



Covid-19 FAQs

Please see below some of the questions that we have anticipated you may have about our reopening. We have already had one or two questions from parents which we have endeavoured to answer. We thought it would be useful to share these with you:

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

The Government has asked primary schools to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 alongside priority groups. The Government's ambition is to bring all primary school year groups for the last month of the Summer half term if conditions nationally make it feasible. This will be kept under review.

As we have quite large numbers in our year groups, we are primarily offering places to key worker children and, from the 8th June, to those parents who decided they would like their children to come in following our ParentMail survey. Currently, we are at our limit of places. If the situation changes, then we will have to increase group numbers and ensure we have an increase of staff numbers and classroom space to accommodate more children without breaking social distancing rules.

2. Why aren't all the children coming back?

The DfE have based this on the need to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus. Therefore, they have taken into account the need to reduce numbers returning as a gradual process so smaller groupings in classes can be maintained.

3. If one of my children is eligible to return, can their sibling come back as well?

Sadly, the answer to this is 'no'. Siblings cannot attend unless they are in another of the selected year groups. This would raise the number of pupils attending the school.

4. Does my child have to attend?

No one with symptoms should attend for any reason. All children in the selected groups are encouraged to attend unless self-isolating or shielding. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, the schools will not be held to account for attendance levels.

5. I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is. Should I send them back to school?

Children and young people who are considered **extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding** should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is **extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding** should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions. As we will not be able to socially distance children within all class groups, it would be advisable for these children to remain at home.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the **social distancing guidance** and including those who are pregnant, can attend. *DFE May 2020*

6. How big will the classes be?

The DfE is recommending class group size should not exceed 15 pupils per small group and one teacher plus a TA where required. Where there are not enough teachers, Teaching Assistants will lead a group. Desks should be as far apart as the room allows.

Having completed risk assessments and a parent survey, classes will have fewer than 15 children (in some cases 8 or 10 depending on classroom size) when we return.

7. How will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?

We will of course do our best to support distancing, especially with any adults in the school. DfE guidance states '*We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.*' Therefore, we are not going to be implementing social distancing within *every* class. We will be ensuring that each class 'bubble' does not come into contact with other class bubbles and that the older children will be maintaining a 2 metre distance in seating arrangements and activities as much as possible. Children will only be able to socialise with children in their class 'bubble', even at playtime.

Parents need to know that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will come into contact with adults and one another. In some situations, (e.g. treating an injury or if a child 'forgets') this may be unavoidable and we will not be able to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are able to do and use this to inform their decision-making.

8. How do I explain social distancing to my child?

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make the children feel safe.

There are some great stories and simple explanations to help:

- For younger children: [you and your child can find out how the Gruffalo handles social distancing](#).
- 'Time to stay in Bear' https://youtu.be/DA_SsZFYw0w
- More ideas are available here: <https://www.munsonhealthcare.org/blog/explaining-social-distancing-to-kids>

9. What hygiene measures will be in place to prevent transmission?

We will:

- Use the **COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance** to inform our school specific risk assessments.
- Ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. All classrooms have sinks. Hand sanitiser will be available in areas without access to soap and water.
- Clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, more regularly than normal
- Ensure that lidded bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- Where possible, ensure spaces are well-ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows).
- Prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation

We will ensure that all adults and children:

- Frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- Clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- Are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- Use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- Ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- We will consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition.

10. Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?

We will be keeping children in their set bubble groups within one classroom for the day. Government advice on the scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. With the summer weather, we will be moving towards more of an outdoor learning approach, where possible. However, this will have to be strictly timetabled to avoid bubble groups mixing.

11. How will lunch time work?

Lunches will return as the government has requested “schools are expected to reopen their kitchens and ensure that meals are able to be prepared and served safely”. The school will run a staggered sitting in the hall during lunchtime to maintain as much spacing as possible. Children will queue at a 2-metre distance and a screen will protect kitchen staff. If there is insufficient space in the hall, children will be accompanied by an adult to collect their meals and these will be eaten in their classrooms. Cutlery and trays will be then collected in the classrooms. Tables (and chairs) will be cleaned between sittings (if in the hall). Bubble groups may go to field or playground with an adult to accompany. Free School Meal children will continue to receive vouchers if they are not attending school.

