

Who can come back to school?

From March 2021, the Government is asking all families to send their child back to school, unless the child has medical advice to the contrary.

Do we have to come back yet?

Yes. Attendance at school will return to being compulsory for all children.

Is it safe to come back?

Yes. Although nothing at this time is 'risk free', our school has very strict measures in place to protect the community.

There are two ways to lower risks considerably. Firstly, by reducing the number of people that you mix with on a daily basis. Each class is a 'bubble', and they will not mix with children or adults from other 'bubbles'. We will not have assemblies or joint lunchtimes until further notice. We will not be running Breakfast Club or Afterschool club so that we can maintain this level of security.

Secondly, hygiene standards need to be really high. All staff and children will be washing their hands frequently throughout the day, and using hand gel where needed. Each classroom is cleaned thoroughly each day, and deep cleaned once a week. Toilets are cleaned throughout the day, as are door handles and touchplates. The school has literally never been cleaner!



Information for parents of
children in the Pod



Where do I drop off and pick up my child?

Parents will be asked to queue at 2-metre distances along the path on Market road. The path has yellow markers on it to show the required distances.

The staff will come and lead your child to their classroom.

At the allotted home time, your child's teacher will bring the children to the main gate. Parents will be asked to queue and collect children one-by-one maintaining 2-metre distances.

Children are asked to only bring essentials to school, such as PE kit, reading book & water bottle.

Will the times of the school day change?

Yes, to try to keep groups of children and parents apart the start and end times will be staggered.

Start of the day:

Gates will be opened to the Pod class at 9.30 for 10 minutes. If you are later than 9.40 you will have to ring the buzzer to be let in, as the gate will be closed.

End of the Day:

The Pod class will finish at 3.30 pm

The teacher will bring the class to the main gate and you will be asked to come forward to collect them

It is important that you are on time and once your child is with you, leave the area promptly.



Can I use Afterschool Club?

At the time of writing we will not be able to offer Afterschool club to anyone. This is because in our risk assessment, we have agreed that mixing the class bubbles at this time is too great a risk.

We will review this decision before the Easter holidays.

Can I use Breakfast Club?

We cannot offer Breakfast club for the same reasons we cannot offer Afterschool Club.

At the moment we are unable to staff the Pod for Early bird club. The ratio of adults to children would mean the cost would be prohibitively expensive. We apologise for this situation.



Do we have to wear uniform?

We appreciate that getting hold of school uniform at short notice is difficult. Therefore we ask that your child wears their school uniform if it still fits. If not, please dress them in appropriate clothing for the general school day whilst you are sourcing uniform.

Our uniform policy includes the wearing of a coloured hat. This is in order to help keep the bubbles apart during the day. Replacement hats are purchased through ParentPay, and will cost £2

It is a good idea to keep the hat in the car, or hang it on the door handle!

What if I have two children and different drop off and pick up times?

We are unable to offer any assistance to families for this situation at this time.

We need to operate a staggered start and finish in order to reduce the risk of community infection transmission.

We thank parents for their understanding.

What days are PE?

The POD have PE on

Monday and Friday.

Please send your child to school in their PE kit and leave their school uniform at home.

Will it be normal lessons?

Mostly, yes. There will be a few changes. PE will not be taught indoors, therefore we ask that your child has a tracksuit (preferably black) as their PE kit so as they are warm when outside, and preferably trainers instead of plimsolls.

We will not be having assembly in the hall as usual, it will be done via webcam with children in their classrooms.

What happens at lunchtime?

Children will be able to order hot meals via ParentPay or can bring in their own packed lunch.

The kitchen staff will deliver the school lunches to your child's classroom, where they will eat supervised by a mid-day supervisor.

They will then be taken as a class out to a designated zone for a playtime.

Lunchtimes will be about 40 minutes, rather than an hour. This is to maximize learning time, whilst we have the staggered start and end to the day.





What happens if someone in the school tests positive for Covid-19?

With all Covid-19 matters, we are currently asked to call Public Health England directly and seek advice.

