



Ivy Lane School

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3rd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Full reopening of schools to all children



We are delighted to be welcoming back all of our fabulous Ivy Lane children on Monday 8th March.

Our arrangements are in line with the updated government guidance and continue many of the risk mitigation measures we had in place prior to the Christmas holidays. The children will continue to be taught and stay within their class bubbles for the majority of the school day. They will still come together as year group bubbles at playtimes and lunchtimes. Minimising contact between different groups of children and adults is still advised, therefore gatherings of different year groups of children will still not take place, e.g. assemblies.

Social distancing, handwashing/sanitising and respiratory hygiene will continue to have a high priority across the school and across the school day. Ventilation within the school building will be high. Doors and windows will remain open throughout the day, so children need to ensure they have a warm layer to wear indoors. Daytime and end of day cleaning routines and procedures will continue. Due to updated guidance, staff and visitors may wear face coverings in areas of the school where adults cannot socially distance, e.g. corridors/communal areas. **Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering.**

Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8th March. Therefore, **ALL** children are expected to return. The only exceptions to this are if:

- a child has a written report from a medical professional that recommends that they should continue to shield;
- your child is unwell (including symptoms of or a positive test for COVID-19);
- your household has been instructed to self-isolate;

All absences must be reported in accordance with our attendance policy and if possible, please ring the school office by 8.45am. Unauthorised absence may result in a penalty notice being issued.

Staggered start and finish times

To continue to ensure the safety of all 400 children entering and leaving school and avoiding contact with others outside their class bubbles, we will operate the staggered start and finish times for the children that we had in place before Christmas. Please look carefully at your drop-off and pick-up point below.





Year Group	Entrance and Exit point	Arrival time	Departure time
1	Bell-Mouth Gate	8.30am	2.45pm
2	Bell-Mouth Gate	8.35am	2.50pm
3	Bell-Mouth Gate	8.40am	2.55pm
4	Tunnel Gate	8.40am	2.55pm
5	Tunnel Gate	8.45am	3.00pm
6	Bell-Mouth Gate	8.45am	3.00pm
R	Bell-Mouth Gate	8.50am	2.40pm (Please note new time, continuing with our changes made during Lockdown – we will review at Easter)

If you have siblings in other year groups, please arrive at the latest time allocated. For pick-up at the end of the school day, parents/carers will need to collect their child at the given time and location. The children will be met or dismissed at the gate by school staff. When coming to school, it is essential that you keep to the strict timings and leave as soon as your child is within school grounds, to ensure we are able to move the children into school safely before the next group of children arrive. Only one parent is allowed to drop off their child and will not be allowed to enter the school site. Please can I remind our families to avoid bringing their dogs and to wear a face covering whilst waiting for your child.



Curriculum

From our experiences when all children returned in September, we know that structure and routine is so important. Therefore, we will plan a near normal timetable that allows us to teach the full broad and balanced curriculum from day 1. The teachers will check prior knowledge and retention of previous learning to help with securing foundations before moving forward. We will plan additional PSHE time to allow for circle time activities to build social skills, relationships and a sense of belonging again. We know that the children will need to build stamina for learning and so lessons will be shorter than usual to begin with. This will allow brain breaks and well-being check-ins. We will of course, get outdoors to support the learning as much as possible.

If any children are particularly worried or anxious, and need additional support to transition happily back to school, we will put this in place through discussions with the pastoral team and parents.

All children are to wear PE kit to school on their allocated day and trainers on their other PE day (see below).

Year group	OUTDOOR PE Wear full PE kit	EXTRA PE Wear uniform with trainers
Year R	Tuesday	
Year 1	Wednesday	Tuesday
Year 2	Monday	Friday
Year 3	Monday	Tuesday
Year 4	Thursday	Wednesday
Year 5	Friday	Monday
Year 6	Tuesday	Thursday



Blended and Remote Learning

Our weekly blended learning, which incorporates both the weekly homelearning basic skills challenges that all children must complete and a range of challenges that the children could complete across the week, will be implemented again from Monday 8th March. If a child is absent because they are awaiting test results and the household is required to self-isolate or identified as a 'contact', please refer to the weekly blended learning challenges and aim to complete all. In the event of a bubble closure, this is the document to immediately refer to for your child's learning and from day 2, the full remote learning offer will be put in place.

Parents Evening

We have moved our Spring parents' evening consultations to after the Easter break. The dates will be Tuesday 27th April 3.30-7pm and Thursday 29th April 3.30-5.30pm and will be held virtually again via School Cloud.



Wrap-Around Provision

We will resume this provision whilst continuing to follow the latest government transmission risk mitigation guidance. For breakfast club, parents/carers are to book in advance for the week ahead. We will continue with children in year group bubbles. Dragonflies' after-school provision is also resuming their provision. If you wish to book a place at Dragonflies, please contact 01249 652004.

Lateral Flow Tests

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones.

As you will have seen in the media, staff in Primary school settings are now carrying out Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly, to detect asymptomatic adults and ensure they are safe to attend school. On Sunday 28th February, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that from Monday 1st March, households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8th March.

The testing is not mandatory, but is encouraged and should help to prevent bubble closures. Primary School children will not be tested. Twice-weekly testing will also be offered to adults working in the wider school community, including bus drivers and after school club leaders. The twice-weekly test kits can be accessed:

- via employers if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, arrange to have a PCR test if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a home self-sampling kit, a test site appointment or a test result. Do not use the rapid lateral flow testing service as this is only for people without symptoms.

Accessing tests

Get a test through your employer

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.



Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment.

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)

Collect test kits

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)

Order home test kits online

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.

Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

What twice-weekly testing involves

You will be asked to:

- take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)
- report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test
- [Report your test result online](#) or by calling 119.

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection

Please do not contact the school directly regarding household testing, as unfortunately we will be unable to provide any further information than that shared above.

A final reminder that the children are to wear full school uniform and are not to bring a rucksack into school (book bag only). Please do not bring any toys or other personal belongings apart from their own water bottle, packed lunch if required, mid-morning snack (KS2 only as KS1 have free fruit through the government free fruit scheme) and a coat.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information to digest in this letter, so if you have any questions or if you would like to talk things through further, we are here to listen and offer whatever support we can. Thank you once again for all your support with the children's remote learning at home. Please continue to support the staff and children by continuing to follow the National restrictions that are in place.

Once again, I know all the staff will pull together and deliver the very best for our children, despite the concerns we have with the full return of all the children. However, we cannot wait to welcome all of our Ivy Lane families back. Let's all be brave and magnificent together! (See quote on the last page!)

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Lammin Head of School



"Sometimes," said the horse.
"Sometimes what?" asked the boy.
"Sometimes just getting up
and carrying on is
brave and magnificent."