12. What measures will school be employing to help prevent transmission?

In addition to what has already been mentioned

We will:

- Give children a designated classroom and group (which we are referring to as their bubble) for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- Regularly clean the setting.
- Not allow children to bring in their own resources such as pencil cases.
- Use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes as identified in our risk assessments, when it is necessary to do so.
- Confine resources to rooms to minimise sharing and when sharing is essential (eg laptops and ipads), clean resources before and after immediate use.
- Organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently, keeping children in their bubbles.
- Be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them
- Removal and/or restricting access to unnecessary items in classrooms.
- Removal and/or restricting access to some soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean.
- Not share PE equipment. All bubbles will have their own equipment in a box. Where it is not possible to have class resources, equipment will be cleaned between each class use.

13. Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?

Where possible, children will be given their own equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. They must not bring any equipment in from home. Laptops and Ipads that are shared will be cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe after use. We cannot say that some resources will not be handled by more than one child, especially in Kites. We have spent nearly half a year teaching our youngest children that sharing is good! Children will be encouraged to maintain good hand hygiene.

14. I'm a keyworker and my child has been in the childcare provision throughout. My child is in Kites, Y1 or Y6 what will happen to them?

Your child will join their key-worker year group bubble and we would encourage them to attend school every day.

15. I'm a key worker and I have only needed my Y1 child to access school childcare for 2 days a week up to now. Do they have to attend every day from 1st June?

The Government is advising that they strongly encourage eligible children to attend including priority groups. As indicated in the FAQs, ultimately it is the parents' decision.

16. Will the breakfast club and after school club be reopened when schools begin their phased reopening?

Yes for a very small number of key worker children initially. Parents will need to book this as they have been during school closure. Payments will be made via ParentMail. Our Office team will administer the booking and send you requests for payment.

17. My child has been coming in to school throughout lockdown, but isn't in the year groups above?

Priority group children will continue to come to school. They will be in a separate class 'bubble' within their year group. The school will be in contact with you to let you know days and times that your child/ children will be able to attend.

18. Will everyone arrive at school at the same time causing an increase in risk?

The schools will organise a staggered drop off and collection time for pupils. The approach to classrooms will be marked out with a 2m queue and drop off zone from where the teacher will invite pupils in. We will be familiar with the queueing systems from visits to the supermarket.

Only one parent or carer should accompany the child to school to minimise risk. Parents will not be invited to enter classrooms, but will drop off (as described above) on the playground for KS2 and by the classroom being used for children of key workers in Reception and Year 1, and also for the Year 1 class group. Schools have no power under the law to enforce social distancing with parents other

than to make that request. However, the school site is private property and so we would consult with the police if issues do arise.

Children in Y6 & Key worker groups for Year 2 & Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 and Year 6: will all enter the site through the Grove Road entrance and they will all be accompanied by a parent.

Kites and Year 1 pupils including the Key Worker group: will all enter through the Lea Road entrance. Latecomers will need to use the gate at the Lea Road entrance and parent and child will wait outside Reception. Your child will then be collected and taken to their class by a staff member. We will not accept late arrivals to school via the Grove Road entrance and will not allow parents to come into the school reception unless this has previously been agreed.

19. My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different. We will help you to prepare for this by putting pictures on our website to show what you and your child can expect, when things are ready.

Sharing social stories can be really helpful for young children and help to express the situation in a clear factual way.

It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending.

Social Stories

- [Social Story older children.pdf](#)
- [Social Story for younger children.pdf](#)

20. Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the National Curriculum?

We will ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed. The initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, will be in supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. They have all gone through an incredible period of change and may have experienced loss on a number of different levels. This shouldn't be ignored. However, we also know that children like routine; therefore, new routines will quickly be established and, when children are ready, we will continue teaching lessons as normal.

