

Return to school – updated September 2021

Frequently asked questions

Who is expected to attend school?

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Are my children expected to attend if they are in a vulnerable health group or live with someone in a vulnerable group?

All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.

Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical advice, absence will not be penalised. Remote education will be offered in this situation.

What will happen if I don't send my children back to school?

The Government's guidance for parents makes clear that parents are expected to send their child to school. School is the best place for children to learn and it is important for their mental wellbeing to have social interactions with their peers and teachers. Non-attendance will be marked as absence. Parents should inform the School Office via email or telephone before 9:30am, in line with the school procedure, if their child is ill. We encourage medical appointments to be made outside school hours.

What happens if my child or someone in my household has coronavirus symptoms?

If your child has COVID-19 [symptoms](#) or a positive test result, they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange for them to have a **PCR test** as soon as possible.

Please inform school of these circumstances. If your child with symptoms tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better.

If your child tests positive, they should follow the stay at home guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test

They can return to school following the isolation period only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

If someone in the same household as your child has symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result, from 16 August, your child will not be required to self-isolate (under 18 years 6 months and fully vaccinated adults no longer have to self-isolate) but are advised to get a PCR test as soon as possible. They are able to attend school whilst waiting for the PCR result. Please inform school of these circumstances.

More information can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We are aware that some children and adults with coronavirus present initially with symptoms other than the main 3 recognised e.g runny nose/ sore throat/ headache/ muscle aches are some of the other symptoms which have been reported. Contact school by telephone or email if you are unsure about whether to send your child to school and need advice.

What happens if someone becomes unwell at school?

If anyone attending school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they will be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days unless they are fully vaccinated or are under 18 years 6 months of age. The isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days. If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated, with appropriate adult supervision as required (the nurture room next to the new reception entrance has been identified for this purpose). A window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus at the school?

Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing if a child or staff member tests positive. NHS Test and Trace will identify close contacts and issue advice. It is now not expected that whole classes isolate if there is a positive case. Close contacts will be identified by NHS Test and Trace and advised to get a PCR test.

Will children socially distance at school?

From September, it is not expected that pupils remain in class bubbles. There will not be a requirement to socially distance from those in other classes. Assemblies will resume, although classes will be seated separately. Classes will mix outside at lunchtime and inside within the dining hall.

What will the school do if children do not follow hygiene or safety guidance?

Expectations of behaviour and rules will be clearly explained to children, along with reminders and highlighting models of good hygiene and attitude. Children who, despite help and reminders, cannot follow safety guidance will have a risk assessment conducted and parents contacted.

How will drop off and collection times be managed?

Last year we introduced a system of staggered starts and finishes to reduce the number of people on the playground and facilitate social distancing. From September, we will no longer have separate timings for different classes. Instead there will be the same arrival and a departure window for all classes – morning: 8:45-9:00am; afternoon: 3:30-3:40pm. By establishing a window instead of a specific time, we aim to reduce gathering and we would ask that parents do not arrive before the start of the window. Further details can be found in our separate Access Policy.

We would advise families to travel by walking, cycling to school, or by car. It is not recommended to take public transport if you have an alternative.

Parents/ family members dropping off/ collecting pupils are no longer required to wear face coverings on the school site but may choose to do so if they wish.

Will the school bus be operating?

We have confirmed with SYPTTE that the school bus will be operating. We have in place procedures for pupils arriving at school via the bus and to facilitate supervision of pupils leaving school via this means. Children under the age of 11 are not expected to wear face masks on public transport.

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

We will not take children's temperatures on arrival at school however if we suspect that a child has coronavirus symptoms, we may use a non-invasive thermometer which points to the forehead/ or a forehead temperature strip.

Are school dinners available?

