

## **COVID-19 Wider Opening of Schools**

### **Frequently Asked Questions – Parents**

#### **Can I come in to school to speak to the teachers?**

Unfortunately this will not be possible unless your school has stated otherwise. It is of utmost importance that we need to keep our staff as well as our families safe. Government guidelines state that 'parents cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely). Please can you phone or email your queries and if necessary we can arrange to telephone you.

#### **Will my child have playtime?**

Rather than shared playtimes the staff team will timetable children's breaks so that individual bubbles avoid other bubbles and stay within their designated area. Unfortunately, the play equipment will not be used.

#### **How will the children have lunch?**

The school's catering service will continue to provide school dinners for FSM and UFSM children and they should be ordered in the same way as normal. Some schools have also offered this provision to non FSM pupils too. Please check with your individual school for additional information on this. If children choose to bring in their own lunches they should be in disposable wrappings rather than boxes.

Lunchtimes will be staggered. Each bubble will be assigned an MDSA (some of these will already be their TA so will not be an additional adult) and the children will eat in their own classes or outside, weather permitting. In smaller schools where numbers are low, children in separate bubbles can eat in the hall if this is carefully managed and there is a low risk of cross contamination.

#### **What about school uniform?**

Unless the school advises otherwise, the children should wear their school uniform and clothes should be changed each day. If the children are having PE they may come to school wearing their PE kit that day.

#### **What about pencil cases and water bottles?**

The children should not bring things from home, including toys, pencil cases or packed lunch boxes. Individual stationery will be provided. Children should bring in disposable water bottles each day or their own water bottle from home, however, this must be washed thoroughly every evening before returning to school the next day.

#### **Will my child need PPE?**

It is a personal choice if you wish to send your child in with PPE but it is not recommended by the Government or Public Health England that the children wear it. Staff have PPE to wear should they need to administer First Aid or support a child who is feeling unwell. Staff will have the personal choice of whether they want to wear PPE in other circumstances.

### **Can my child wear suntan lotion or use hand cream?**

Wherever possible, we would ask that you administer sun cream to your child before the school day starts. However, if they need to reapply this during the day we would ask that they bring in their own bottle which will then stay at school. Children will have to be taught to apply the sun cream to themselves. Likewise, if your child requires hand cream this will have to be brought in a tube that can be left at school.

### **What if my child becomes ill?**

In the event of someone within a bubble developing COVID-19 symptoms and needing to be sent home to be tested, everyone in that bubble will be asked to remain at home as a precaution while we wait for the outcome of the test. This risk mitigation measure is more robust than the government's guidance, but Trustees felt strongly that this was the right approach to protect staff and to ensure parents felt confident that their child was as protected as possible at school. If someone tests positive for COVID-19 everyone in that bubble would be required to self-isolate in line with government guidelines, and a decision will be made whether to close all or part of the school.

### **What handwashing facilities are there?**

Each classroom will have handwashing facilities and hand sanitisers. We have ordered extra hand sanitiser resources in the classrooms and around the school.

### **How will the school be cleaned?**

Each classroom has a box of cleaning supplies and regularly touched surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day by the teacher and TA. At the end of the day the cleaners will do a more thorough clean. On Wednesdays the school will be closed for all but keyworker and vulnerable children, for a thorough clean of all areas.

### **What will the children be learning?**

The children will be following a different curriculum which is known as the 'Recovery Curriculum', this allows us to support their mental health and wellbeing at the same time enabling them to make progress in their learning. Learning will not be exactly the same as it was pre Covid-19, for example books will not be marked and there will be an increase in outdoor learning.

### **What about the children in other year groups?**

Home learning will still be sent home and contact made by class teachers. Please be aware this will be in addition to them all teaching the bubbles during the day, so this home learning may look different to that set previously and teachers will not necessarily be able to respond on a daily basis.

### **What will happen if there are children who do not follow the rules?**

All schools have reviewed their behaviour expectations during this Covid crisis. This is in addition to each school's main behaviour policy which can be found on the website. All children will be expected to follow this Covid behaviour policy and time will be spent in the bubbles reaffirming the expectations and rules. There are some children who will not be able to maintain social distancing due to specific needs. An individual risk assessment has been made for each child with specific needs. We will also seek advice from the SEND team should it be needed.

Any child who spits or coughs deliberately will be sent home and have their offer of a place withdrawn until an agreed time when a review can take place. In the meantime they will be educated from home.

### **What if I choose not to send my child to school?**

It is the parents' decision to weigh up the risks and decide whether they want to send their child to school. You will not be fined or receive warning letters in these exceptional circumstances. Home learning will be sent home to those children who do not attend and we would hope that you would continue to support their learning at home as much as possible.

### **What about transition?**

As expected, transition will be slightly different this year and once final decisions have been made, we will of course keep you fully informed. Each school has already been in regular contact with the Secondary schools and we are waiting for them to reopen before making further plans.

Individual schools will let children know who their new teachers will be in term 6 and if required we will do additional transition activities in September to ensure a smooth progression to the next year group.

### **Will there be Assemblies and 'Before and After' school clubs?**

All before and after school clubs are cancelled as these are not permitted under the Government guidance. Assemblies are also cancelled due to social distancing measures and large gathering measures.

### **Can you guarantee that my child will be safe? Will the school be held accountable should someone become ill?**

We have developed robust risk assessments to manage the risk associated with more children returning to school. However, it is never possible to completely eradicate risks and we cannot guarantee that someone will not become ill. We want parents to make an informed decision about whether sending their child is the right thing to do for them at this time.

### **How can I prepare my child?**

School will be different- this might be an unsettling time or many for our children and they will need to be prepared for those changes. The classrooms will certainly be different. They need to be aware that drop off and pick up times will be different and year 6 children should not walk to and from school in their social groups. Please talk to your child about these changes and also share the expectations of behaviour and the importance of hygiene with your child before returning to school.

### **What happens if I change my mind and want to send my child to school?**

All places are now allocated for the first 2 weeks and risk assessments have been carried out in line with numbers already received. The school will be in touch again in 2 weeks to ask parents if further places are required, so that they can safely plan for this provision and ensure that the school can accommodate this request. Priority will be given to key worker children at all times.

### **What happens if the school cannot accommodate my child due to high numbers of uptake or staffing issues?**

We will do all we can to accommodate all requests, however, if the school is unable to offer your child a place, because numbers are too high, you will be informed and your child will continue to be educated at home until a space became available.