

We all want children to return to school but this needs to be in a safe and steady manner. Parents and carers, quite understandably, would like additional information before finally deciding on whether to allow their child to return to school. Hopefully, the information below will help you decide on the right course of action for you and your child.

We would like to emphasise that even though our plans and risk assessment are based on what we consider to be the safest option, they are not fool proof and cannot guarantee 100% safety. Every family must independently come to a decision which they feel is right for them. There is no right or wrong choice.

Which children will be returning and when?

We are currently planning for some children to return to school on the 15th June subject to everything being ready according to the risk assessment we have completed.

- Children will return in a staggered way.
 - **Nursery** will be able to return to attend a morning session from **Monday 15th June**
 - **Year 6** will be able to return from **Monday 15th June**
 - **Year 1** will be able to return from **Monday 22nd June**
- Due to the space and staffing restrictions, Reception will remain closed.
- Priority children (key workers and vulnerable) can continue to attend.

We will be creating small bubble groups of children – our classes permit group sizes of 10 children adhering to 2 metre social distancing.

Are there changes to the length of day?

- Yes, start and end times will also change, as we need to stagger these to avoid too many people being clustered together at the start and end of each day.

Does my child have to attend?

- No, every family's situation is different and therefore you need to make an informed choice that is right for you and your child.

Will I be fined?

- No, it is not a legal requirement at the moment for children to attend school.

If they stay home how will you support their education?

- We are continuing to develop our online offer and will continue to offer physical packs on work as well. Packs of work were sent home at the beginning of school closure. Children were given logins to Google classroom where teachers are regularly uploading work. The children were also given Timetable Rockstar and Educationcity logins. Please arrange collection of a Power Maths Home Learning Book from school if you have not already done so.

Can I change my mind later?

- If you commit to your child attending school, they should do so every day. It is not helpful for their education or well-being to keep swapping. It can also affect the well-being of other children in the bubble as there will be less children for them to socialise with as they cannot socialise with children from other bubbles.

- If you choose for your child not to come into school to start off with and then change your mind later, you will need to contact us. Please be aware your child may not be able to start straight away as we need to make sure that the new bubble has enough children for your child to socialise with.

What time does my child need to be at school?

- Once you have confirmed you want your child to attend, you will be sent details of start and end times.
- You will also be told which gate you need to use.
- This is because we need to keep the size of groups waiting as small as possible.
- Only 1 adult with a child and please make sure you line up on the markings which are 2m apart.
- Once you have dropped your child at school please do not wait to speak to other parents as we will have other groups coming to line up.
- **YOU MUST NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE HAD COVID SYMPTOMS WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS.**

What if we are late?

- If you are late and miss your time slot you will not be able to access the school that day.
- This is because we need to keep the groups of children and parents separate and therefore you cannot just join another gate or group.
- By saying you want your child to attend school you are committing to bringing them and collecting them on time. If this does not happen, we may have to discuss if returning to virtual provision at home is more suitable for your circumstances.

Does my child have to wear uniform?

- **Children must wear clean clothes each day.** We are suggesting children wear their PE kits and other clothes in school colours as far as possible (shorts, joggers and t-shirts).
- We realise that many children may have grown out of their uniform or may have just one school jumper which would make it difficult to get it washed and cleaned each night, ready for the next day so we will be flexible. We have some spares from lost property, mostly in smaller sizes, so please ring and ask if you would like some extra clothes and we will try and help.
- Children must be in appropriate clothing and be wearing trainers or equivalent. No flip flops.
- We suggest that as soon as your child returns home from school they shower and change out of their clothes, which should then be washed as quickly as possible. This will reduce the risk to others in your household.

What about other items?

- Children may bring an individual water bottle with them.
- If it is cold, they can bring a coat or if it is hot, they can bring in a hat.
- No bags, book bags, pencil cases, reading books or other items can be brought in or go home with children.

What about PPE?

- You may wish your child to wear PPE whilst travelling but they must not wear it when they come into school.
- This is because a child is unlikely to wear a face mask for the entire day (particularly when running around outside) and therefore will want to take it off. This poses a bigger risk than not wearing one.
- Staff will generally not be wearing PPE which is why the social distance areas are in place in all rooms (including staff areas). Some staff may be wearing child friendly face coverings.

