

Worple Primary School Re-Opening FAQ-Including Reception Class

Is it safe for my child to return to school?

We have produced a thorough risk assessment which outlines the risks and the measures we have put in place to keep everyone safe. While we cannot guarantee there is no risk to your child, we feel that we have reduced the risk as much as is possible given the information we have to hand. We have based our risk assessment on the following:

- The government have said it is safe enough for schools to open with a phased return for pupils
- The school community attending each day is well and symptom free
- There is enough staffing available to open the school safely
- The facilities meet health and safety regulations for spacing, and upscaling hygiene and cleaning routines
- The internal class communities (bubble) are contained with limited contact with others to enable contact tracing if a member of staff or pupil become symptomatic

Specific measures have been put into place to help keep everyone safe and these are outlined in more detail in the questions and answers below.

Which children will return to school?

After the May half term we began our phased reopening inviting bubbles of 15 from Year **1, Year 6 and our vulnerable children**. Now that these bubbles have been running for 2 weeks we are ready to invite **Reception children** from June 29th. We have taken into consideration the size of our school, the layout, the staff available to return to work on the school site, as well as the government guidance. The phased return of these children will allow us to keep the 3 year groups separate from each other and we feel that they will be better equipped to cope with social distancing and a change in the way of life at school. We will also be continuing to offer provision for children of key workers as previously arranged.

If my child is eligible will my child attend school every day?

Reception children will return for the final three weeks of the summer term; we are offering them a reduced daily session (Monday-Thursday) for all 3 weeks. Children will attend a morning or afternoon session. **The school week will run from Monday to Thursday and the school will be closed on Fridays**

Will school keep their usual opening hours?

No. school will have a shortened day and have staggered start and end times to try and reduce congestion in the playground at pick up and drop offs.

Year 1 - Drop off 9:00-9:15am and pick up 2:00-2:15pm

Year 6 - Drop off 9:15-9:30am and pick up 2:15-2:30pm

Reception AM session-Drop off 9:30 and pick up 11:30 (Lunch at home)

Reception PM session -Drop off 1:00 and pick up 3:00 pm (Lunch at home)

Other eligible children (vulnerable and key worker children) - drop off 9:00-9:30am and pick up 2:00-2:30pm

We have decided to reduce the school day for a few reasons. Firstly, it will enable the class teachers to still effectively manage the Google classroom for children who are still learning from home. Secondly, our children have been out of school for some weeks and we want to ensure they are set up to succeed. Some of our children may be very anxious about returning to school or leaving the family home and a reduced day will help them to ease back into school life. We have also considered the start and end times of other local schools to try and reduce the amount of pedestrians in the local area. Finally, because the school will be operating on reduced staffing levels, to ensure there is sufficient time to prepare, sanitize and allow for breaks, the day needs to be shorter. The period between morning and afternoon sessions in Reception class will allow for thorough cleaning to take place between sessions.

How big will the class sizes be and what will the classroom look like?

Classes will have a maximum capacity of 15 children. The children will stay in the same group creating a 'bubble'. The children will stay with the same adults, where possible, to reduce contact and enable contact tracing. Each 'bubble' will consist of up to 15 children, a teacher and a TA. When it is your child's week in school they will be based in a classroom, each child will have their own desk and resources which they will keep in a box under their desk. **No personal items should be brought into school with the exception on a water bottle and packed lunch.**

What group/bubble will my child be in?

Teachers have taken lots of factors into consideration when grouping the children into their 'bubble' for example, friendship groups, whether or not the child has a sibling who is eligible to attend school and any other needs your child may have. You will be informed whether your child will be in Group A or B soon.

For the younger children, how will their mental health be managed as it is going to be a very different environment to what they left?

This has been one of our biggest considerations. We want school to feel safe, welcoming and comfortable for everybody. We have planned a provision that puts well-being at the centre. Teachers will be engaging the children in well-being activities and will be focusing on making the 'new normal' feel 'normal'. Children in reception will spend a significant amount of time learning outside of the classroom, weather permitting. Whilst movement around the class may be more limited the children will continue to work together with other children in activities carefully managed by the teacher and teaching assistant in smaller groups within the class. Once our classroom is fully ready and reorganised we will share a picture of what to expect on the google classroom.

How will school minimize the risk of contamination of the virus?

The school have undertaken a thorough risk assessment and there are lots of measures in place to help prevent the spread of Covid19. Some of the key measures are as follows:

- All children and staff who display symptoms must stay at home. If you believe your child has symptoms please inform the school as soon as possible and arrange for them to be tested. Our local testing ground is at Twickenham rugby site.
- All children will have their temperature taken on arrival at school. This will ensure that any child who has a temperature does not enter the school building.
- Staggered start and finish times to avoid congestion.

