

## Guidance on Wider Reopening for Parents

We are so pleased to be able to welcome all our children back to school in September. This guidance gives you further information on our wider opening. I am sure that you will appreciate that Medical and Government Guidance has, and continues to change, regarding the pandemic and with that in mind our plans may be subject to change at short notice. We understand how challenging the current times are for everyone and have been mindful of the needs of families, particularly working families, when planning our school provision.

Arrangements made follow our thorough risk assessment to ensure that all members of the school community are safe whilst on site. We need everyone in our school community to help with this and have revised our home school agreement, safeguarding and behaviour policies and expectations to assist with this.

The overarching principle to apply in making arrangements is reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles'/phases) wherever possible and through maintaining distance between individuals. These are not alternative options and both measures will help, but the balance between them will change depending on:

- children's ability to distance
- the layout of our school and areas available for each group
- the feasibility of keeping distinct groups separate while offering a broad curriculum



## **How will my child return to school?**

There will be a phased return to school for all year groups. This will enable us to ensure that all the children understand the routines and expectations in school. Your child will be given a start date and the timings of the school day to fit in with the Government advice for schools. This advice is to stagger the start and end of the school day to avoid crowding. Once in school, they will attend every day at these times.

The school will be split into 4 distinct bubbles; EYFS, Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, Years 5 and 6. As far as possible

these bubbles will be staffed consistently and children and staff will be kept together in these bubbles. Interventions and activities such as sports coaching can still take place with contact and cross contamination measures in place.

Please remember that the children will be in their new classes. You will be informed of the class your child is in by 22<sup>nd</sup> July and all classes will be doing transition and wellbeing activities at the beginning of the new term to help them to settle.

### **Phased starting times**

Start Date	Phase	Classes
From 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> September as advised	<b>EYFS</b>	Apple and Pear
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>5/6</b>	Rowan, Cedar and Cherry
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>3/4</b>	Maple, Elm and Walnut
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>1/2</b>	Ivy, Holly and Oak

### **Times of the school day**

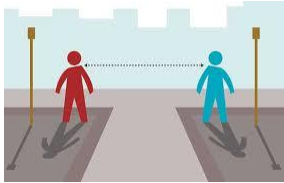
Time in	Time out	Phase	Classes
8.30	2.45	<b>5/6</b>	Rowan, Cedar and Cherry
8.45	3.00	<b>1/2</b>	Ivy, Holly and Oak
9.00	3.15	<b>3/4</b>	Maple, Elm and Walnut
9.15	3.30	<b>EYFS</b>	Apple and Pear

Once in school children will attend every day. We will review this after the first full week.

If your child will be a new entrant to the school in September in Apple or Pear classes then you will have already received details of induction arrangements. If you have not heard from us, or if you have any questions please contact the school office staff.

## How will my child get into school?

- We are asking that parents accompany their children to the school gates. This will help with social distancing.



- Being prompt in arriving will help enormously, as there are a lot of children to get into class in a short space of time.

- We ask that only one adult from each household comes to the school gate as there will be so little space and we need to get children in and out quickly.
- The teachers will collect the children from the gate and they will line up in their classes and come into the building. At the end of the day the process is reversed.
- Everyone who enters the building will sanitise their hands on entry and departure.

## Does my child have to come back to school?

From September 2020, attendance is mandatory for all statutory school aged pupils. If you are worried about sending your child back to school please talk to us. Mrs Norton, our

Family Liaison Officer, is the best person to contact and you can do this through the school office or by sending a message via our website

## What about lunch?

In September the building of our new kitchen will be underway. This obviously makes things slightly more complicated! As the children cannot mix in the hall and the hall may well be out of use we have decided that the kitchen will continue to provide packed lunches rather than hot meals.

School meals will run in the same way as usual and the teachers will take a

dinner register at the start of each day to ensure that the correct number of meals are ordered. Parents may order a school meal for their child, or they may provide a packed lunch.

Meals will be eaten in the classroom or outside, weather permitting.



## What about Break times and lunchtimes?



The children will get a break time and a lunchtime break, but the breaks will be staggered at different times, children will remain in their phase groups. They will still get to play outside with friends from their phases.

## How will learning arrangements work in the classroom?

We will keep children in their class groups for the majority of the classroom time, but also allow mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching, and wraparound care. Siblings may also be in different groups. Endeavouring to keep these groups at least partially separate and minimising contacts between children will still offer public health benefits as it reduces the network of possible direct transmission.

Maintaining a distance between people whilst inside and reducing the amount of time they are in face to face to contact lowers the risk of transmission

For younger children our focus will be on separating groups, and for older children it will be on distancing. For children old enough, they will also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff or their peers where possible. This may not be possible for our very youngest children, although our experience thus far shows that they are pretty good at social distancing!

From year 1 our classrooms will be arranged in rows with children seated side by side, facing forward rather than face to face or side on. There is no requirement to keep children a certain distance apart in school, though children will be encouraged to "social distance" as they would outside school.