- Staff will wear PPE if there is a risk of contact with bodily fluids i.e. first aid, or if they are involved with helping younger children use toilet facilities. They will also wear it if they are looking after someone who displays possible COVID symptoms.
- In these cases, the PPE will be disposable gloves & aprons. They may also be wearing a clear visor.

My child has SEND & or medical needs, what should I do?

- If your child is in one of the returning year groups, we will work with you to create a risk assessment in relation to their needs.
- This will then be used to decide whether school or home-based education is more suitable at this time.

I am a key worker and now need to use priority provision. Can I do this?

- If you are a key worker, your child is eligible to join our priority provision. Please give us as much notice as possible as we will have to make sure that there are enough children to fill each bubble, so they have others to socialise with.

How many will be in a class?

- Returning children will be placed into groups of up to 10. They will use the same room, with the same children and same allocated adult each day – this is their ‘bubble’.

Will they be in their normal room and with their class teacher?

- Although we are planning to have a teacher lead each bubble, with classes being split into so many groups it is unlikely it will be their usual class teacher. We also have some staff who continue to be in vulnerable groups and so cannot be on site.
- We need at least 5 classrooms for each year group so it is likely your child will be in a different room.

Will children be allowed to choose their own bubble?

- No. As each year group prepares to return, we will contact you and ask for you to say if you wish them to return at this time. These children will then be put in year group bubbles.
- We cannot therefore guarantee that they will be with their usual group of friends.

Can my child mix with friends or relatives who may be in another bubble?

- Unfortunately, no. Each bubble needs to stay within itself both in the classroom and outside in the playground.
- Each bubble will be given allocated space and times to be in the playground every day, but they will not be able to play with children from other bubbles who may be in a different area.

What about social distancing in the classroom (year 6, year 1 and priority children)?

- Each classroom has up to 10 tables separated as far as possible (approx. 2 metres).
- Each child will be allocated a table to themselves.
- After washing their hands, children will need to sit at the allocated table.
- Children will need to stay at their tables unless they are going outside to play.
- An adult only area has also been marked out on the floor.
- If they need help with their work, they will put up their hands and the teacher will try and help by discussing the issue.
- We will utilise outside space as much as possible too.

What about social distancing in the playground (year 6, year 1 and priority children)?

- Children will be allocated a large enough space for their bubble to play in. This will be a shared space for every child in the bubble.
- Children will be encouraged to socially distance from each other and understand the space needed by putting their arms outstretched to the sides. Their fingertips should then not touch the fingertips of the child near them who is doing the same thing.
- Play equipment for each bubble will be supplied and children will be encouraged to play games that require distance between them.
- Children will not be able to play contact games with each other.

What about social distancing in Early Years?

- The Nursery has been newly decorated and some resources that would be difficult to clean have been stored away.
- Children this young will find it extremely difficult to social distance, even with reminders.
- Therefore, in accordance with government guidance, children will be allowed to be in contact with each other but only within their bubble. We will endeavour to restrict the number of children engaged in any activity where possible.
- The Nursery has permanent access to an outdoor space for the use of their bubble.
- We will of course make use of this for as many activities as possible.
- The Nursery is operating in the morning only to allow for thorough cleaning at the end of each session.

What will the curriculum be?

- The curriculum in school will follow the same planning as that being issued to be completed at home.
- In years 6 & 1 there will be English, Maths and Well-being sessions.
- Year 6 have some end of year transition work to complete.
- In the Nursery we will endeavour to cover as many areas of learning as possible within the restrictions we have.
- At least once a week, children will have an outside PE session with a trained PE/sports coach maintaining strict social distancing.
- Children will get additional break sessions each day so they can exercise.

How will you look after my child's mental health?

- This has been a challenging time for everyone and that includes children.
- Many of our families have experienced illness, change in family circumstances and bereavement.
- We realise that many children may be scared to be outside with others, whilst others will be looking forward to it but find the restrictions they must follow difficult.
- Our Learning Mentor and Well-being Lead will advise staff within the bubbles on ways to explore this with children and help them adjust to this 'new normal'.
- All staff will also receive additional training in relation to supporting children's mental health and how to support those who have experienced bereavement.

Will there be new school rules?

- Our 3 school rules will stay the same – be kind, be safe, be responsible.
- However, children will be expected to follow new directions in relation to hygiene and social distancing.
- If a child repeatedly refuses or is unable to follow these expectations, we will contact you to discuss this.
- In the unlikely situation that a solution cannot be found, the child will need to return to being educated at home as the risk to themselves and others would be too big.

