

September Opening to All Children

Frequently Asked Questions

(Text in blue is government guidance)

How will the children be organised into groups?

The children will be organised into class bubbles (inner bubbles) for the majority of the time and in year group bubbles (outer bubbles) for playtimes and lunchtimes. This means that they will only mix with and be in close proximity with pupils and staff in their class bubble. The exception to this will be cross class group teaching e.g. phonics groups or year 6 maths groups where they will be with a consistent group of children and a consistent member of staff. Reception will continue to free flow within their outer bubbles. During break times and lunch times they will be restricted to areas for their year group for outside play.

Will children remain in 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 and keep the room well ventilated. Exceptions will be when the classes use another room e.g. the music room or hall. Hygiene measures will be in place.

How will lunch time work?

On a rota system, one class from each year will eat in their classrooms while the others will eat in the hall. Classes will be separated within the hall and hall times are confined to year group outer bubbles only. Tables and seats will be cleaned between sittings and adults will supervise the children lining up and collecting their lunches.

Will you guarantee that social distancing takes place in school?

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 consistent group and that group stays away from other people and groups.

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
- deep clean the school in the summer holidays
- daily cleaning regime after school each day by cleaning contractor

- 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
- have an extra member of premises staff responsible for cleaning pinch points, who will work alongside the premises team throughout the day
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, more regularly than normal
- 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 and/or use sanitiser
- clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing and when entering rooms that are used by other class bubbles e.g. music room
- 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

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
- not allow children to bring in their own resources such as pencil cases
- 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
- give children their own frequently used resources e.g. pens and pencils and confine shared resources to bubbles (e.g. reading books, games) and clean resources before transference
- organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently, keeping children in their outer bubbles
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them immediately, following government guidance
- removal and/or restricting access to unnecessary items in classrooms

Should my child wear a mask?

No. Whilst government guidance suggests that children and adults should not wear masks in school, we will respect your choice if you feel this necessary for your child to attend.

Will school based adults wear a mask?

No. Whilst government guidance suggests that children and adults should not wear masks in school, we will respect people's choice if they feel it is necessary.

What can my child bring to school?

Outdoor clothing as necessary, their book bag, a drink and a packed lunch if this is their meal option. If they bring another bag to put these things in it must be kept as small as possible. PE kits can be left in school on their peg in a named bag. It is very important that they have the necessary PE kit in school as we will be limited in lending clothes. Early Phase children will need a change of clothes in a labelled bag to leave on their peg.

Can children bring scooters/bicycles to school as usual?

Yes, we will be allocating specific spaces.

If my child normally walks to school will they be able to come in early and stay in the playground?

No, there will be no access to the playground before school. Children must arrive at their designated place at the correct time.

Will there be community breakfast?

Not at the moment. Children must arrive at their designated place at the correct time.

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 in some ways. It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending. You can also discuss the content of this document and the attached letter to help them understand what it will be like on their arrival.

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 inclusion team will work to ensure that children's needs are met. To further support the children, when they return, our initial focus will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing.

There will be 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 Kilmorie Child qualities to support children's learning.

My child has fallen behind in his/her learning. How will you ensure that s/he catches up?

As with every start to the year, we will assess where each child is and then decide on the best way forward. This may be a programme of interventions to support them. We have regular pupil progress meetings and this system will continue along with regular teacher assessment to identify gaps in children's learning.

We are aware of the government catch up scheme and are awaiting further detail to know how this will be rolled out to schools.

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

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 should not be ignored. However, we also know that children like routine; therefore, new routines will quickly be established and when children are ready, we will continue teaching lessons as normal and following the national or early years curriculum as appropriate to their age group.

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

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

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below:

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

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 and needs of the child, 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 toilet if possible. The toilet must be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE must 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). More information on PPE use can be found in the [safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) guidance](#).

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with normal household bleach after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

Will children and staff be eligible for testing for the virus?

The following government guidance states:

Schools must ensure they understand the NHS Test and Trace process and how to contact their local [Public Health England health protection team](#). Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

By the autumn term, schools will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that they can give directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at school, where they think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. Advice will be provided alongside these kits.

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

We have to follow the Government guidance set out below:

Schools should contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#). They should get a test, and:

- If the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- If the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#)

Further guidance is available on [testing and tracing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

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 a raised temperature. However, Public Health England is clear that routinely taking the temperature of pupils is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19).

Will wrap around care be available?

Yes, this will be running as usual. However we are not able to keep the children in year group bubbles so, as the guidance suggests, we will keep them in consistent groups with the same staff. Please let Louisa know if you are not going to continue using wrap around care or if your requirements have changed.

Will there be enrichment clubs?

Enrichment clubs will not be possible in the Autumn term. If we are able to offer them from January 2021 we will update you.

Will there be Instrument lessons?

Yes, small group and paired lessons will be organised by consistent class and/or year group bubbles.

Will there be assemblies?

There will not be whole school or phase assemblies for the time being however, we are looking at ways of bringing the children together virtually

What are the plans for remote learning in the event of another lockdown?

We will continue with the offer we have at present but will be introducing an online platform as an additional resource. We are presently trialling Microsoft Teams and Google Classrooms and are training staff for September. We will continue to develop and adapt the remote learning offer in order to meet the needs of all children.

What do I do if I am worried about something included in the above information or have questions that have not been answered?

Contact the senior leadership team via info@kilmore.lewisham.sch.uk.