Due to all the measures we have put in place to keep the classes from mixing, it is unlikely that the school will be closed for a single case.

Therefore, you should not need to be concerned if the case is in a separate bubble, as they won't have had any contact with each other.

What happens if my child is ill?

If your child (or anyone in your household) has these symptoms, everyone in the household should stay home for 10 days, or until the person gets a negative test result.

- A continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss or change in your sense of smell

However mild these symptoms are, you need to book a test through the NHS website immediately. Do not wait as you can't be tested after a few days. You must let us know ASAP.

If a child falls ill in school, or we suspect that a child is ill, a member of staff will wear a mask, visor, gloves and an apron to take your child to a medical bay. You will be called and asked to collect your child ASAP



What happens if someone in my child's class is ill?

If someone is ill with Covid-19 symptoms, we will call Public Health England as we are currently advised to do so. The person who is ill will be told to get a test for Covid-19.

If the test is positive, it is likely that all the people in that class will be asked to isolate at home for 10 days and therefore the 'bubble' would be closed.

Guidance for schools on these matters comes directly from Public Health England and is updated frequently.



Will parents be asked to 'social distance'?

Yes. It is really important for the health of the community that parents from different households stay socially distant. This is why there is a staggered start and end of the day, and why there are markings up the side of Market Road.

We ask that you wear a mask when you drop off or collect your child.

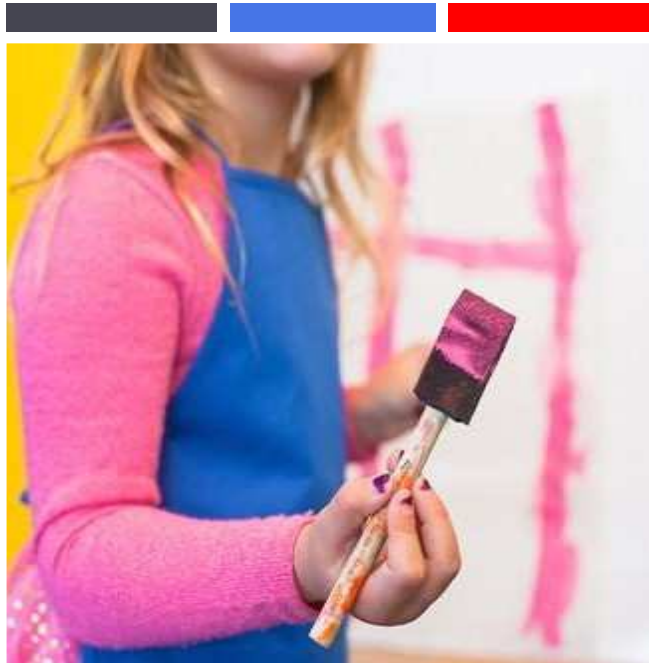
It is important that once you have dropped off or collected your child, that you leave the area swiftly.

Will my child be asked to 'social distance'?

The main form of social distancing in Primary schools is keeping 'bubbles' of children apart. We cannot expect young children to manage to be socially distant from their classmates.

There will be some restrictions:

- **Children will be encouraged to not get too close to their teachers. There will be no sitting on laps, or hugging.**
- **Children will be spread out where it is possible, for example when eating lunch or when the teacher is reading a story to the whole class, or the children are completing some work.**
- **Children will be encouraged to play side by side rather than face-to-face as this reduces the risks.**
- **Children will be told not to approach vulnerable staff, or staff from other bubbles**



Can I talk to the teacher?

Not in person. You are welcome to talk to the teacher via the phone or leave a telephone message with the office to be passed on. You may also email staff but be aware that they may not pick it up immediately.

You will not be able to visit the office personally unless it is to drop something off.

How are you feeling?

We recognize that the return to school is producing mixed feelings in us all. We can assure you that we are doing everything we can to make your child's return to school a positive experience from both a safety and a mental health perspective.

We trust that all members of our school community will adhere to the current government guidance for everyone's safety.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you all through our gates again.

See you soon!