

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: plans for full opening on Monday 8th March

We're very much looking forward to welcoming all the children back into school and to seeing you as well. Thank you once again for the many kind and appreciative messages that you've sent us – they really do mean a lot to us. Thank you, also, for your support with home learning – we know how hard you have worked to ensure your child(ren) remained engaged.

We wrote to you in September, outlining our plans for full opening, and this letter reiterates much of what was said then with some updated information. Again, apologies in advance, as there is a lot of information to digest.

As part of planning for full return, it is a legal requirement that schools should revisit and update their risk assessments (building on the learning to date and the practices they have already developed), to consider the additional risks and control measures to enable a return to full capacity. The key aspects of these risk assessments are a system of controls that are based on actions we must take to 'prevent' and 'respond to any infection'. The most important ones that you need to be aware of are:

- 1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.**

This means that you must follow the isolation guidance, and not come to school if you, your child, anyone in your household, support bubble or childcare bubble has symptoms. At least two of our confirmed cases in terms 1 and 2 could be traced back to households not following this rule.

If your child develops symptoms whilst at school they will need collecting immediately and you should arrange a test. We can help you with booking the test, and ask that you inform us immediately of the results. If someone in school has tested positive for coronavirus we will inform the Department for Education team who will carry out a rapid risk assessment and guide us through the actions we must take.

The full isolation guidelines can be found [here](#).

- 2. Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances**

We are asking all Parents and Carers to wear face coverings at drop off and pick up times. Staff will wear face coverings in communal areas inside school buildings. Primary age children are not required to wear masks in school.

- 3. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual and ensure good respiratory hygiene**

We will ensure this happens during school time and would ask that you continue these practices at home.

- 4. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.**

As we did through the autumn terms, we will have a number of measures in place to minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing. Key information for you as parents and carers is listed in the table below. The start and end times to your child(ren)'s day and where you should enter and exit the school premises have not changed. Clear signage will be in place identifying the different entry points, and staff will be on hand to help.

Most of our staff are undertaking twice-weekly home Covid testing, which will help reduce the likelihood of staff to pupil transmission.

We will continue to have the one-way system in place, which you must use – [please see the video we will post on Class Dojo later this week.](#)

If you have children in different phases, you will be able to drop-off siblings in a younger year group before their allotted start time. We can't allow early pick-ups, but there is enough space in playgrounds to enable parents/carers to wait in a socially distanced place. Each class from Y2-6 will use the same pick-up location as before.

| Lockleaze Road | | | | |
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| Year Group | Drop-off | Pick-up | Entrance | Door |
| 6 | 8.30am | 3.00pm | Phase 3 gate | Phase 3 North |
| 5 | 8.30am | 3.00pm | Phase 3 gate | Phase 3 South |
| 4 | 8.45am | 3.15pm | Main gate | By school library |
| 3 | 8.45am | 3.15pm | Main gate | Phase 2 North |
| 2 | 8.45am | 3.10pm | Main gate | Phase 2 South |
| 1 | 9.00am | 3.20pm | Main gate | Classroom |
| R | 9.00am | 3.25pm | Main gate | Classroom |

More information about our 'bubble' system can be found in the supplementary 'frequently asked questions' document.

Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continuing support during this challenging time – it's greatly appreciated by all at Filton Avenue Primary School.

With best wishes,

The Leadership Team

Plans for full opening in March – FAQs

Please take the time read these – they haven't changed a great deal, but there is some new information and some changes, since they were first published.

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| Travelling to and from school | Please consider the official guidance for travel when planning your journey to school. You must not gather at the school entrances or spend more time than is necessary in the school playgrounds. If you wish to stop and have a conversation with another parent please do this away from the school. If your child usually travels to/from school independently, they must adhere to the government's social distancing guidance. |
| Dropping-off and collecting children | <p>Children must still be dropped off and collected by one parent/carer only. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions <u>no adults</u> will be allowed into the school building, without permission from your Head of School. We recognise that this might be difficult for certain children, so please contact us to discuss it, if you have any queries or concerns.</p> <p>We request that you wear a face covering whenever you are on school premises.</p> <p>There will also still be no 'late room', as this would mean children from different bubbles mixing. If you are running late to collect your child, please contact the office. Children will be kept with their teacher/TA for 10 minutes, and then taken to 'After-school Club'. This will be chargeable.</p> |

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| How are children going to be grouped? | <p>In line with the guidance, and as before, we will be creating year group 'bubbles', with the aim of limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other. Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission and make it easier, in the event of a positive case of Covid-19, to identify those who may need to self-isolate.</p> <p>For the majority of the day the children will be kept in these 'bubbles'. However, in order to facilitate the return to a full curriculum, for some parts of the day, including drop off and collection, lunch and wraparound care, they will need to be in larger 'phase bubbles'.</p> <p>The guidance recognises that these approaches are not 'all or nothing', and that they will bring benefits even when partially implemented. We will endeavour to keep groups apart, whenever feasible, to reduce the network of possible direct transmission.</p> |
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| What will the classrooms look like? | <p>To support social distancing, where possible pupils will sit side by side and facing forwards; this will involve desks being organised in rows for children in Y2 – 6.</p> <p>Also, where possible, adults will maintain a 2m distance from each other, and children. This is more difficult with younger children and for those who have more complex needs. Older children will be supported to maintain distance and to not touch staff and their peers.</p> <p>Sharing of resources will be kept to a minimum and within bubbles.</p> |
| What will the school day look like? | <p>As well as for start and finish times, the year group bubbles will also have staggered playtimes and lunchtimes; these will largely be the same as pre-Christmas, but will be explained again to the children on their return to school.</p> <p>There will also be some changes to our timetabling, but there will be no loss of learning time, as the guidance stipulates.</p> <p>Assemblies and other large gatherings are still not permitted; however, we will continue to deliver our assemblies virtually, through Zoom or pre-recordings. We will also be sharing them on Dojo for any children who aren't in school. Friday shout-out will also be continuing!</p> |

