

Frequently Asked Questions
Coronavirus: a phased return to school

Date: 15th May 2020

The government has mapped out its plan for children to return to school. Whilst this plan is subject to change, the below attempts to answer some of the questions you may have about this. Please remember that the ultimate decision about sending your child to school or not remains with you the parent currently. If you have any questions that aren't answered below or have any worries, please speak to a member of the team.

Q. What is the best way to protect myself from coronavirus?

- A. The government has set-out detailed guidance on protecting yourself from coronavirus in the accompanying documents. Regularly washing your hands; good respiratory hygiene; regular cleaning of surfaces; minimising contact and mixing of people, and minimising contact with individuals who are unwell are the main things you need to focus on. All of the new systems - smaller class sizes; staggered lunches and playtimes; changes to start/end of day; no assemblies; cancelling of all events and educational visits; additional cleaning; extra soap and tissues etc - have all been put in place to achieve this. If you have a question about these measures, please let an appropriate member of staff know.

Q. Which children will be coming to school from 1st June?

- A. Children of key workers, those with special needs, and those with an allocated social worker should come to school.

From 1st June we are planning for the return of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children on a staggered basis. A final decision will be made by 28th May by the government so this may be subject to change.

Q. If parents have a child in one of those year groups and a sibling in Y2-5 can they both come?

- A. No. At this time, only children of key workers, those with special needs, those with an allocated social worker are in school. Those in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6, will begin to be invited back to school following the school's staggered approach and as we risk assess. This will be done gradually to ensure we are keeping it as safe as possible for everyone. Please note that we will **not** be having all these year groups back in on June 1st, and will contact parents on an individual year group basis. Please ensure you check Studybugs regularly.

Q. When will children in Y2, 3, 4 and 5 return to school?

- A. We are still waiting on further guidance from the government. So far they have said they hope for all children to be back for the last month. We will continue to monitor advice and review our risk assessment.

Q. Why are children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 coming back first?

- A. The government believe that it is important to keep the number of children in school to a minimum for now. Children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 are at key transitions in their education and so they have prioritised these children coming back first.

Q. Do children need to wear a mask and gloves in school?

A. No. The medical evidence is clear that a mask and gloves (Personal Protective Equipment) do not provide protection when people are together for a long period of time. In fact, they can increase the risk of disease if handled incorrectly. We also think they should not be worn as this will make it a very distressing environment for children as well as seriously impact on children's ability to communicate. Any child wearing a mask or gloves will be asked to take this off.

Q. Is this all definite?

A. Nothing is definite at the moment. We are living in an ever-changing environment. We are trying to strike the balance between being prepared and being flexible and responsive to inevitable changes. We will continue working together as a team, and we will ensure we update you as far as possible.

Q. Can children go home for lunch?

A. No. We are doing everything we can to minimise contact and mixing. We are also staggering school lunchtimes. Therefore, all children must stay at school (unless they are on a personalised timetable).

Q. Can children bring packed lunches?

A. Yes. They will be asked to hang them on a peg to reduce contact.

Q. Can children bring their book bag / a bag from home?

A. No. We are doing everything we can to minimise contacts. Therefore, we ask that children do not bring anything from home. This includes book bags, pencil cases, Rubik's cubes, football cards etc.

Q. Should children bring a water bottle?

A. Yes. We would like all children to bring a water bottle every day. We will ensure these are labelled and taken home at the end of the day so they can be washed and brought back.

Q. How will we support children who are coming back to school?

A. We will work in our teams and use all of our expertise to support our children as they return. We will be focusing on some basic skills (reading, writing, maths), health, well-being, communication and providing children with opportunities to be active and outside. We will also need to support children to rebuild friendships, negotiate with other children, and rebuild some of the skills they may have lost through two months of lockdown and isolation. For any children who are really finding it hard, we also have lots of support through Place2Be, our mental health first aiders, and our expert, caring staff.

Q. Will children be following their normal curriculum?

A. No. As above, we will focus on basic skills, health, communication and well-being.

Q. Will my child have their usual class teacher?

A. No. We are doing everything we can to ensure that the adults that teach children are as consistent as possible, however due to having smaller classes it is not possible for children to be with the adults they would normally have,

Q. Will my child be with their normal classmates?

A. No. We will try our best to group children sympathetically, but it is not possible to keep children in their usual classes due to restrictions on pupil numbers in a class. At playtimes and lunchtimes, children will be able to play with other children within their year group (although not within other year groups).

Q. Are we running Breakfast Club, after school clubs or 6 o'clock club?

A. Unfortunately at this time we are only able to offer this to our vulnerable children and/or children of key workers.

Q. What if I need to speak to a parent or a parent needs to speak to me?

A. To minimise contact, we are asking that all enquiries are either sent through Studybugs, emailed to: info@curwen.ttlit.academy, or by phone to the school office. We will make sure all messages are passed on to you. Equally, if you want to speak to a parent, please call them.

Q. What if a child has symptoms of coronavirus whilst at school?

A. If a child has symptoms of coronavirus - high fever, new continuous cough – we have procedures in place, but we will contact you immediately and expect your child to be collected.

Q. What if a child has symptoms of coronavirus whilst at home?

A. If a child has symptoms of coronavirus - high fever, new continuous cough – please do not bring your child to school. Let us know (via phone / Studybugs) and book a test for your child and family members. Please inform school as to the outcome.

Q. Do children need to wear uniform?

A. We are trying to get children used to being back at school, so we would like uniform to be worn as far as possible (this does not apply to Nursery children)

Q. What are you doing to make sure children are safe?

A. We have put in place a whole range of measures to keep children safe and completed a detailed risk assessment. This includes: clear processes for anyone with coronavirus symptoms including isolation; regular handwashing and additional resources for handwashing and respiratory hygiene; lessons for children on handwashing and keeping themselves safe; small group sizes; staggered play and lunchtimes; no educational visits; no school events; no assemblies.

Q. Will we be expected to keep children 2m apart at all times?

A. No. Not only is this not possible, it would be very distressing for the children. We have put in place as many measures as we possibly can to keep the children safe at this time, whilst maintaining a happy, positive atmosphere for the children. We will be speaking to the children about 'personal space' and will encourage them to do this. There will be no sanctions for any children not sticking to this.

Q. How will parents drop-off / pick up children at the start and end of the day?

A. As we gradually open the school further to more groups of pupils, we will inform individual year groups of the timings for the start and end of the day. This will be staggered with a larger window than usual (approx. 15-20 minutes). We request that parents support us by: maintaining a 2m distance; following one-way systems which we will operate; ensuring that they drop off and collect children on time. **Please note that due to keeping groups of children separate we will not be able to let children in if they are late. This is for health and safety reasons.**