What happens for lunch?

- Lunch will be a hot food served in a recyclable, biodegradable box and cutlery which will be brought to the internal door of each class bubble.
- The children will then take turns to collect their lunch and eat it at their table.
- Children will be provided with wipes and hand sanitiser so that they can clean their hands and table before and after they have eaten.
- Sorry, but no packed lunches from home can be brought into school.

What about Free School Meal Vouchers?

- If you are eligible for free school meal vouchers and you choose for your child to attend school, you will no longer receive these.
- If your child is not attending school, you will continue to receive them.

What about toilets?

- Every bubble will be allocated its own cubicle and sink to use.
- These will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- Access to toilets will be controlled by a first aider so that **only 1 child is in the room at a time**.
- As we have had to use this approach, there will be no male or female toilets for this period. All children in the bubble will use the same toilet.

What is happening about cleaning?

- An amended hygiene plan has been put into place for this time.
- High contact areas (such as door handles) will be cleaned a minimum of 3 times a day.
- School cleaners will clean every area each night.
- In the Nursery, only resources that can be disinfected will be used and this will be done on a frequent basis.
- Resources will not be shared across bubbles unless they have been disinfected and ideally left for 72 hours.

How are you promoting good hygiene?

- Everyone entering the site must wash or sanitise their hands for 20 seconds.
- We will be reinforcing this with children as they return.
- Hands must be washed/sanitised frequently throughout the day including before and after using the toilet, before eating and when returning from the playground.
- Every bubble has a hygiene kit with antibacterial wipes so children can wipe their table before and after eating, tissues and a lidded bin for these items to be placed in, when not in use.
- We will also reinforce the importance of using tissues if sneezing – “catch it, bin it, kill it”.
- Rooms must always be well ventilated, so windows and doors will be left open wherever possible.

What if my child needs first aid?

- A qualified first aider will be on duty, so they are minimising the number of children and adults they interact with.
- Temperatures will be taken using an infra-red thermometer. If your child has a temperature, we will contact you to collect them immediately (see below).
- If it is a minor injury (such as a graze) you will be informed in the usual manner, that your child needed to receive first aid.

What if someone shows COVID symptoms during the day?

- **YOU MUST NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE HAD COVID SYMPTOMS WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS.**
- If someone feels unwell during the day with any of the symptoms of COVID they will be taken to a first aid isolation room and a member of staff (wearing full PPE) will stay with them. We will then contact the named family member to come and collect them immediately (or an ambulance in a more severe situation).
- Their temperature will be taken with an infrared thermometer.
- Therefore, if you choose for your child to come to school you MUST provide a contact number that will always be answered.
- Everyone in the bubble the person is linked to will be contacted. The bubble will then not attend school until the person showing symptoms has been tested (which we can help arrange) and the household should isolate until the results are received.
- If the test comes back negative, we will contact you and the bubble can come back into school the next day.
- If the test comes back positive, we will contact you and can help arrange testing for your household.

What if I need to speak to the school? Can I come into the front office?

- Unfortunately, no. For this period if you need to speak to someone you need to call or email us.
 - Tel: 020 85343904
 - Email: info@westham.newham.sch.uk
- No parents or visitors will be allowed on site unless in the case of an emergency such as a fire.

Is there any breakfast club or after school clubs?

- Sorry, no. We have no space in which to put these and because of the need to keep bubbles separate.

This is so different to normal school; how do I explain this to my child?

- We have made a short film to show you how the day will work, what classrooms look like and some of the information in this document. This will be posted on google classroom and our website next week.
- We will be posting social stories through google classroom to help the children understand how things have changed and what to expect.
- We have also included the link to a cartoon that has been made by Thurrock council that explains the changes to school in a very child friendly way. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnQKQglaBug>

What happens now?

- If your child is in year 6, 1 or Nursery your child's teacher will call you.
- This gives you the opportunity to ask any further questions you may have.
- We will then ask you to confirm if your child will be returning or not.
- If you choose for them not to return, you will continue to be able to access online learning and support.
- If you choose for them to attend, we will send you the home school agreement that everyone needs to follow. We will also confirm start and finish times and the provisional date for your child's year group to return.

What if the national or local situation changes?

- We hope to keep to the dates provided for each year group. However, please note that if national or local circumstances change these may need to be moved.