

## FAQs

### Isolating and staying home:

**Any member of the school community (pupils, staff and other adults) should stay at home not come into school if they:**

- **Have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or if someone in their household has symptoms**
  - **Have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in the last 10 days.**
- **Are in a household (or support bubble) with individuals who have been tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in the last 14 days.**
- **Have been contacted through the NHS Test and Trace programme and been advised to stay at home**

### 1. Which year groups are in school?

The Government has asked primary schools to welcome back all children into nursery and school. The government have informed us that primary schools will remain open unless tier 4 action is required where all schools revert to home learning.

### 2. Does my child have to attend?

The government has stated that children must attend school unless there is an exceptional medical reason.

DFE guidance says:

#### **Attendance expectations**

In March, when the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age

- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Parents will be fined for non-attendance. **No one with symptoms should attend for any reason.**

Government guidance says:

Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating

We now know much more about coronavirus (COVID-19) and so in future, there will be far fewer children and young people advised to shield whenever community transmission rates are high. Therefore, the majority of pupils will be able to return to school. You should note however that:

- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- shielding advice for all adults and children was paused on 1 August 2020 which means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who were shielding - read the current advice on shielding
- if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, may be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and, therefore, they may be temporarily unable to attend
- pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional are likely to discuss their care with their health professional at their next planned clinical appointment - you can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health at COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people
- Specialists in paediatric medicine have reviewed the latest evidence on the level of risk posed to children and young people from coronavirus (COVID-19). The latest evidence indicates that the risk of serious illness for most children and young people is low. In the future, we expect fewer children and young people will be included on the shielded patient list.

Patients can only be removed from the shielding patient list by their GP or specialist, following consultation with the child and their family, and other clinicians where appropriate. If a child or young person is removed from the shielded patient list in due course, they will no longer be advised to shield in the future if coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission increases. Discussion by a clinician with those previously advised that they were a clinically vulnerable child or young person but can now be removed from the shielded patient list, and with their families are ongoing. Since shielding advice has paused nationally, except in a very few areas where the implementation of local restrictions is ongoing, all previously affected children

should be able to return to school except **where individual clinical advice not to do so has been provided.**

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical or public health advice, we expect schools to be able to immediately offer them access to remote education. Schools should monitor engagement with this activity as set out in the action for all schools and local authorities section.

Where children are not able to attend school as parents and carers are following clinical or public health advice, for example, self-isolation or family isolation, the absence will not be penalised.

### **3. How big will the bubbles be?**

The DfE has asked us to form year group classes, which will form a bubble. We are able to staff these groups with one teacher plus a TA at the moment, and this means children will return to school with their friends from their old classes.

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

The guidance is very clear that young children are not being expected to social distance. The government has recognised that they are too young to maintain social distancing. The risks for children are decreased because they stay in their class bubble. We will be teaching children to be respectful of other children's space and play games in which they take turns or we will provide equipment, which naturally encourages use of your own space such as bikes and trikes. It will feel very similar for the children with adjustments that are sensible but allow children to be children. For older children we will support their understanding of social distancing but we will be asking them to play together in their bubble. We cannot alleviate every risk but the risk assessment, government advice and teacher's experience of children means we can reduce them.

What we are doing:

- Reorganising so children are in groups classes who do not mix with other classes.
- Employing rigorous hygiene
- Increasing cleaning during the day so toilets, surfaces, handles etc. are cleaned more regularly. Cleaners have been employed for before and after lunchtime cleaning.
- Cleaning toys
- We have stocks of PPE equipment should an adult or child display and symptoms of the virus e.g. gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser.
- We will ensure each class has its own resources each day and that these are clean.

- We will provide an individual essential pack for children of items they are likely to use regularly like pencils and pens.
- We have new timetables so children will have breaks and lunch at slightly different times and most will eat lunch in their classrooms or socially distanced in the hall.
- Playtimes spaces will be allocated to spread bubbles out a little more.
- Drop off and collection times are staggered.

## 5. What will the classroom look like?

We have tried to maintain the overall look of the classrooms but we have followed the guidance to ensure desks for older children face to the front of the classroom. Teachers are making the bubbles look similar so children will come back to a welcoming, age appropriate environment that is suitable for their age.

## 6. 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.

For younger children, you and your child can find out how the Gruffalo handles social distancing at [www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52153696](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52153696).

