

## Guidance for Returning to School for Parents – March 2021

We are really looking forward to seeing all our children back in school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

The systems and guidelines that were in place in September are still required in the new [Re-opening Schools Government Guidance](#) together with some additional precautions.

**The procedures detailed below are based on this guidance and risk assessments in relation to our school. Given the high number of COVID cases currently in the Kirkham and Wesham area it is important that they are followed for the safety of all our families and staff. Please ensure that you click on the link at the end of the guidelines to confirm that you have read them.**

### Staggered start – Keeping Safe at Drop off and Collection Times

To keep year group ‘bubbles’ separate, minimise congestion in the morning and reduce risk of transmission we will continue with the same staggered start and collection times.

- **If your child is in Year 1,3, 5 or Reception please ensure that you arrive promptly at 8.45am.**
- **If your child is in Year 6, 4 and 2 and has no other siblings in school – please do not arrive in the school vicinity until 8.50am.**

Class	Drop off Time	Entry Gate /Playground	Entry Door	Collection time
Reception	At 8.45am	Infant gate into the infant playground	Green area into Reception classroom	At 3.15pm
Year 1	At 8.45am	Double gate into the activity playground	Hall door (B&A Club exit)	At 3.15pm
Year 2	8.50am-8.55am	Infant Gate into the Infant playground	Infant doors	3.20 – 3.25pm
Year 3	At 8.45am	Junior gate into the Junior Playground	Junior doors	At 3.15pm
Year 4	8.50am-8.55am	Junior gate into the Junior playground	Junior doors	3.20 – 3.25pm
Year 5	At 8.45am	Double gates into the front of school	Y4 fire exit	At 3.15pm
Year 6	8.50am-8.55am	Double gate into the activity playground	Hall door (B&A Club exit)	3.20 – 3.25pm

A number of parents were concerned about the congestion at the start of the school day so please ensure that you adhere to the following:

**It is important that families and parents do not mix at drop off or collection time. 1 in 3 carriers of the virus do not show any symptoms so you can't know if the person you are talking to has COVID-19.**

- Please could you ensure that you enter and exit through the designated gate for your child's year group.
- The Government guidelines state that parents should leave the school vicinity as soon as they have dropped off or collected their child. We are asked to remind parents not to congregate or stand and chat at the school gates once you have dropped your child off.
- Whilst waiting for your child please do not congregate around the gate areas or over the ends of the alley.
- Children or parents should not enter the playground earlier than the designated drop off or collection time.
- 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 and we ask that parents of Y5/6 remain outside the playground.
- Any parents entering the playground should be wearing a mask.
- The class teacher will be there to meet your child and the children will be asked one at a time to sanitise their hands and come into school.
- Please ensure that you maintain social distance from other parents and staff at all times.
- If your child is making their own way to or from school please ensure that they are aware of the need to go straight home.

Unfortunately at this moment in time it is also important that we minimise contact face to face contact with staff. Therefore, 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 message the class teacher via ClassDojo or email the office [bursar@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk) if you have a query or concern.

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.

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>.

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

## **Bubbles**

As in September children will be in their year group bubbles throughout the day for all teaching and playtimes.

Playtimes and lunchtimes are staggered to minimise opportunities for contact between pupils outside of their bubble.

We will also endeavour to keep the bubbles separate during after-school club. However, this cannot be guaranteed and the Government guidance recognises that bubbles may not be able to remain in place during wrap around care.

## **School Uniform and What Your Child Should Bring to School**

The children should wear full school uniform and should bring a coat. **We are required to keep all the classrooms well ventilated so, as previously, your child may wish to wear layers under their uniform.**

Your child will need to bring a **filled, named water bottle** each day. We will provide new lids to any children with a school water bottle. They may also bring a packed lunch if not on school dinners and a healthy snack. The infants will receive the free Government fruit daily and milk.

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. This PE kit will remain in school until Easter. If your child has a spare of trainers these could also be sent in – preferably Velcro trainers for our younger children please.

**As was the case last term, children should not bring anything else into school this includes school bags (except Reception as the bag fits in their tray), stationery or mobile phones.**

If your child is walking to school and finding it difficult to carry their water bottle and packed lunch they can put it in a plastic or cloth bag providing they can fold it up and put it in their coat pocket or tray.

## **Masks/Face coverings**

It is now a Government requirement for staff to wear masks when they move around school. Some staff may also wear masks in the classroom especially when they are working on a one to one basis with a pupil or close to another member of staff.

The Government still advise that primary aged children do not wear face coverings. This is partly due to the fact that to be effective masks have to be handled carefully - any touching of the front of the mask can result in transmission of the virus.

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 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

## **Promoting Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Hygiene**

Your child will wash their hands on a regular basis including on entry to school, before and after eating and after sneezing or blowing their nose. Each classroom has access to a sink as we have purchased additional portable sinks.

On the first day back we will revise how to wash hands thoroughly and will continue to give regular reminders. You may wish to share this video with your child.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>

There is also hand sanitiser available in every classroom. The children will be required to use the hand sanitiser before and after play and before and after PE. Children who have an allergy to hand sanitiser will be asked to wash their hands at these times instead.

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 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

### **Resources**

All children have their own pack of essential stationery including pencils, glue sticks, sharpeners, rubbers, colouring pencils etc to minimise the sharing of resources.

Any resources that do need to be shared will be wiped down with disinfectant or placed in Milton overnight.

Where possible we will avoid sharing resources across a bubble. If they have to be shared they will be wiped down thoroughly or 72 hours will be left between use.

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

### **Lunch**

The full school dinner menu will be available – dinner choices should be made by midnight on the Tuesday of the week before whether they are free or paid for. (Please contact the office on 01772 682866 – if you wish your child to have dinners and you have missed this deadline).

The children will sit in the hall for lunch in their year group bubble in line with Government Guidance and the tables disinfected between sittings. Reception will continue to eat in the classroom until at least Easter.

### **Before and After School Club**

Before and After School Club will be running from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March as we recognise that we have parents who need this facility to enable them to return to work. We will endeavour to keep the children within their bubbles however this will be dependent on the number booked in. Therefore, we ask that you only book your child in if you need to use B&A Club for childcare. Bookings should be made as usual via Parent Pay.

Please drop off and collect your child from the usual door at the far side of the hall. However, we do need to ask you to remain outside and socially distant from other parents.

In the morning, please queue with your child on the red footprints. A member of staff will then ask a child at a time to sanitise their hands and come into hall.

## **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.**

**All staff are completing twice weekly lateral flow tests.**

- 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 for 10 days and arrange for a COVID-19 test if anyone becomes unwell.
- 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 take your child for a test <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> and to self-isolate until you receive a negative result,
- 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 10 days.
- A year group bubble will be closed if a member of staff or pupil has a positive test result and has been in school up to 48 hours prior to symptoms starting. Staff and pupils in the affected bubble will need to isolate for 10 days.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this. 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.**

**Please click on the following link to confirm that you have read and will adhere to the above guidelines. [Confirmation that I have read the Returning to School Guidelines](#)**

**Please feel free to contact me via [head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk) if you require clarification on any of the above points. We look forward to seeing your child on March 8<sup>th</sup>**