

Please see below some of the questions that we have anticipated you may have about our reopening for Year 1 children and questions parents have asked from our survey:

How will classes be organised?

- The children will be organised in bubbles of no greater than 15. The bubbles will remain the same and will not mix with other bubbles.
- The children will have their own spaces – both inside and outside and will remain in these spaces throughout the day apart from play times and lunch, which will be staggered to avoid mixing. Each space has been prepared to meet the needs of the Year 1 children and to adhere to the government guidelines while allowing for distance between children. Rooms have been deep cleaned.
- Each bubble has two members of staff, consisting of a teacher and a teaching assistant or a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (who regularly cover teachers in this year group) and a teaching assistant. Children are not necessarily with familiar adults. Children may be in mixed class groups.
- We are employing a cleaner throughout the day to help premises staff with ‘pinch points’. Another cleaning team will be on the premises after school hours for all areas of the school.
- The children will be engaged in learning tasks. The planned remote learning will be the basis of much of this. We will incorporate as much outdoor activity as we can as this is being encouraged in the guidance from the government. The learning will have an emphasis on personal, social, emotional and health education. This will include the importance of hygiene, keeping safe, mental and physical well-being and settling into their new social bubble.

Can I choose which bubble my child goes into?

No, we have tried our very best to put children in a good social mix as it is important for them and us that this works.

Can I choose which days my child attends?

No, there is no capacity for days to be requested for children or for requests of days being switched.

Will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?

We will of course do our best to encourage social distancing, especially with any adults in the school, but we must be clear that we cannot guarantee it.

The DfE guidance states:

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out above:

- *avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- *frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- *regular cleaning of settings*
- *minimising contact and mixing*

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.

Therefore, we will be ensuring that each class 'bubble' does not come into contact with other class bubbles. Children will only be able to socialise with children in their bubble, even at playtime. Parents need to know that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that children will touch adults and one another, and come into close contact with others. We are unable to alleviate every risk or control every movement of the children, we can only guide and educate them in keeping themselves safe. We want to reiterate that parents should only send their children in to school if they fully understand and acknowledge this.

What hygiene measures will be in place to prevent transmission?

We will:

- use the **COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance** to inform our school-specific risk assessments
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available; all classrooms have access to sinks; hand sanitiser will be available in areas without access to soap and water
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, more regularly than normal
- have a duty cleaner, responsible for cleaning 'pinch points', who will work alongside the premises team throughout the day
- ensure that lidded bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- where possible, ensure spaces are well ventilated
- prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation

We will ensure that all adults and children:

- frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry them thoroughly with disposable hand towels
- clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- we will consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition

Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?

Government advice on the scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. While the weather is clement, we will be using the outdoor settings as often as we can. However, outside of this, we will keep children within their own classroom during the day. We have chosen rooms that have easy access to outdoor areas that can be used solely for the different bubbles.

How will lunchtime work?

The school will run a staggered sitting in the hall during lunchtime to maintain as much spacing as possible and to avoid queuing. Tables and seats will be cleaned between sittings. Children who are entitled to Free School Meals will continue to receive this, should this be your preference. For all other children wanting a school dinner, they will be charged as usual on ParentPay. All children will eat within their bubbles. Those children who receive free school meals will continue to receive vouchers.

What measures will school be employing to help prevent transmission?

In addition to what has already been mentioned

We will:

- give children a designated classroom and group (which we are referring to as their bubble) for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing
- regularly clean pinch points throughout the day and the whole school at the end of the day
- not allow children to bring in their own resources such as pencil cases; every child will have their own pack provided by the school, which includes stationary and other resources to be used throughout the day
- use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes as identified in our risk assessments, when it is necessary to do so, e.g. first aid or changing a wet child
- confine resources to rooms to minimise sharing and when sharing is essential (e.g. laptops and iPads), clean resources before transference
- organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently, keeping children in their bubbles
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them immediately
- removal and/or restricting access to unnecessary items in classrooms
- removal and/or restricting access to some soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean
- not share PE equipment; all bubbles have their own equipment box with a selection of physical activity resources
- where it is not possible to have resources for a specific bubble, equipment will be cleaned between each use

Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?

