtime, the KS1 bubble eat together in the hall and the KS2 bubble eat in their classrooms.

What symptoms require isolation at home?

The [main symptoms of coronavirus](#) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.



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If your child has **any** of the main symptoms of coronavirus they **must not come into school**. Please follow the [government guidance](#) for testing and self-isolation.

When do I have to notify the school if I suspect my child has COVID-19 or if someone in my household does?

Please notify the school as soon as possible, and follow the [government guidance](#).

What happens if my child gets a cold?

A runny nose is not currently a recognised symptom of coronavirus, and your child can go to school if they are well enough to do so. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, they **must not come into school**.

Please follow the [government guidance](#):

- Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

What happens if my child is unwell?

If your child is unwell but doesn't have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste), then please phone school as normal to record their absence. If they become unwell at school, we will contact you.

The [NHS Live well website](#) gives useful guidance on when to keep your child off school.

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, they must not come into school and should be tested for coronavirus as per government guidance.

What happens if my child has a cough or fever?

If your child has either a cough or a fever they **must not come into school**.

Please follow the [government guidance](#):

- Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.



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During the school day, staff are also checking children for symptoms. If your child develops a fever or a cough at school, we will contact you to pick up your child as soon as possible, and to follow the government guidance to isolate and get a test for coronavirus.

Your child will not be able to return to school until they have either received a negative coronavirus result, or self-isolated for the required period. Please [check the current guidance for self-isolation](#).

I've got a cough, should I send my child into school?

A new, continuous cough is one of the [symptoms of coronavirus](#). Please **do not send your child to school**, and follow the government guidelines:

- Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result. This includes your children.

If your result is negative, then your child can come back to school; if your result is positive, then you and everyone you live will need to self-isolate. Please see the [current guidance about self-isolation and treatment](#). As with all school absences, please phone the school office and keep us informed of the situation.

My child has been self-isolating and not at school. Do they need to have a negative coronavirus test before they can come back?

We will not require evidence of negative test results before welcoming a child back to school as long as they have self-isolated according to the timelines set out in [government guidance](#) and they are feeling well enough to return to school.

What time should I drop off my child?

The time you drop-off and pick-up your child(ren) will have changed. Please see the table below to find out when you should drop-off and pick-up your child(ren). **To support social distancing measures please follow these specified timings as closely as possible.**

Class	Drop-off time	Drop off at	Pick up time	Collect at
Foundation – Mrs Ulry	8.40 am	EYFS gate	3.05 pm	EYFS gate
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Year 5 – Mrs O Halloran	8.30 am	Back Stairs door	3.15 pm	Back stairs door
Year 6 – Mrs Middleton	8.30 am	Back Stairs door	3.15 pm	Back stairs door

You should only enter the school grounds at the allocated time to drop off or pick up your child(ren). We ask that adults dropping off or collecting children minimise waiting times and do not socialise on the school grounds after children have been dropped off.

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I have children in different year groups, do I have to drop them off at different times?

Siblings can be dropped off together, at the time of the earliest child's drop-off. For instance, if you should be dropping off your children at 8:30 and 8:40/8:45, you can drop them off at 8:30; if you should be dropping off your children at 8:40 and 8:45 you can drop them off together at 8:40. Please do not enter the school grounds until it is the allocated time to drop off or pick up your children.

What should my child bring to school?

We are limiting the amount of equipment pupils bring to school each day. Children can only bring essentials to school such as: reading book bags, lunchboxes, hats and coats. Children can also bring reading books and reading records back and forth from home to school; **please do not bring in school bags/ruck sacks or pencil cases.**

When will you be starting after school clubs again?

Sadly, until further notice, we will have to limit or revise the number of events and clubs that would normally take place throughout the school year. We will keep you up to date with progress on this.

If a local lockdown is imposed, will school still be open?

The Government guidance for schools is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#contingency-plans-for-outbreaks>

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, the appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread, and whether it is safe for schools to stay open. We will provide more information on this process as we receive it.

Will school have to shut again, and what happens if it does?

In the event of a rise in infections locally, we will be advised on what actions or measures we need to take by the Local Government and relevant authorities. If this situation arises, we will pass this information on to you as soon as possible. Please continue to check your texts and emails regularly. The [current Government guidance for schools](#) provides more details about this.

If a child in my child's class has a fever, do the whole class have to go home straight away?

No. If a child has a fever, they will be taken to a separate room from the rest of the class and their parents or carers will be contacted to collect them immediately. The procedure for this can be found in the [risk assessment on the return to school area on the website](#).

The child with the fever will need to follow the Government's [current guidance about self-isolation and treatment](#) and get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.

If they test positive for coronavirus, then all parents and staff affected will be informed as soon as possible, by email or telephone. School will stay open, but the local health protection team and NHS Test and Trace will advise on which individuals need to go home and remain there for [14 days of self-isolation](#).



