



Clifton Primary School

Returning to School Parents Guide - September 2021



Dear parents/carers, we hope that you have had a happy and safe summer holiday. We are really looking forward to welcoming your child to school next week.

As the country has moved to Step 4 of the roadmap and as we all continue to live with COVID-19, the way the school is set up and organised will slightly different to the previous term.

There have been some Government changes to the guidelines for schools. Here is a guide to our current procedures and ways of working. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please read all of this information in full

Bubbles are no longer in operation

The Government has recommended that schools no longer use a bubble system. This means that the children may now all start and finish school at the same time, eat their lunches in the school hall, mix with other classes at playtimes and teachers may go between the different classrooms.

Attendance

Attending school is compulsory. Your child does have to attend by law and you may be fined by the Local Authority if you do not send your child to school.

Please follow the school's usual absence reporting procedures if your child is unable to attend school for any reason, by calling the school office on 01482 325913.

Children strictly cannot attend school if they themselves displays symptoms of COVID-19:

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

Breakfast club

Our FREE Breakfast Club will be reintroduced for all children in FS2 – Y6 from Wednesday 8th September.

Breakfast Club starts at 8am, with the last admission at 8:20am. In Breakfast Club, children are given a breakfast of toast and cereal, and they play games and read books with their friends.

Parents on the school site

It would be preferable if only one adult accompanies and collects your child to the school. This is to reduce the amount of adults around the school site.

We ask that all parents maintain a good social distancing between others while on the school site. Although the 2m rule is no longer expected, many adults may well be feeling anxious about being close to others. Please respect everyone and maintain a reasonable distance from others.

Parents are asked not to congregate at the school gates. This is to reduce the risk of infections between adults.

Times for the school day

Following the government guidelines, we no longer have staggered start and finish times. Year 1 – Year 6 start and finish at the same time:

**School doors open at 8:45am
(arrival after 8.55am will be marked as late)
School finishes at 3:15pm**

Start of the day arrangements

FS1 – drop off at the EYFS gate

FS2 – drop off at the EYFS gate

Year 1 – enter through the KS1 playground gate

Year 2 – enter through the KS1 playground gate

Year 3 – enter through the KS2 playground gate

Year 4 – enter through the KS2 playground gate

Year 5 – enter through the KS2 playground gate

Year 6 – enter through the KS2 playground gate

Home time arrangements

Year 1 to Year 6 will dismiss at 3:15pm

*Children from Year 4 onwards can walk home alone if their parents wish. Parents must inform the class teacher if they would like their child to have permission to walk home alone

What to bring to school

Please can children bring:

- Packed lunch (if they wish to have their own food for lunch)
- Book bags
- PE kits

Lunchtimes

The new menu is available on the school website and has been sent to parents. As usual, school meals are free for all children in Foundation Stage 2, Year 1 and Year 2 as part of the infant universal free school meal arrangements.

We will return to eating lunches in the main school hall.

Children may choose to bring a packed lunch of their own to school. Packed lunches must be healthy and not contain chocolate bars or fizzy drinks.

School uniform

We would like your child to wear their uniform on their return to school. Please talk to a member of staff if you have any problems with this. Please ensure your child's clothes are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Long hair should be tied up and it is recommended that children keep their nails cut short.

Face masks

It is currently NOT recommended that primary school aged children wear facemasks in a school settings.

Adults on the school site may choose to wear face masks if they wish.

If there is an outbreak of COVID cases at the school, we may recommend face masks to be worn by all adults.

School office

We ask that visits to the school office are kept to a minimum and, where possible, parents telephone the school instead.

If a visit is required, please ensure that only one family/household stand in the school entrance. If someone is already in the office area, please wait outside until it is safe for you to enter.

Behaviour of children

It is important that children follow the school's established rules and also the COVID-19 safety rules, which include washing hands.

Children must follow all adult instructions while at school. Children will be given lots of support to enable them to follow these rules and stay safe. Please support the school in preparing your child for their return to school.

Special Educational Needs Pupils (SEND)

Pupils with additional needs will be supported by the school staff and overseen by the school SENDCO (special educational needs coordinator).

If a child has a significant need, a risk assessment may be completed in order to ensure that all of their needs are met.

What will happen if a child becomes unwell?

If anyone in school becomes unwell with **a new, continuous cough or a high temperature** in an education or childcare setting, they will be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: [When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- A high temperature** (they feel warm to touch, they have temp about 37.8⁰)
- A new, continuous cough**
- A change or loss of sense of taste or smell**



If a child displays any of these symptoms, they will be asked to take a COVID-19 PCR test. The school asks that test results are shared with them, so that the safety of the other children and staff can be maintained.

If a child is awaiting collection from school, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated at least 2 metres away from other people. Staff looking after the child may need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE). In an emergency, 999 will be called if the child becomes seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. If children are displaying symptoms, you cannot visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

We ask parents keep the school informed of all tests that have been carried out and of the results. This is extremely important so that we can keep all of the children and staff in the school as safe as possible.

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

Contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace or household contacts of a positive case should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection - [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection).

Note that the following individuals do not need to isolate if they are identified as a contact but should follow the protocols in the guidance:

- those who are double vaccinated,
- those under the age of 18 years and 6 months,
- those who have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial or those who are unable to get vaccinated due to medical reasons

Under the new guidance, a class will not need to isolate if there is a confirmed case. Parents will be informed if there are several cases in one class (see 'Outbreak Management Plan').

Hygiene measures in place

To help reduce the risk of infection, we will:

- follow the *COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance*
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. All classrooms have 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, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, more regularly than usual
- ensure that lidded bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- ensure spaces are well ventilated while maintaining a comfortable temperature
- 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 thoroughly.
- 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.

In the case of an 'Outbreak' - 'Outbreak Management Plan'

If there is a confirmed outbreak of COVID-19 infections in the school, the school may be advised by public health officials to adopt a 'Outbreak Management Plan'. This will involve the school reintroducing stricter COVID safety measures. Parents will be kept informed at all times.

The threshold for an 'outbreak' for Primary schools is:

- 5 children or staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for Covid-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children or staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for Covid-19 within a 10-day period;

Additional measures may include:

- allocating children to a designated classroom group ('bubble') for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- reintroducing staggered start and finish times.
- using PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes as identified in our risk assessments, when it is necessary to do so.
- confining resources to rooms to minimise sharing and when sharing is essential (eg laptops and ipads), cleaning resources before transference.
- organising lunchtimes and playtimes differently, keeping children in their bubbles.
- being vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them
- removing and/or restrict access to some soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean.

Thank you for reading all of this information in full. We hope that you have found it useful.

If you have any questions about your child's return to school, please contact the school on

01482 325913

Or email questions to

admin@clifton.het.academy