There are some great stories to help: [https://youtu.be/DA\\_SsZFYw0w](https://youtu.be/DA_SsZFYw0w) and also some simple explanations <https://youtu.be/2HTA3ql6uWY>

For very young children who may not understand the concept of viruses and germs, this video from Sesame Street's Grover is a great way to show them the "good" and "bad" of being far away and too close up to someone. <https://youtu.be/xOrt8WMwVEo>

## 7. What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?

We will

- follow the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#)
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, more regularly
- ensure that all adults and children:
- frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly. The virus is very fragile; the only thing that protects it is a thin outer layer of fat. That is why any soap or detergent is the best to keep the virus off your hands.

- continue to ask children to clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing. Parents can provide hand cream for their child if this is helpful but children will need to be clear how to use this at school without an adult. We will try to procure hand cream dispensers over the next few weeks.
- 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
- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- provide lidded bins and ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- we will ensure the school is well ventilated using natural ventilation
- we will prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation

### **8. Will children be indoors or outdoors?**

We will be using the outdoor environment daily and whenever we can, this follows the government's advice. Please ensure your child comes to school with outdoor clothes including hats, jackets and wellies. PE will usually be outside – even if it is a bit drizzly – so please provide suitable outdoor PE clothing and a jacket.

### **9. How will break time and lunchtime work?**

We will have a staggered lunchtime and break time. Most children will eat their lunch in their classroom where the tables will have been wiped to ensure they are hygienic. Some children will sit in the hall but only one bubble will use the hall for now. We will continue to provide cooked dinner and would encourage parents to use these as revenue has been impacted by the closure. Limited choices may occur in the first instance to ensure children can all be served in the time allocated but this will be kept under review.

### **10. What will arriving at school look like?**

There will be a range of times to drop off your children.

Please could only one parent or carer accompany the child to school to minimise risk if possible. We understand that siblings may also accompany the family when this is unavoidable. Please do not let children use any school facilities such as the climbing frame.

Please walk on the left of the pavement to enter and the right to exit. Use the slope to enter and the steps to exit. Parents should also social distance from other parents and groups of children to prevent transmission.

Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed to enter classrooms. Should you need to make an appointment to speak with a member of staff please consider if this could be completed as a telephone call or, if not, please make an appointment via the office. You can access the lobby area.

### **11. Will the school have assembly/acts of worship?**

No, there will be no whole school assemblies. However, class bubbles will have assemblies. Sometimes we will hold an assembly, which will be watched on the screen in the classroom, so children can see their teachers, the head and other staff as usual and we can continue as a real school community.

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

We will continue to provide parents with advice regarding this. It will be helpful if you discuss the information you have read on the FAQ and answer any questions your child has. We have tried very hard to keep as many things as possible the same for children. We have ensured each class has a teacher or TA who the children know really well so they have support from a known adult. We have ensured the new class bases are suitable for the children's age range and that they look similar to their old class. We have kept many of the routines the same so children feel comfortable however it is different.

Mrs. Kerr (PSHE Lead) has provided staff training on Reset, Recover, and Rebuild which is our response to placing PSHE at the heart of our curriculum offer to best protect our children's mental health following the Covid 19 closure. The common thread that runs through the current lived experiences of our children is loss. Barry Carpenter identifies five key losses that come from trauma:

Loss of routine;

Loss of structure;

Loss of friendship;

Loss of opportunity;

Loss of freedom.

From loss emanates three significant dynamics -

Anxiety;

Trauma;

Bereavement.

Our children are vulnerable at this time, and their mental-health may be an issue.

Psycho-social research has identified five key principles that support recovery following a disaster or serious incident. These will be key in our work in supporting children to readjust to a new normal, and to help re-balance their wellbeing. All opportunities to maintain these factors will be prioritised.

A sense of safety.

A sense of calm. It is important that a range of emotions are normalised and children are given support to help them manage their emotions and return to a state of calm.

Self-belief and belonging (self and collective efficacy). Children need to feel they have some control over what is happening to them, and a belief in their own abilities to deal with various situations. They need to feel they belong to a group that is likely to experience positive outcomes.

Social connectedness. A feeling of belonging; having a social network who can support children within the educational setting.

Promoting hope. Whilst things may feel difficult at the moment, it is important that adults, children and young people feel things will get better and work out in future. They need to be provided with reassurance, and understand that in the long term they will feel positive again.

We will focus on PSHE initially to ensure children feel safe and secure in school.

### **13. Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?**

Children will have a mix of the usual curriculum with additional personal, social, health and emotional to support children's wellbeing. The teachers have all considered the learning children may need to revisit before building new learning into the lessons. Children need to feel happy and gradually rebuild their learning skills and resilience.

