

MARCH 8th ~ FULL RETURN TO SCHOOL...PART 2

Coming into school

We will be returning on March 8th to our class sized bubbles as we did in September. Outside of the class bubble we will still be working at maintaining social distancing at 2m, especially adults in accordance with the various Government/DfE/Essex County Council/professional associations/unions etc guidance, advice, checklists and risk assessments.

We will be returning to the 'open classroom' strategy that we used just before we went into lockdown. The school will be open as normal from 8.45am to 9.00am, the expectation is that parents bringing children to school or older children coming into school independently will take responsibility for keeping 2m social distance from other family groups. Parents must ensure that younger brothers and sisters stay with them at all times as they walk up on to the school playground.

Once on the playground children will then need to go directly to their classrooms. School staff are still being advised to keep socially distanced so we should not be physically taking children from parents even if a child is having difficulty separating from a parent. Parents without buggies / pushchairs who can manage the steps must then leave through the secret garden and out onto the driveway and then Abbot's Road. Pre-School will be entering and exiting using the side path and main gate from 9 – 9.15am. Only parents or carers with mobility issues and buggies, pushchairs should be waiting in a socially distanced way until after 9am and then join the parents of pre-school leaving the site from the front gate.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DESPITE THE RETURN TO SCHOOL WE ARE ALL STILL EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDANCE & THE 'STAY AT HOME' MANTRA!

Children will need.....

- Dressed in full school uniform & school shoes please. Trainers should only be used for PE lessons or old ones for lunchtimes up the field as the weather improves. I understand children may have grown out of shoes, financial situation during Covid, getting shoes fitted etc is more difficult at the moment but the expectation is for appropriate school shoes to be worn for school. Please let me know if you have any issues; ordered them but not arrived etc
- Water bottle
- Coat ~ preferable waterproof!
- Reading Record Book, any school reading books, Homework Diary, any more home learning your child has completed that hasn't been emailed or dropped off already
- PE kit ~ KS 2 in particular need to make sure they have tracksuit type items for outdoor PE/Sport etc. A spare pair of socks is always useful too!

What will happen in school?

The set up in classrooms will be for Y3 to Y6 to remain in the formal rows of tables, facing forward. We feel that this is not really suitable for Early Years & KS1 children, so they will be listening to whole class teacher led learning from the carpet and then using outside spaces, table top activities, small group adult led learning at tables etc.

For Old Heath given the size of our classrooms, the building & grounds themselves and the logistics of classes moving, how to work lunchtimes and break times etc.; **we are proposing that each class remains together as their 'own class bubble', so social distancing between themselves is not required. Each class bubble however does not mix with any other class i.e. separate area to play in at playtime and lunchtime, sectioning the hall for dinner, cleaning after each service,**

timetabled slots for the main toilets and copious cleaning between class visits. This is exactly the same as how we operated during the autumn term: we will need to allow extra time as it will take longer to get more children through the process of having lunch plus the whole going to the loo and washing hands etc!

From the guidance it would seem that staff can move between 'bubbles', as long as maintaining a 2m social distance. At the moment we will try to limit movement of staff between classes. It is expected that all adults, including parents on school grounds will be keeping at 2m social distance. Some staff may be wearing masks inside school in corridors/smaller shared work spaces (ie school kitchen) if they wish too.

Dinnertimes will work something like:

EY & Y1 all lunching in the hall from 12 to 12.30, Y2 out to play from 12 to 12.30. Then all Y2 and the hot dinner children from Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will lunch in the hall from 12.30 to 1pm. A whole class takes up three of our big tables and we can fit two sets of three in the hall with spacing to ensure 'whole class bubbles stay separate'! Packed lunch children will stay in their classrooms to eat. EY & Y1 will use half of the playground each whilst the rest of the school are lunching. At 1pm EY, Y1 & Y2 will return to their classrooms for afternoon school. Years 3, 4, 5, 6 will then rota through lunchtime play in either the playground or the field.

Concerns about coming back

I am aware that there will be several families for whom coming back to school under these circumstances will be a concern. I realise that the Government message is very clear with regard to the expectation that all children should return to school, however I am very happy to have conversations with parents where a return to school causes great anxiety with regard to shielding and supporting families to manage the situation as best we can together. We managed brilliantly back in September so I am sure we will do so again!

Illness

As before the guidelines relating to **high temperature, continuous cough, loss or change in sense of smell and taste** remain.

Please do not send your child into school with any of these symptoms.

Children displaying these symptoms in school will need to be collected as soon as possible.

Please do not give Calpol or Nurofen to children to lower a temperature and then send them into school.

If anyone in your household is displaying the symptoms everyone needs to isolate until test results come back negative or remain in isolation if positive.

You should also receive as part of this email a letter from Clare Kershaw (Director of Education for ECC) and Mike Gogarty (Director of Public Health & Wellbeing) regarding the new national scheme to provide adults with school aged children in the household to access free Lateral Flow Tests. I know that some parents of children in Key Worker Provision started accessing these this week on a pilot scheme.

Breakfast Club ~ if you would like to use Breakfast Club, you will need to book a place and ensure that you keep up to date with payments.

Dinners ~ please make sure you have returned a school dinner menu. For KS2 dinners please also ensure that you keep up to date with payments.