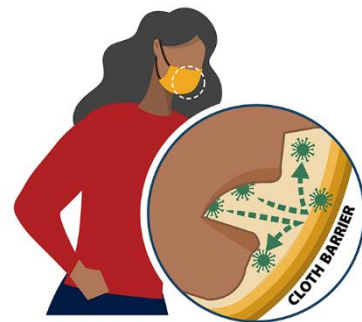
## What about Assemblies?

According to Government guidance, groups should be kept apart, meaning that assemblies and meetings will be delivered via Microsoft Teams. There will be no large gatherings.

When timetabling, groups should also be kept apart and movement around the school site kept to a minimum. While passing briefly in the corridor or playground is low risk, where we can avoid creating busy corridors, entrances and exits, we have done.

## What about Face Coverings?

There have been several versions of this guidance responding to the emerging guidance from central Government. As we write this current guidance the government have announced that from 24<sup>th</sup> July, face coverings must be worn in shops. The principle purpose of a face covering is to minimise the risk of the individual wearing it passing an infection to others. It is not to stop the wearer from catching the virus. Children under the age of eleven are exempt from this. However, adults are not. This means that staff may wear face masks in school. This will be dependent on the current advice at the start of term in September.



If children wear face coverings to school they will put these in a sealed plastic bag upon entering the building and may obviously put them back on to return home if that is their parent's wish. They will not wear them in school

## **What about Breakfast and After School Clubs?**

We cannot run these in the hall, although the guidance does allow for a discrete group to be formed. This group cannot change, so that the risk of contamination is reduced. This means that we will still be able to offer breakfast and after school club but this will be a reduced service.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club will be held in the Gold Room for a maximum of 10 children. There will be one session from 8am to the start of school. Children will be collected from the school gate and escorted into the building. Places can only be booked for the full five days at a cost of £10, payable in advance of each week. Priority will be given to working parents on a first come first served basis. Please book and pay by contacting the school office.

### **After School Club**

After School Club will run with a static group of up to 12 pupils. Places must be booked in advance though specific days can be booked (eg. every Tuesday). No ad hoc days or on the day" bookings can be accepted. The cost of After School Club is £8 per day, payable in advance. Priority will be given to working parents on a first come first served basis. Parents may collect children from the outside door of After School club from 4pm.

## **What about swimming lessons and after school clubs?**



There will be no swimming lessons until the leisure centre have restarted their lesson programme. There will also be no school clubs until further notice.

## What should my child bring to school?

Children should attend in full school uniform. They may bring their PE kit on the days that they have PE but there will be nowhere to store these on site overnight. It is important that children have their full PE kit as the school will not be able to lend kit out.

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, it is recommended that staff and pupils have their own items that are not shared. Each child will be given a named pencil, pen and ruler.

Each child will also be given a named water bottle. They should not bring their own. Any other drink brought to school will need to be inside their lunch box for lunchtime only.

Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the bubble; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces.

Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently and always between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles.



It is recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, PE kit. Children and teachers can take reading books and other shared resources home, although unnecessary sharing will be avoided. Similar rules on hand cleaning, cleaning of the resources and rotation will apply to these resources.

Your child may bring;

- Named coat, hat and gloves
- Small lunchbox (not a large rucksack), if applicable.
- PE kit on PE days only
- Reading record book, reading book and named book bag
- Optional - A small transparent zipped pencil case containing coloured pencils, one eraser, sharpener and glue stick. No other pencil cases will be allowed in school.



AND NOTHING ELSE

Children do not need to bring hand sanitiser as this will be provided by the school.





## What if there are cases at school, or if my child is unwell?

We will no longer routinely be taking the temperatures of everyone in the building as this is not considered necessary unless other symptoms are present.



If anyone displays any symptoms of Coronavirus they will go to our dedicated isolation room until they can safely leave site. Children will be accompanied until a parent arrives. They will need to be tested before returning to school.

Where there is a suspected case, there is no need for others to self isolate.

However, if there is a confirmed case then the bubble and any other person who has had contact will need to self isolate. The latest government advice will need to be followed.

If your child, or anyone in your household has symptoms of Coronavirus then you should not send your child to school. You should inform the school and get tests, taking advice from the NHS professionals.

Please be assured that we are aware that children do get all sorts of coughs and colds. We are being cautious in isolating and testing as the consequences of contamination are serious. In practice this means that there will inevitably be a majority of tests that are negative and will put all minds at rest. If your child needs to be isolated we will take good care of them until you arrive.

### CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



### BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



### KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



## What happens if I need to contact the school or speak to my child's teacher?

You can contact the school in the usual ways these are:

- By message via the website
- By telephone; 01622 753651
- By emailing  
office@park-way.kent.sch.uk
- Through the class email on your child's class page of the website.

As we are limiting the people allowed in the building, this means that parents will not be able to come in and physically see a teacher. Although teachers will be unable to speak to you during the school day they will be happy to call or email you when they are not teaching.

## And finally...

We are living in extraordinary times and we appreciate that our guidance about wider reopening is prescriptive and strict. We are aware that we have had fantastic support from our parents and we are very grateful for this. We are now asking you to help us to reopen

successfully and we need your support to do this. By limiting access to the site, minimising interactions and by taking these precautions we know that we are doing everything possible to keep everyone safe.

Thank you!