

COVID-19 Guidance for Reception Parents

As promised, I am sending more detailed guidance in relation to our school's plans for the management of risks in relation to COVID-19. Our school will look and feel different for our current pupils when they return and probably for some time to come (though hopefully not too long). However, for our Reception class, new rules and routines would be part and parcel of starting school, so hopefully they will take it all in their stride.

You must be so disappointed that your child's first year at school is starting in this way. Please be reassured that the children who returned to school last term, adapted quickly and well to the new routines in place and we are endeavouring to put as much as possible in place to make the transition to school life as smooth as possible for you and your child, despite the difficult circumstances.

The procedures described are based on the latest Government Guidance (which was published at 11.00pm on this Friday 28th August) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> and the LEA Risk Assessment. They also take into account all that we learnt last term during our partial re-opening.

As we are opening to all our pupils for the first time, situations may arise that we haven't foreseen. Therefore, we will continue to re-evaluate and modify our procedures and risk assessment as required.

Rest assured that we will do all that we can to minimise risks for our pupils, their families and our staff. We have also given careful consideration as to how we can minimise disruption to our parents' working day whilst following the Government guidance.

Please take the time to read the following information carefully and feel free to get in touch head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk if you are uncertain about anything.

Many thanks

Rhiannon Jones

Government Guidance states that schools are required to make sure that staff and parents understand that they need to be ready and willing to:

- Book a test if they or their child are displaying symptoms.
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
Staff and pupils must not come into school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop symptoms in school.
- Provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for COVID-19 or if asked by the NHS Test and Trace.
- Self - isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of COVID-19.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Government guidance states that schools must take the following set of actions.

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) where recommended, use of face coverings in school
- 3) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 4) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 5) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- 6) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 7) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell

As a school we will ensure that we address all the actions detailed above. However, **Action 1** relies on you as parents to ensure that you **do not send your child to school if they are unwell or if they or any member of their family have symptoms of COVID- 19 which include:**

- A new and persistent cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell

If you are unsure whether your child is poorly you should err on the side of caution and not send them in.

If you think it could be COVID-19 then you should take your child to be tested and if it is positive school should be informed as soon as possible.

Bubbles

In line with Government guidelines children will be in their year group bubbles throughout the day for teaching and break times.

Classrooms have been re-organised to ensure the maximum space for all children to be seated safely.

All classrooms have cleaning equipment for staff to clean frequently touched surfaces and resources as required during the day.

Resources which cannot easily be cleaned and soft furnishings have been removed. However, there is still a lovely, welcoming and child-friendly environment for your child to learn in.

We will provide each child with their own tub of playdough to avoid cross-contamination.

Where possible we will avoid sharing resources across a bubble. If they have to be shared they will be wiped down thoroughly.

We are required to stagger playtimes and lunchtimes to minimise opportunities for contact between pupils outside of their bubble.

Staggered start

To keep bubbles separate and minimise congestion in the morning we are required to organise staggered start and collection times.

For the first two weeks your child's drop off and collection time will be dependent on what group they are in. This was posted to you in a previous letter. Please use the Infant Gate, off the alley to come into the playground and stand on a red footprint with your child.

However, from 14th September the times will be as follows:

Class	Drop off Time	Entry Gate /Playground	Entry Door	Collection time
Reception	From 8.45am	Infant gate into the infant playground	Green area into Reception classroom	3.15pm
Year 1	8.45am	Double gate into the activity playground	Hall door (B&A Club exit)	3.15pm
Year 2	9.00am	Infant Gate into the Infant playground	Infant doors	3.30pm
Year 3	8.45am	Junior gate into the Junior Playground	Junior doors	3.15pm
Year 4	9.00am	Junior gate into the Junior playground	Junior doors	3.30pm
Year 5	8.45am	Double gates into the front of school	Y4 fire exit	3.15pm
Year 6	9.00am	Double gate into the activity playground	Hall door (B&A Club exit)	3.30pm

Please make sure that you arrive no earlier than the designated drop off time.

Children and staff are encouraged not to use public transport for travelling to school. Anybody who does use public transport should refer to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>.

Pupils/parents in the playground should remain socially distanced at all times. In most playgrounds there are footprints on the floor to help guide the pupils.

Please note **only one adult** may accompany a child into the playground.

The classteacher will be there to meet your child and they will be asked one at a time to sanitise their hands and come into school.

