

Government guidance (adapted by Priors Field Primary School)

What parents and carers need to know about schools from September 2021

Updated 17 August 2021

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September.

The key messages from this guidance are:

- nationally, education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory (for schools)
- the [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](#) has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only
- continuing to take regular rapid tests will help you to identify infections early and reduce transmission
- there is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to test over the summer period
- your school will no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will still be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal
- your child does not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')
- the government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet

Attendance and remote education

Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. This means it's your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly if they are registered at one.

Remote education if your child cannot attend school

From the end of the summer term school will provide remote education for all children who are unable to attend school due to following government guidance or law relating to COVID-19 (for example if they need to self-isolate, or if they have tested positive but are well enough to learn from home).

- We will provide remote education equivalent in length to the core teaching your child would usually get in school. (Reading, Writing, Maths & Science)
- Guidance is available to help you support your child while they are learning from home.
- You should talk to your child's teacher or headteacher if you have concerns about the amount or quality of the remote education they are receiving.
- We will work collaboratively with you to put in place reasonable adjustments so that pupils with SEND can successfully access remote education.

Helping make schools as safe as possible

There are certain control measures that the government have asked schools to continue to maintain to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in their setting. Please see the school risk assessment and outbreak management plan.

School routines

Will the timings of the school day run as normal, and how will drop off and pick up work?

Staggered start and end times will be minimised; however, we will continue to use our one-way system for drop-off, which is reversed at pick-up to allow children to collect scooters and bikes. We continue to ask that you adhere to social distancing guidelines when on the school site, and that you leave the premises as quickly as possible. Please also keep any younger children with you at all times when waiting on the playground. The adventure playground MUST not be used by any child before or after school.

KS2 children will continue to go into school independently with staff on duty on the pathways, cloakrooms and the playground for important messages.

Timings will be as follows:

8.45 – 8.55 - KS2

8.50 – Reception (Outside Area Gate),

8.50 – Year 2 (KS1 Cloakroom)

8.55 - Year 1 (KS1 Cloakroom)

Pick Up

3.20 - Reception (Outside Area Gate), Year 1 (Outside Area Gate) Year 2 (Classroom Door)

3.25 onwards – KS2 on the playground

Mixing and 'bubbles'

The government no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') or to keep groups apart as much as possible. This means that bubbles will not need to be used in the autumn term. However, in order to reintegrate children safely back into school in September, class bubbles will resume for the first two weeks for the majority of the days' activities and breaks. If there are no Covid outbreaks, class bubbles will gradually be reduced to key stage bubbles and finally whole school.

Assemblies will take place with phase bubbles initially for the first two weeks and larger group activities will resume after two weeks if there has not been a Covid outbreak.

If there is an outbreak in school we might be advised that it is necessary to reintroduce bubbles or to keep groups apart for a temporary period to reduce mixing between groups.

Face coverings

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes dedicated transport to school.

If there is an outbreak in school you might be advised that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas where appropriate.

Symptoms and testing

If you suspect your child has coronavirus or has a positive test PLEASE do not send your child to school and get them tested

Index case

Child who develops symptoms or has positive LFT/ PCR test result

- Immediately start self-isolation and arrange COVID-19 test.
- PCR tests can be arranged through the online portal or via 119.
- During self-isolation, individuals should follow 'stay at home' guidance
- If an individual does not have a PCR test within 2 days of positive LFT, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

If PCR result is negative: end self-isolation when well and have not had a temperature for 48 hours (as long as nobody else in household is symptomatic or has tested positive)

If PCR result is positive:

- Continue to self-isolate for 10 full days after the day of symptom onset/test (if no symptoms) – which is day 0
- Self-isolation ends on day 11 if well and no fever on days 9 and 10. If fever ongoing on days 9 or 10, continue to self-isolate until fever-free for 48 hr and well.
- Cough and loss/change in taste/smell may continue beyond day 10.
- If symptoms start whilst isolating, isolation period starts again - day of symptom onset = day 0

Close contacts

Including household contacts

If PCR result of index case is negative: contacts self-isolating can end self-isolation if no symptoms

If PCR result of index case is positive: action depends on age and vaccination status.

Unvaccinated adults (age over 18 years 6 months)

- Continue to self-isolate for 10 clear days after the day of last contact with index case.
- If develop COVID-19 symptoms, arrange PCR test as soon as possible.