Our catering service will be offering a variety of meal choices (menus will be shared at the start of term). There will be a hot meal option; a jacket potato (with a choice of beans/ tuna/ cheese topping) and a vegetarian option each day. All Key Stage 1 pupils will be entitled to universal infant free school meals; usual free school meal entitlements will apply for other year groups. Parents will be able to purchase school dinners for Key Stage 2 pupils via the school money system as usual. Please ensure payments are received at the beginning of the week. Children will eat in the dining room – it is no longer necessary to have separate sittings however we will seat pupils from the same class together where possible and regularly clean tables within the lunch period.

Does my child need to wear uniform?

Our usual uniform policy will apply. Uniform promotes a sense of pride and identity within our school community. Government guidelines state that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. In order to maximise ventilation, windows in classrooms will be opened. Please ensure children wear jumpers/ cardigans each day to ensure that they are warm enough.

Children will be expected to get changed for PE. PE kits should be brought into school on your child's allocated PE day(s). We will not be able to loan PE kit if a child forgets their own.

What will the curriculum be like for my child?

Children will continue to be taught a rich and broad curriculum.

Staff will aim to address gaps identified and ensure good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics). They will explore opportunities across the curriculum to embed reading, and develop children's knowledge and vocabulary.

There will be a strong focus upon pupil emotional and social well-being and supporting pupils with the current situation in school. We recognise that some pupils might find the return to increased mixing across the school difficult having been used to smaller class groups. Focussed pastoral support will be provided where needed.

What provision will be made for my child if they have to self-isolate due to their own symptoms or positive result; if there is a local or national lockdown?

If children have to self-isolate for any of the reasons described, remote learning will be provided immediately. It is expected that pupils complete this in order to ensure learning is continued whilst they are unable to attend school (see separate remote learning policy).

Will children and staff be wearing PPE?

Government guidelines say that children in primary schools do not need to wear PPE. We will ensure that handwashing and good hygiene practice is in place. During the day surfaces will be wiped down. At the end of each day a thorough clean will take place.

Staff will wear PPE for first aid and intimate care needs in line with current practice or if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while at school and needs direct personal care until they can return home.

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. In the first half of the autumn term, masks for staff/ visitors are *advisory* in communal areas.

We have supplies of PPE for first aiders and any staff coming into close contact with pupils.

If pupils arrive at school wearing a face mask they will need to ensure that it is removed safely. It is important not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it. They must wash their hands immediately on arrival, dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before going to their place in the classroom.

How will school limit the risk of infection for my child?

Government guidelines will be followed including:

- Resources that are shared between classes, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned before passing to another class, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different classes.
- Contact will be minimised with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms do not attend school.
- Hands will be washed frequently throughout the day – this will be supervised for younger pupils.
- Children will be taught good respiratory hygiene – we will promote the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.
- Posters will be displayed around school to remind the children of good hygiene practices.
- We will clean frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products, such as disinfectant.

How will parents be able to ask staff questions?

If parents need to communicate with staff we are still currently asking them to phone and email rather than visit. Any visit to the school must be made via an appointment. When visiting school for a pre-arranged appointment, parents and visitors are requested to wear a face covering; use the hand sanitiser available and are asked to maintain a 2 metre distance from staff at all times.

What does my child need to bring to school each day?

It is important that children bring as little as possible to school to reduce the resources that might be shared between children and between school and home.

Every child should bring their own, named, bottle of water. At the end of each day, water bottles must be taken home to be washed.

On warm, sunny days, please ensure children are sent to school with sun hats and apply suncream (ideally long-lasting) before they leave home. If this needs reapplying throughout the day, ensure you send your child with their own individual suncream, labelled with your child’s name. Children will need to be able to apply this themselves.

Each child will be provided with their own school stationery (pencil cases must not be brought to school).

Reading books will be changed by staff as needed. Returned books will be placed in a box and not made available to others for at least 48 hours.

PE kits need to be brought on allocated PE day(s).

Will after school clubs take place?

A full programme of after-school clubs will be re-introduced from September. Details will be communicated to parents at the start of term.

Guidance documents for parents and carers:

Further information can be found in the following documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak#who-can-attend>