



Guidance on Wider Reopening for Parents

8th March 2021

We are, once again, so pleased to be able to welcome all our children back to school on 8th March 2021. This guidance gives you further information on our reopening. I am sure that you will appreciate that Medical and Government Guidance 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 and regularly revised 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. Copies of our revised home school agreement, safeguarding and behaviour policies and expectations are available on our school website:

www.park-way.kent.sch.uk

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?

All year groups will return to school on Monday 8th March 2021. The Government advice for schools from 8th March continues to be to stagger the start and end of the school day to avoid crowding. Parents should observe social distancing when dropping off and collecting their children.

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.

All classes will be doing transition and wellbeing activities to help children settle back into school life.

Times of the school day

From 8th March, children will attend every day at these times.

Time in	Time out	Phase	Classes
8.30	2.45	5/6	Rowan, Cedar and Cherry
8.40	2:55	1/2	Ivy, Holly and Oak
8.50	3.05	3/4	Maple, Elm and Walnut
9.00	3.15	EYFS	Apple and Pear

We will review this after the first full week.



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. Parents should observe social distancing when dropping off and collecting their children. Please use the opposite side of the road to wait for your child's bubble to come to the gate.

- 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?

Yes. From 8th March 2021, attendance is mandatory for all statutory school aged pupils. If you are worried about sending your child back to school please talk to us. Our pastoral team, Mrs Abrahams, Mrs Norton and Mrs Smith, are the best people to speak to. You can do this through the school office, by sending a message via our website or contacting them directly:

Karen Abrahams (Attendance and Welfare Officer)
07395 965378
karen.abrahams@park-way.kent.sch.uk
Stacy Norton (FLO)
07395 965377
stacy.norton@park-way.kent.sch.uk
Katie Smith (FLO)
07395 965404
katie.smith@park-way.kent.sch.uk

What about lunch?

The building of our new kitchen is still in progress. This obviously makes things slightly more complicated!

We are still able to provide school meals 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 either in the hall, in classrooms 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 and 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 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 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?

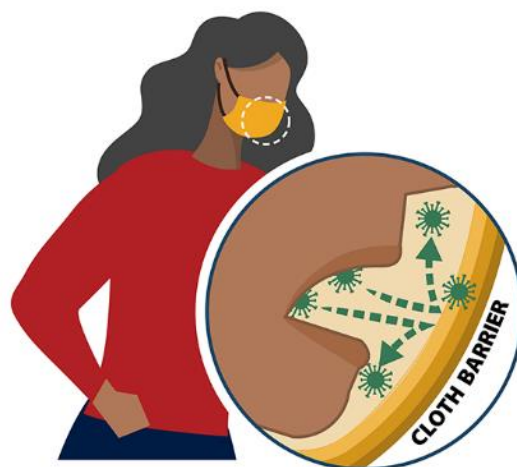
According to Government guidance, groups should be kept apart, meaning that assemblies and meetings will be delivered via Microsoft Teams. There will be no large gatherings.

When timetabling, groups should also be kept apart and movement around the school site kept to a minimum.

What about Face Coverings?

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.

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.

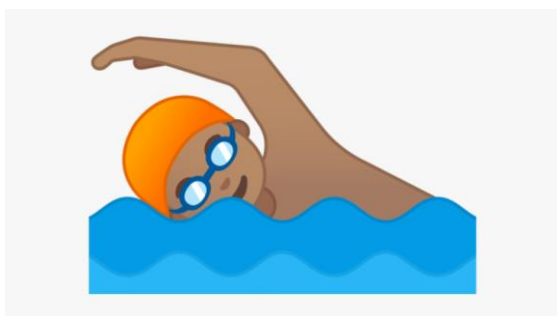
Breakfast Club

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 clubs after school?



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, including school shoes. They may wear their PE kit on the days that they have PE.

Days	Classes
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rowan• Walnut
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ivy• Holly• Apple• Pear
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cedar• Cherry
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oak
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maple• Elm

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 has a named pencil, pen and ruler in school.

Each child will also need a named water bottle containing ONLY water. 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 and coats. 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, scarf and gloves if necessary)
- Small lunchbox **(not a rucksack)**, if applicable.
- Reading record book, reading book in a named book bag **(not a rucksack)**
- 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 close contact will need to self-isolate for 10 days (current guidance). The latest government advice will always 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 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?

Please do not try to have a conversation with your child's teacher at the school gate. They will be busy ensuring that all the children get into school safely.

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 number of 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, once again, 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.

A large, hand-drawn 'Thank you!' in a rainbow of colors. The letters are thick and sketchy, with each letter in a different color: 'T' is red, 'h' is orange, 'a' is yellow, 'n' is green, 'k' is blue, 'y' is dark blue, 'o' is purple, 'u' is red, and the exclamation mark is orange.