Child OR adult who had second vaccine dose at least 2 weeks before contact

- No requirement for self-isolation.
- Arrange PCR test, and continue with twice weekly LFT testing

COVID-19 symptoms: New, continuous cough OR high temperature OR loss/ change in sense of taste or smell. Anyone with these symptoms should start self-isolating and arrange a COVID-19 test. Other possible COVID-19 symptoms include: tiredness, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, muscle ache, blocked/runny nose diarrhoea and vomiting.

LFT: Lateral flow tests are for asymptomatic screening only. ALL positive LFT results must be confirmed by a PCR test. LFTs should not be used for individuals with symptoms.

Close contacts: anyone who has had the following contact with the index individual:

- Face-to-face for any length of time
- Within 1 metre for 1 minute or more.
- Within 1-2 metres for 15 mins or more (either as a one-off contact for over 15 minutes, or shorter contacts added together over one day)
- Travel in a vehicle
- Note – all children in the same classes/group may be close contacts, plus any others identified – e.g. break times, lunch times, before and after coming into the setting (including on transport)

Financial support to care for a child who is self-isolating

You may be eligible for a one-off Test and Trace Support Payment of £500 from your local authority if your child has been advised to self-isolate by their education setting (even where they have not been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace).

To be eligible, you must be either:

- the parent or carer of a child that is aged 15 and under

You also need to:

- be on a low income
- be unable to work from home
- be taking time off work to care for a child who is self-isolating
- be living in England
- meet the eligibility criteria

You do not require an NHS Test and Trace Account ID number in order to claim.

Further information on claiming financial support under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is available.

School will provide you with a letter, detailing your child's name and the dates of their isolation period. You will need to use this letter as supporting evidence as part of your application. You will not be able to apply for financial support without this letter.

When you apply to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme your local authority will contact school to verify the information you've supplied. This includes your child's:

- name
- age
- dates of self-isolation

This is a standard check against fraudulent claims, and may take place before or after a payment is made.

Assessments in primary schools

We are planning for a full programme of primary assessments to take place in the 2021 to 2022 academic year. This will include the introduction of the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment and Multiplication Tables Check.

We will confirm full details for 2021 to 2022 primary assessments in due course.

Education recovery

We have a number of programmes and activities to support children and young people to make up their learning as a result of the pandemic.

Your class teacher will be able to support your child with their learning and inform you of any interventions and support that might be required.

Holidays and travel abroad

You should plan your holidays within school and college holidays as usual. Avoid seeking permission to take your children out of school during term time if at all possible. You should make sure any travel is in line with national travel guidance.

Keep in mind that you and your children may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. Any self-isolation should also fall within the school holidays. All pupils travelling to England should adhere to government travel advice. You should plan for any required quarantine of self-isolation to avoid any impact on your child's education.

The red, amber, green classification of countries can be changed at any time and at short notice and you will need to respond to the latest rules on international travel, even if you have already left the UK, while also minimising the impact on your child's education.

School food

Schools will continue to provide free meals for eligible students, including those who are at home during term time due to COVID-19.

The guidance on [providing school meals during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) outlines how and when children eligible for benefits-related free school meals should be supported at home.

Mental health and wellbeing

Some children and young people may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, stress or low mood as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Support for children and parents

Encourage your child to talk to you or their teacher if they are feeling anxious or stressed.

Online resources to help you support your child with mental health and wellbeing, include:

- [MindEd](#) - a free educational resource on children and young people's mental health
- [Every Mind Matters](#) - an online tool and email journey to support everyone in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing
- [Bereavement UK](#) and the [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) - information and resources to support bereaved pupils, schools and staff
- the [DfE blog](#) - includes [mental health resources](#) for children, parents, carers and school staff

Public Health England's (PHE) [advice and guidance for parents and professionals on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#) includes actions you can take to support your child and emphasises the importance of taking 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Youth Sport Trust and [Sport England](#) have advice and support on helping children and young people stay physically active.

NHS mental health services remain open and have digital tools to connect with people and provide ongoing support. Please use your local children and young people's mental health service when needed.

If you have any further questions

Please email or phone the school office with any queries or concerns and we will do our best to answer them. As always, we are here to help.