

September 2021 - Frequently asked questions

Background Context

We hope and expect that this year school will be a lot more like it was before the pandemic. The “bubble” system ended in July and from 16th August primary aged children along with fully vaccinated adults no longer need to isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case. This should ensure that we can avoid the disruptions of the last few years.

To minimise the chance of disruption we will still be following the following 6 key areas of control as identified by the LEA in their risk assessment and compliance code.

- Regular testing (and isolation) - staff will continue to take twice weekly lateral flow tests alongside testing for all pupils, parents and staff with symptoms
- Maximising Fresh Air – open windows and doors as appropriate
- Universal Hygiene Measures – regular handwashing and use of sanitiser alongside “Catch It, Bin It, Kill It”
- Cleaning the space and things around you – maintaining our enhanced cleaning and disinfection programme
- Respectful Space – whilst school bubbles and social distancing are no longer required, any measure that minimises the number, proximity and duration of contacts reduces the risk of transmission
- Use of PPE in some specific situations

Of these the one that is open to the most interpretation is “respectful space,” as such at least at the start of the year we will be cautious in terms of holding events, like assemblies, where the whole school is together. Likewise we will maintain 2 staff rooms so that all staff are not together in a relatively confined space. These measures are in place to minimise the impact of any positive case on the staff and children especially in relation to their health, staffing levels and the children’s education.

Section 1 – The start and end of the day

When will school start and finish?

School will start and end at the same time for everyone. With the day starting at 8:45 and finishing at 3pm. Children and parents can start to arrive at school from 8:35 in the morning. In the afternoon the gates will be unlocked from 2:55.

What will happen at the start of the first day?

On the first day the children from Year 1 to Year 6 will line up on the playground before going into their new classrooms. Staff will be outside before the start of the day to organise this.

What about Reception Class?

Reception children have their own timetable for the first week of the year and will enter and leave the school via the gate at the back of reception. (staff will be there to support on the first few days)

What will happen at the start of the day normally?

Children and parents can start to arrive at school from 8:35. Parents can enter school through the gate that is most convenient for you. The bell will be rung at 8:45 and children will go into school through their allocated doors. Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 will go through their classroom doors. Year 2 through the entrance by the side of their classroom, Year 4 through the corridor known as football alley and Year 5 and 6 through the main entrance to their block. Staff will be on hand to support with this.

What will happen at the end of the day?

Children will leave school via their classroom doors. At least initially staff will send children out to parents rather than parents coming into the room.

Can Year 5 and 6 walk to and from school by themselves?

We will send out a permission letter in the first few days for Year 5 and 6 children to walk to and from school by themselves. Children walking to school by themselves should arrive at school no earlier than 8:40 as until that time they would be unsupervised.

Where can we park to pick up and drop off?

We encourage parents and children to walk to and from school as much as possible. The roads around the school can get quite busy so please park carefully, thinking of those walking to school, our neighbours and other road users. The church car park is open and can be used at pick up and drop off times. For safety reasons parents should not use the staff car park unless express permission has been given.

Can children play on the field for a short time after school finishes each day?

Yes they can! As in the past we will let you know when the gates will be locked! (listen out for Mr Grubb's whistle)

SECTION 2 – Medical Information

What should I do before sending my child in each day?

You should regularly check your child's temperature. If your child has a high temperature or any other symptoms such as a cough they should not attend and you should contact the school and seek advice. If your child is unwell or you have any doubt about whether your child should be in school they should stay at home. Children should wash their hands carefully before leaving for school in the morning.

What happens if an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test?

The following is taken from the DFE publication [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in your school develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.

The three symptoms are still listed as:

- *a high temperature*
- *a new, continuous cough*
- *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste*

What is the current situation around close contacts isolating?

From 16 August, if you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months [you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#).

From 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- *you are fully vaccinated*
- *you are below the age of 18 years 6 months*
- *you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on

preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible.](#)

Is it totally safe for my child to return?