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| <p>Are you making any changes to your curriculum?</p> | <p>As the children have been following the curriculum, whether in-school or learning remotely, and in most year groups we are part way through units/enquiries, we plan to carry on as planned.</p> <p>We will spend some time in the first week back re-engaging pupils with the routines and expectations of school.</p> <p>PE, apart from swimming, will be going ahead. However, due to restrictions it will continue to be mostly outside.</p> <p>Assemblies will continue to be on Dojo and watched by children in their classrooms. Music assemblies will be shared on Dojo for children to access at home.</p> <p>There will be no off-site educational visits or extra-curricular clubs during Term 4, at least. We will review this situation later this month and hope to be able to offer both as soon as possible, as they offer learning opportunities that can't always be gained in the normal school day.</p> |
| <p>Will my child(ren) be taking SATS tests?</p> | <p>The Department for Education have announced that all statutory primary assessments for 2020/21 have been cancelled.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile • the phonics screening check • key stage 1 tests and teacher assessment • the year 4 multiplication tables check • key stage 2 tests and teacher assessment • statutory trialling <p>We will continue to assess the children internally, using our usual combination of teacher assessment and tests.</p> <p>The statutory rollout of the Reception Baseline Assessment has been postponed until September 2021.</p> |

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| <p>Will my child(ren) be able to have a school meal?</p> | <p>Yes, our kitchens will be re-opening on Monday 8th March and we will be able to provide hot school meals for all those children either eligible or who choose to. Lunchtimes will still be one hour long, but due to the bubble restrictions, children will eat with their class and will be required to stay in the hall or their classroom for the 30mins they are allotted. We will continue with 'Talking Lunches', which involves the children discussing interesting topics and enables them to practise their Oracy skills.</p> <p>Children in Y2 – 6 who have packed lunches will eat their lunch in their classrooms. This is so we can run lunchtime with minimal disruption to the school day, and ensure we maintain social distancing, where possible.</p> |
| <p>Will you be offering wraparound care?</p> | <p>After-school Club (ASC) will operate from Monday March 8th – please book as usual via the school office.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we are currently still unable to offer our Breakfast Club provision. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but please bear with us, as we are working on a booking system to get this back up and running for Term 5. We will communicate with you about this soon.</p> |

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| <p>Does my child need to wear school uniform?</p> | <p>As per the guidance, we are encouraging a return to our usual school uniform policy. The guidance is the same as it was for the autumn terms, and 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.</p> <p>If you have any concerns around this, please contact the school office; we recognise that not all the uniform you have will still fit your child(ren).</p> |
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| <p>What can my child bring to school?</p> | <p>As per the autumn terms, and to continue to limit the sharing of frequently used resources, we are asking all children to come to school with an empty pencil case – school will provide the necessary resources to go in it. Please make sure it is named.</p> <p>We are also asking each child in Years 2 – 6 to bring in a clearly named water bottle.</p> <p>Again, as before, please can your child(ren) come to school wearing their PE kits, on their allocated PE day - these will be the same as in the autumn terms. Class teachers will post a reminder on Class Dojo.</p> <p>Children can, of course, bring coats, etc. with them. Those children who bring a mobile phone to school, will now need to give it to their teacher in the morning, and not hand it in to the school office. They will then be stored in a secure location in the phase lead's office. A book bag is also fine to bring to school.</p> |
| <p>Expectations around behaviour</p> | <p>As per the autumn terms, our revised behaviour policy will be in place, with particular notice being taken when considering restrictions on movement within school and hygiene rules. We will ensure that behaviour expectations are clearly understood, and consistently supported, taking account of individual needs and how we have built these expectations into our rewards system.</p> |

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| <p>Is attending school compulsory?</p> | <p>Yes, school attendance will be mandatory again from Monday 8th March. The Department for Education have stated that, the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children of compulsory school age must be in school, unless a statutory reason applies, e.g. sickness, religious observance, etc. <p>As a school, we recognise that the return to school may be an anxious time for some families. If you have any concerns at all, please discuss them with us.</p> |
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| <p>What do I do if I have any safeguarding concerns?</p> | <p>As before the pandemic, any concerns you have should be shared with a member of the school's leadership team, as soon as you are aware of them. The school's Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are: Dan Rodeck (DSL), Komilla Datta (DSL) and Julie Britton (Deputy DSL).</p> |
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| <p>Will the school office be open?</p> | <p>The school office will be open. However, admission to the building will remain as 'by appointment only', so please telephone in the first instance.</p> |
| <p>Will school staff be social distancing?</p> | <p>All the staff at school will be practising social distancing wherever possible. Staff will also have staggered breaks/lunchtimes, to support this. We have created additional 'staffroom' spaces so that staff can take breaks without coming in to contact with too many other people. These staffrooms will only be used by certain staff, when there is no alternative space available. The vast majority of staff meetings will take place remotely to avoid unnecessary contact. Mask wearing in communal spaces will be compulsory for all staff.</p> |