Children will have many outdoor activities and time to enjoy being with their friends. Staff are very experienced, and will make decisions about meeting the children's needs on a day-to-day basis and would be happy to talk to parents if any concerns arise. We recognise that children's experience of lockdown will be very different and sometimes confusing or sad and we will ensure we respond to this or find other agencies to support if necessary.

### **14. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?**

Government guidance says PPE should not be worn in primary schools unless a pupil or member of staff shows symptoms of the virus or for the reasons below:

- Caring for pupils with intimate needs such as toileting in EYFS for example.
- First Aiders where there is close contact with pupils

- Caring for a child with Covid.19 symptoms before collection to go home.
- Where required in close contact with a pupil is required due to illness or injury for example.

### **15. Will my child need to wear a school uniform?**

Yes. We will be asking children to come to school each day in clean school uniform.

PE kits are also now required. As we will teach PE outside whenever possible, please send appropriate wear for outdoors and in event of light drizzle.

### **16. Will the breakfast club and after school club be open?**

We are pleased to announce that breakfast club and after school club are now open but both require pre-booking. Children will be safe, as they will play with other children from their bubble. We would encourage parents to use these facilities to protect income and ensure we can maintain the services you need in the longer term.

### **17. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?**

Some staff will come to school and social distance e.g. Natalie the PE specialist and Mr. Womble the music specialist. Contractors who visit the school will do so only where “bubbles” can be easily preserved.

### **18. Will extra-curricular clubs run?**

No. We are not providing this service as it is not possible to do this and prevent “bubbles” mixing at this time.

### **19. Will the school office be open?**

Yes. Please use the secure lobby when visiting school. Gemma and Lauren will be in the office full time and will be available to support parents. Should you need to speak with the Headteacher, teachers or other staff please ring or use e-mail requests where possible but you can ask the office staff for help from the lobby area. Try to maintain 2m distance from the screen to ensure the office staff are kept safe.

### **20. What keeps our children safe?**

The system of controls: protective measures.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Prevention:

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have

coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school

2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual

3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach

Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.

6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Response to any infection:

Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community

9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

## **21. Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?**

Yes, when settings open 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.

Please note any positive test in a home means that children must isolate for 14 days.

## **22. 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 will be moved to the library where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child with appropriate adult supervision. A window will be opened for ventilation.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE will 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). The adult will carefully explain each piece of PPE and why they are putting on so the child understands and is reassured.

You will be called to come to school to collect your child and someone will stay with them until you come to school. We would ask you to arrive as quickly as possible and ensure you have a contingency plan if you are working further away. **The school does not take children to be tested only parents.**

The member of staff who has supported your child will not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves, just as with staff at the doctors.

We are instructed not to inform all parents at this stage as the case may prove to be negative.

If someone 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. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

If someone tests positive, they should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

### **23. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?**

If a child/staff member who attends/works at a school tests positive for COVID-19, we will be informed by NHS Test and Trace. Public health England will work with the school to discuss the next steps.

The school are asked to notify Shropshire Council Public Health Team of any staff or child who has been in the educational setting and tested positive for COVID-19.

The head teacher will be asked to work with the contact tracer to identify direct and close contacts of the case during the 48 hours prior to the child or staff member falling ill. This is likely to be the classmates and teacher of that class. We have detailed registers of who has been in contact in the school setting and these must be updated to ensure we have all of the relevant information. The social distancing measures put in place by educational settings outside the classroom, should reduce the number of other direct/close contacts.

#### **• Direct close contact without PPE:**

- o being coughed on, or
- o having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre, or
- o having unprotected skin-to-skin physical contact, or

- o travel in a small vehicle with the case, or
- o any contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact

- **Proximity contact without PPE:**

- o Extended close contact (between 1 and 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with a case

Public Health England / Track and trace will make decisions relating to who needs to isolate and who does not using their experience and understanding of Covid 19 transmission.

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

No, but we may use a thermometer if we suspect a child of having symptoms.

**25. Will there be any trips once school opens?**

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

**26. What should my child bring to school each day?**

Your child should only bring their packed lunch (if required). Your child should also bring a clean jacket and essential school equipment like a PE kit and book bag. Children should not bring unnecessary items such as toys for now.

**27. Where can I find more information about returning to school?**

The Government information is provided here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

If you have any questions that are not answered by the FAQs document or the Risk Assessment, do not hesitate to contact the school.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Carter