We will continue to do everything we can to ensure that the school is as safe an environment as possible for everyone. We follow the latest guidance for schools and continue to take our responsibilities very seriously. We can not guarantee that there is no risk but studies suggest that the risk to primary age children is low and that primary schools are a relatively safe environment

SECTION 3 – Playtime and Lunchtime

What will happen at breaktimes?

At the start of the year Reception's break will be in their outside space. Year 1 and 2 will have their break together and then Year 3 to 6 will have their outside break together.

What will happen at lunchtimes?

We plan to use the hall for lunch and hold 2 lunch sittings. Classes will have their own allocated tables which will be cleaned in between sittings. It maybe that we have a break out space for packed lunches to make sure we can fit everyone eating hot dinners into the hall.

What about using the toilets?

There will be no set times for classes to use the toilets. At least initially we will look to minimise any mixing of classes in the toilets.

How do we order lunches?

Children can order their lunch every day when the lunch register is taken. Staff ask the children whether they are having a hot dinner, vegetarian hot dinner or a home packed lunch.

How do we pay for lunches?

The school will issue invoices for lunch payments every 4 weeks. These can be paid by bank transfer, quoting the invoice number as a reference and Norfolk County Council as the payee name. The sort code and bank account details are on the bottom of the invoice. This is our preferred method of payment for lunches.

Section 4 – General Information

Will staff still be wearing masks?

In general no. Staff, as well as visiting professionals, may still wear masks in some situations such as when in a closed space or in communal areas.

Do parents still need to wear face masks at drop off and pick up times?

No there is no expectation that parents or other family members will wear masks unless they choose to do so.

Will children need to wear school uniform?

We expect the children to wear uniform in September. Over the last year we have taken into account the situation and been very relaxed about uniform. From September we will be expecting children to come to school in the correct uniform and wearing school shoes rather than trainers. Please let us know if you have had any problems getting uniform.

Will children still wear PE kit to school on PE days?

At least initially children will come to school in their PE kit on their PE days as it is still advised by the LEA that unventilated spaces, such as the changing rooms are not used. Class teams will confirm PE days with you.

What about Bombers provision?

Bombers is operating as it would do normally in terms of numbers attending and staffing ratios. Like everyone else in the school they are maintaining an enhanced cleaning regime and measures aimed at reducing any possible spread of COVID 19.

What about visiting the office?

Visiting the office is fine. We would ask that a maximum of 2 family groups are in the entrance hall at any one time.

Will after school club be back to normal?

After School Club will continue from the first day of the new year. The club will again be based in the hall. If you have any enquiries about places or anything else to do with ASC please contact the office. We still intend for the children to be based outside as often as possible.

Will there be any music provision or other outside visitors?

All music lessons will continue. We will let parents know start dates once we have them.

What about school run clubs?

Clubs run by school staff will start from the week of September 13th. Details will be sent out during the week of the 6th September. Some of the clubs will be for more than 1 year group at a time others may just be single classes.

What can children bring in to school?

Children should only bring in what they need for the day. This could include a named water bottle, a coat, lunch box and a book bag. When we are using the field it is helpful for children from Year 3 to Year 6 to have trainers to change into especially if they are playing football. We will provide children with pens, pencils and other equipment but children can bring their own small pencil case with equipment in if they wish. Children shouldn't bring in toys, comforters or PE equipment like balls from home.

What about reading books?

Children will be able to take home reading books and change them in school following the systems already in place.

What about intimate care?

Where children need support with toileting such as a nappy change staff would wear PPE and change from side on.

What about First Aid?

Children with little bumps and cuts would be encouraged to treat themselves where possible. In more serious cases trained staff would support more closely following first aid guidance.

Will the school be cleaned?

We will maintain our enhanced cleaning regime taking into account the fact that we will have a full cohort of children in. Staff clean surfaces and contact points within their room during the day. Toilets will be cleaned through the day. We have installed hand sanitiser points around the school too. Children will be taught about keeping clean and where age appropriate children may well wipe down the work surface where they are working.