We plan to make use of our outdoor learning environment as much as possible.

We are currently working hard to ensure that children, who are remaining at home, get access to similar curricular content on our website and will be supported by teachers and TAs who are either not in school for health reasons or on an alternative timetable.

21. How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?

In addition to that mentioned above, our team of staff will be available to provide support. Our SENCO and ELSA will also be working alongside teachers and TAs (at a distance) to ensure that children's needs are met.

There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play, rebuild friendships and have 'break out' or 'chill out' spaces for times when they may feel overwhelmed.

We will communicate with parents if we feel their child is finding the transition back to school a difficult one and offer support as necessary.

22. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

The Government guidelines state, *'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:*

- *children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way.*
- *if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.'*

However, we at SCPS believe that this is an individual family and staff member's decision. If parents or staff insist on wearing face masks we will not prohibit them from doing so, apart from when it becomes a danger to the child. Parents will need to exercise their own judgement around this and MUST understand that we cannot guarantee that your child will keep a mask on or wear it properly and should be able to put it on and off themselves. If parents wish their child to wear a face mask they must provide this themselves.

23. Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

Yes. In order to promote a sense of normality and consistency, we are expecting children to be in their school uniform and for this to be washed daily. We hope you will support us in ensuring this adhered to in order to keep all children and adults safe within each bubble group.

25. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

No, until the situation is deemed 'safe', we would prefer to minimise additional adults coming in and out of school.

26. Will extra-curricular clubs run (football club, dance club etc)?

No. These bring too many children into contact and mix the school groupings.

27. Will the school office be open?

Yes, but sometimes there may be a reduced staff. This is a very busy time of year with new admissions and leavers; please bear with us in the office and try to be as organised as possible. We do not want parents to come into the school reception unless this has previously been agreed. Where possible, I would ask that parents ring/email the school as opposed to presenting in person. There will be a box outside the main office to drop off anything you need to hand in at the office.

28. Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children who do not return to school?

Yes, we will continue to set home learning activities, during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. These will have the same content and lessons that the children in school are working on. With school reopening to a greater number, parents will need to be mindful that teaching staff will not be as responsive to parent emails during the time children are within school. Staff will be timetabled so that there will always be a member of staff assisting with online learning whilst other colleagues are in school.

29. Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?

The government advice is:

When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

30. Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers. See the [full list of essential workers](#). Education settings as employers can book tests through an online digital portal. There is also an option for employees to book tests directly on the portal.

31. What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

32. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

33. Will the school take my child's temperature every day?

Yes, to start with, Mr Hirst and Mr Coates will be taking temperatures using a non-invasive forehead thermometer as children enter school that can be held up to 5 cm from a person's forehead. We will trial this to begin with and determine if it is feasible on a day-to-day basis.

34. What if another child 'coughs' deliberately in someone else's face?

School will take this very seriously and it will be classed as an assault and will be recorded. We will explain to the child the dangers and consequences of these actions. Parents will be telephoned and will result in a ½ day internal exclusion.

35. Will there be any swimming lessons or trips once school opens on June 1st?

No. There are no plans to take the children out of the school grounds until further notice.

36. How can I speak to the class teacher if we are socially distancing?

You can contact your child's class teacher by emailing them. If you are unable to do this, you can email the office who will then pass the message on.

37. What should my child bring to school each day?

We do not want your child to bring anything into school with them other than a lunch box if they are packed lunches. Please ensure the greatest of vigilance when preparing packed lunches and that lunch boxes are taken home and washed thoroughly before being brought in the next day.

Please do not bring PE kit, rucksacks, book bags or pencil cases.
Water bottles must be brought into school and left where they will be emptied at the end of each day and will be thoroughly cleaned.

38 Where can I find more information about returning to school?

Links:

[Parents and Carers information](#)

[Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](#)

[Coronavirus: guidance for schools](#)

[Coronavirus: implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)