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Will I be informed if a child in my child's bubble has any of the symptoms of coronavirus?

Parents and carers will be informed when a positive coronavirus test of a child or staff member has been confirmed and the appropriate course of action will be taken in consultation with the local health protection team and NHS Test and Trace.

If a child in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19, will school shut?

If a child tests positive for COVID-19, all parents and staff affected will be informed as soon as possible, by email or telephone. School will stay open, but all members (staff and pupils) who may have come into contact with a confirmed positive case will be asked to go home and remain at home for 14 days of self-isolation. Please see the [current guidance about self-isolation](#)

What happens if a teacher gets ill?

Children will continue to attend school as normal unless the teacher tests positive for COVID-19. If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19, then we will be advised by NHS Test and Trace and the local health protection team. All parents and staff who have come directly into contact with the teacher who has tested positive will be informed as soon as possible, by email or telephone. School will stay open, but all individuals (staff and pupils) affected will be asked to go home and remain at home for 14 days of self-isolation. Please see the [current guidance about self-isolation](#)

If we have to close part of the school, every attempt will be made to continue teaching of non-affected groups. However, if it is not possible to maintain required staff/pupil ratios to ensure the safety of remaining children, the leadership team may take the decision to close other parts of the school. This will be done in consultation with governors and the Local Authority.

If my child tests positive for COVID-19, will everyone in their class know about it?

We take confidentiality very seriously - although the families of your child's class will be informed that we have had a positive case, and we will follow school procedure for that class, as stated in the government guidance they will not be given your child's name.

I've seen children from different years playing together in the playground at school - is that allowed?

At break time and lunch time children are able to play with the children in their Key Stage bubble, and this is in line with the [current guidance for schools](#).

I'm a key worker. If school shuts will I still be able to bring my child in so I can work?

If sections of the school need to close due to a positive COVID-19 case and your child could be affected, then you will not be able to send them to school. Household members of children who are sent home do not need to self-isolate though, unless the child who is self-isolating develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

What happens when the school closes a bubble because of a positive COVID-19 test?

If a child or member of staff tests positive for COVID-19, then we will be advised by NHS Test and Trace and the local health protection team. The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk



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assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the child or staff member during the period that they were infectious, and ensure that they are asked to self-isolate. This is likely to include the bubble that the child or staff member is a member of.

Based on the advice from the health protection team, we will send home all children and staff who have been in close contact with the child or staff member who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days.

If you have to close my child's bubble because someone within that bubble tests positive for COVID-19, does my child have to quarantine and take a test? What about the rest of the family?

We will take advice from NHS Test and Trace and from the health protection team and pass this information on to families affected.

Household members of children who are sent home, due to closure of their bubble, do not currently need to self-isolate unless the child who is self-isolating develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test), or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive, or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> for the most up-to-date guidance.

If I have children in different bubbles, and one bubble gets sent home, what happens to my child in the other bubble - do they still go into school?

Based on the advice from the health protection team, we will send home all children and staff who have been in close contact with the child or staff member who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days.

Household members of children who are sent home do not currently need to self-isolate unless the child who is self-isolating develops symptoms. This means that siblings in different bubbles will not necessarily need to self-isolate. NHS Test and Trace and the health protection team will provide guidance on this if this situation occurs.

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> for the most up-to-date guidance.

My child is medically vulnerable, can I keep them off school?

Please see the government guidance on pupils who are shielding or self-isolating in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>



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A member of our household is medically vulnerable, can I keep my child off school?

Please see the government guidance on pupils who are shielding or self-isolating in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Will I get fined for keeping my child out of school if I am concerned?

The usual rules on school attendance currently apply. These include:

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

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> for more information.

We've just come back from holiday abroad and have to isolate for two-weeks. Will I get fined for not sending my child to school?

Where children are not able to attend school because parents and carers are following clinical or public health advice (for example, self-isolation or family isolation), the absence will not be penalised.

It's my child's birthday. Can they bring in sweets to share with their class?

We know the children enjoy bringing in sweets to share on their birthday. This is still ok, but any sweets given out must be in individually wrapped bags e.g. Haribo.

I want to speak to my child's teacher; how do I do this?

If it is a short simple message, then speak to the member of staff on the door in the mornings. Please phone or email the office if you have any questions or queries, or if you need to make an appointment for a more in-depth conversation with a member of staff or the head teacher.

Can I email my child's teacher?

We are setting up class email addresses, and these will be available shortly.

Do the email addresses, which you set up over lockdown still work?

We are updating the email addresses to reflect the new year groups, and these will be available shortly.

My child did lots of work over lockdown, should I bring it into school to show their teacher?

We appreciate the considerable amount of work that families engaged with over lockdown, however we are required to limit the amount of materials and resources coming back and forth to school, so sadly we will be unable to accommodate this.