If children travel to school wearing a re-usable mask, they should bring a small sealable plastic bag to keep their mask in which should be stowed in their tray until home time .

Pupils wearing a disposable mask will be given a plastic bag to dispose of them in which will be placed in a lidded bin as they enter the classroom.

Pupils will be reminded not to touch the front of their mask when removing it on arrival at school and will sanitise their hands before and after removing their mask.

We are asked to remind parents not to be tempted to talk at the school gates once you have dropped your child off.

At home time R- Y4 parents may come into the playground to wait for their child, again please don't arrive before your designated time.

Please ensure that you maintain social distance from other parents and staff at all times.

Unfortunately, we are unable to operate our usual system of passing on messages at the entrance doors as staff have to remain socially distant from parents. However, you can ring or email the office bursar@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk or email your child's classteacher if you have a query or concern.

As stated in Government guidance, parents are requested not to enter the school unless absolutely necessary and it should be by appointment only.

School Uniform and What Your Child Should Bring to School

The children should wear full school uniform and on cold days they should bring a coat. If the weather is hot and sunny, please put **sun cream on your child, prior to them coming to school** and send a hat into school to protect them when they are outside.

Your child will need to bring their red bag and a **filled, named water bottle** each day. We will send a school water bottle, a present from the PTFA home with your child after their first session. The infants will receive the free Government fruit daily and milk (free to Reception pupils).

Please could you also send in your child's PE kit. As PE sessions, where possible, need to take place outside you may wish to put a pair of old leggings or tracksuit bottoms into the PE kit too.

Promoting Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Hygiene

Your child will wash their hands on a regular basis including on entry to school, after break times and before eating. Each classroom has access to a sink as we have purchased additional potable sinks.

On the first day back we will revise how to wash hands thoroughly and will continue to give regular reminders. However, it may be useful to practise this with your child. This is a video that you could watch together. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>

There is also hand sanitiser available in every classroom. The only time the children will be required to use the hand sanitiser is before entry to the building.

Children will be taught health and safety measures especially the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' message for sneezes. Tissues will be readily available in every classroom and there is also a lidded bin for tissues. All children will wash their hands after sneezing.

Bins will be emptied at least twice a day.

Children will be reminded to avoid touching their faces

Curriculum

We recognise that many of our new Reception children may have been out of pre-school or nursery for 5 months and haven't had the opportunity to take part in our usual transition programme. Whilst some may well be excited about starting school, others may be more nervous. Therefore, during the first few weeks back we will be focussing on settling into the routine of school life and supporting your child's emotional well being.

In preparation, you may wish to encourage your child to watch the stories read by the Reception staff on our website so that there are some familiar faces when they start.

<https://www.kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk/parents/family-challenges/story-time>

There is also a video showing some key members of staff and their classroom which may be useful for your child to watch before next Wednesday. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJPxjzMjF2U&feature=youtu.be>

Dealing with illness

Please remember the Government's main strategy for preventing the transmission of COVID-19 in schools is by ensuring pupils and staff with symptoms do not attend school.

- If you or your child or anyone in your family is unwell, do not bring them into school, inform the school as soon as possible and arrange a Covid-19 test immediately.
- If you discover you have come into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with Covid-19, you and your family need to self isolate and arrange for a COVID-19 test.
- If your child becomes ill during the day, they will be isolated in a separate Isolation Bubble supervised by a staff member whilst you are contacted. You must come and collect them immediately. Please ensure that we have an up to date contact number for you.
- If there are apparent COVID-19 symptoms you will be required to self-isolate, child for 10 days and family for 14 days. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
You will also be advised to take your child for a test. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
- The Government guidance states that parents have a duty to inform school as soon as possible of the results of the test. If the pupil's test result is negative and they no longer feel unwell they can return to school and the rest of the family no longer needs to self – isolate.
- If the pupil's test is positive, they should remain at home for 10 days and the remainder of the household self –isolate for 14 days.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and share the children's advice with your child. Even though we cannot guarantee complete protection from Covid-19, please be assured we have done everything in our power to minimise risk to staff, children and parents when returning to school.

It is essential that that you agree to follow the above guidelines especially in relation to illness. If you suspect that your child or any family member has possible COVID symptoms you must not bring them into school. You are able to access a test for them <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> and we advise that you do this.

Please feel free to contact me head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk if you require clarification on any of the above points.

We look forward to meeting your child on Wednesday 2nd September.