- One way system introduced for drop off and pick up. Parents and children will enter the school site via the gates at the top of Worple Road (next to Sunnysmiles) and exit via Queens Terrace (gates next to nursery).
- Reduced number of staff on site. We have made the decision to not have midday supervisors on site to try and limit the number of people your child comes into contact with. The teacher and teaching assistant who is with your child that day will supervise them at lunch time.
- Regular handwashing. Children will wash their hands on entry to the school building, before and after playtimes, before and after eating and before they leave the school building. Hand sanitizer will be available in between these times.
- Encouraging social distancing at all times.
- Each 'bubble' will have a zoned area in the playground where they can play.
- There will be no assemblies.
- Apparatus, toys and resources will be cleaned after use using antibacterial spray.

Does my child need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE)?

No. Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools is not recommended. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings should not be worn as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

What if my child is eligible but has siblings who are not?

We are asking that only these year groups return to schools. This does not include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, have an EHCP or have already been accessing our key workers provision.

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

It is not compulsory for your child to attend school, however we strongly encourage children in the eligible year groups and priority groups to attend unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions). Please notify us as normal if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and can discuss with you. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time. **If your child is eligible but you do not wish to send your child into school, please inform the school either via email or calling.**

What will my child be learning at school?

The curriculum will be focused around independent, individual learning activities. There will be a large focus on pastoral and PSHCE activities to help support your child's emotional well-being. The teacher will also be teaching the core subjects and consolidating the learning in these areas. The focus will be on success, building stamina for learning and helping children to remember how to learn. There will be strong emphasis on transition and preparing the following year at school. Teachers will want to work alongside the children to reestablish school routines. The work that children do will support and enhance the work that they complete on Google classroom. In Reception there will be a range of activities organized building on the work that the children would normally do whilst in school. With the children being out of school for some time, we are aware that they will require lots of care, nurture and support in order to begin to readapt to school life again. We are confident that our staff are well prepared to manage this.

What if a child or member of staff show symptoms of Covid19?

If a child or member of staff is showing symptoms of covid19 they should remain at home and get tested as soon as possible. They should then isolate for 7 days and their fellow household members should isolate for 14 days. Staff and pupils in all settings will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms. If a child or member of staff start to show symptoms when at school they will be isolated immediately and sent home. Immediate cleaning of any specific equipment that the child or staff member has touched will be undertaken. Parents will be informed that their child has been in contact with a symptomatic person to enable you to keep a close eye on your child.

If there is a confirmed case of covid19, as in they have received a positive test result, the rest of their class/bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the child they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

What if I need to speak to my child's class teacher?

In order to reduce the number of people on site, we ask that you email or phone us with any questions or concerns that you may have. If you feel that your question or concern cannot be dealt by over the phone or by email, please make an appointment.

What if my child doesn't want to come to school?

We are encouraging all eligible children to attend school. We know that children learn best at school and it is good for your child's mental well-being to have social interactions with their peers and equally teachers and familiar adults. There will be lots of support in school to help your child overcome any anxieties that they are experiencing. We would encourage you to talk to your child and discuss the reasons why your child may not want to attend.

My child is entitled to free school meals. Will they still receive a school dinner?

If your child is entitled to universal free School meals (UFSM, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) or free School Meals they will be entitled to a school packed lunch. Children in Reception class will not eat lunch at school. Those on free school meals will continue to receive their vouchers.

My child normally has school dinners. Will the school dinners still be provided?

All children who are not FSM or entitled to a universal free school meal will be required to bring a packed lunch to school. Your child should also bring a mid -morning snack with them such as a piece of fruit. Children in Reception class will not be having lunch on the school site. They should however bring a morning/afternoon snack with them, along with their water.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes. Your child should be sent into school wearing their school uniform. We understand that child may have outgrown some of their uniform during this time and we would like to reassure you that children will not be penalized if they do not have all of the correct uniform at this time.

What can I do to support the school?

Although we will be taking each child's temperature on arrival to school, we ask if you could also take your child's temperature before leaving the house. This will help prevent contamination if your child is unwell.

Where possible we will be providing lots of learning opportunities out of the school building. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a water bottle, a hat and has had sun cream applied before school.

Where possible walk to school and try and avoid public transport. Encourage children to regularly wash their hands at home and when out and about use antibacterial hand gel.

When dropping off your child come alone if possible.

If your child is in year 6 and you are happy for them to travel to and from school alone, allow them to do this.