Where possible, children will be given their own equipment, which they must take responsibility for and not share with anyone else. *They must not bring any equipment in from home.* Laptops and iPads that are shared will be cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe after use. We cannot say that some resources will not be handled by more than one child, especially with younger children. Children will be encouraged to maintain good hand hygiene.

Will everyone arrive at school at the same time causing an increase in risk?

We are staggering the times for drop off and pick up. It is very important not to arrive early or late as the timings are worked out to minimise the number of children and adults on site at one time.

Each bubble will have a designated drop off and collection point and these will be clearly signposted. There will be a clear route, separated from other bubbles. More details will be sent in a separate letter. The approach to drop off areas will be marked out with a 2m queue (just like a supermarket) and there will be a drop off zone from where the teacher will invite pupils in.

Only one parent or carer should accompany the child to school to minimise risk. Parents will not be invited to enter the building but will drop off as described above. Please observe social distancing at all times and avoid congregating with other parents on the school site during or after drop off.

Latecomers will need to use the buzzer at the main gate. Your child will then be collected and taken to their class by a staff member.

My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different. It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now changing. You can also discuss the content of this letter to help them understand what it will look like on their arrival.

To further support the children when they return, our initial focus, and for as long as we feel necessary, will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing.

Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the National Curriculum?

No.

As mentioned above, our initial focus will be supporting their wellbeing as well as the personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning. They have all gone through an incredible period of change and may have experienced loss on a number of different levels. This shouldn't be ignored. However, we also know that children like routine; therefore, new routines will quickly be established.

We plan to make use of our outdoor learning environment as much as possible.

We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed.

How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?

In addition to that mentioned above, all staff will be available to provide support. Members of the senior leadership and special educational needs team will work closely with our pastoral care and learning mentor to ensure that children's needs are met.

There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play, develop or rebuild friendships and have 'break out' or 'chill out' spaces for times when they may feel overwhelmed. We will continue to use our Kilmore Child qualities to support children's learning.

Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

The Government guidelines state:

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- *administering first aid*
- *changing a wet child*
- *if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.*
- If you would like your child to wear PPE we will respect this. You will need to provide this.
- If a member of staff chooses to wear PPE we will respect this.

What should my child bring to school each day?

We only want your child to bring their lunch box if they have packed lunches. Children are encouraged to bring in their own labelled water bottles as another measure to ensure they can keep themselves safe. It would help greatly if they were pre-filled. They must be taken home each day and washed. Coats and/or hats may be needed, especially as we will be using our outdoor spaces more.

We would advise that you apply long lasting sun-cream if possible before coming to school rather than having to bring sun-cream in. We will not be able to apply sun-cream to any children.

P.E. kits, book bags, ruck sacks, etc. will not be required and will help to ensure that classrooms and cloakrooms are as clutter-free as possible.

Will the school office be open?

Yes, but parents and children will not be allowed into the office. We will not be accepting late arrivals to school via the office, but using the buzzer at the gate and we do not want parents to come into the school reception unless this has previously been agreed. Where possible we would ask that parents ring/email the school as opposed to presenting in person.

Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children who do not return to school?

We will continue to set home learning activities during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. These activities will, in the main, be what the children in school are accessing. One day per week has been allocated for teachers to phone pupils in their class on a rolling programme (if teachers are shielding, the phase leader will make these calls).

What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below:

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home (although this will be offered to any member of staff if the case arises) unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see ‘What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?’ below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?

The government advice is:

When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to testing is available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will follow the Government guidance set out below:

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

Will the school take my child's temperature every day?

No, but we may use a non-invasive thermometer which points to the forehead if we suspect a child of having symptoms.