



Frequently Asked Questions
Coronavirus Risk Assessment: returning to school

Date: 3rd September 2020

The government has mapped out its plan for children to return to school in September. The school has created a detailed Risk Assessment to ensure that we reduce risks to pupils, staff and families as far as possible. Whilst this plan is subject to change, the below attempts to answer some of the questions you may have about this. If you have any questions that aren't answered below or have any worries, please speak to a member of the team.

Q. What are we 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; 'bubbles' at playtimes; no educational visits; no school events; and assemblies via Zoom only.

Q. How will the school minimise any contact with those that are unwell?

A. The government has set out detailed guidance on protecting yourself from coronavirus. The main things to focus on are: 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. When children return in September, we will be limiting the contact they will be having with others. In classes children will remain in 'bubbles' of 30. In larger indoor spaces which are well-ventilated they will be in year group 'bubbles', and in the playground 2 year groups will be in a 'bubble' together. If you have a question about these measures, please let an appropriate member of staff know.

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

A. No. Advice is that children under 11 years old are not required to wear face coverings. 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 their ability to communicate. Any child wearing a mask or gloves will be asked to take this off before they enter the school premises. If meeting a member of school staff, parents may be asked to wear a face covering.

Q. How will 'bubbles' work with breakfast club and 6 o'clock club?

A. We have re-organised breakfast club and 6 o'clock club into bubbles to match our outdoor bubbles. This means that children will mix with a limited number of pupils. It does mean that we will only be able to offer a cold breakfast (cereal and fruit) and cold snack at 6 o'clock club (sandwiches and fruit).



Q. What about after school clubs?

A. We will not be running any clubs initially other than breakfast club and 6 o'clock club. Once all the children have returned, we will look at the possibility of running targeted 'invite-only' clubs.

Q. Will all children be returning to school on Wednesday 9th September?

A. We are currently planning that years 1-6 will return that day. There will be a staggered transition for Reception and Nursery children, and any other children that may need support.

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

A. We are going to stagger our start times and pick-up times. We will share more information with you when we return in September, but drop-off will be 8:40-9:00am and collection 3:00-3:20pm. We will have a one-way system: in through Nursery / KS1 (London Rd) gate and out through KS2 (Stock Street or Atlas Road). We request that parents support us by: maintaining a 2m distance; only sending one adult to drop off/collect children; following one-way systems which we will operate; moving swiftly through the playground to keep numbers to a minimum; and ensuring that they drop off and collect children on time.

Q. How do I drop off and collect children in different year groups?

A. You will be able to drop off/pick up all your children off whatever time you come within the windows, but you must begin by dropping off your youngest child first. We are staggering timings to reduce the number of parents in the playground at any one time.

Q. What if my child is late for school and arrives after 9:00am?

A. Due to our 'bubble' system and avoiding contact between these, late children will have to wait outside at the main office with their parent/carer. A member of staff will then escort them to their classroom. If your child has missed their year group slot, but it is before 9:00am they can enter through the playground as usual. **We urge parents to be on time each day.**

Q. What if my child has an appointment?

A. Your child will be allowed to attend appointments. However your child will only be permitted into or out of school at 8:40-9:00am or 1:00pm, therefore if they have an appointment they will need to miss a morning or afternoon of school. Please contact the school in advance so that we can talk to you about what will work best.

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 put them in a designated space.

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

A. Yes. However we are doing everything we can to minimise contacts, therefore we ask that this is just for essentials (homework, reading book, reading record and letters).

Q. Should children bring a water bottle?

A. Yes. We would like all children to bring a water bottle every day which we can refill for them.



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 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. We realise that some children have been out of school for several months, and need time to readjust. We are planning a special 'Recovery Curriculum' for the autumn term which will be based around the topic 'Who Am I?' for the entire school. National Curriculum skills will be covered through this topic. More details will be available on our website in September, and via our 'What We Are Learning' leaflets which we will send home.

Q. What if the school has to close again?

A. If we have cases of Covid-19 in school, then staff will be in contact with local public health officials and Test, Track and Trace, and will follow all advice given. This is likely to involve 'bubbles' being sent home to isolate. There may also be further 'local lockdowns'. We are working hard to ensure that we are prepared for such an eventuality, allowing learning to continue at home if necessary.

Q. What if I need to speak to a member of staff or a member of staff needs to speak to me?

A. To minimise contact, we are asking that all enquiries are either sent through Studybugs, emailed to info@curwen.ttl.academy, or by phone to the school office. We will make sure all messages are passed on to the appropriate member of staff.

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. You will then need to book a Coronavirus test for your child and family member and let school know the outcome before your child can return to school.

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 – **DO NOT BRING THEM TO SCHOOL.** Please also do not come to school if anyone in the same household as you has any of these symptoms. 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). Uniform will be on sale in the main office on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September 2020. Please pay in advance online via School Money.



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.