

## Wider Reopening of School from March 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear parents,

On Monday next week, 8<sup>th</sup> March, the school will welcome back all children in all year groups. We know from the numerous conversations we have had with many of you that the children are desperate to get back to school to be with their friends and teachers again, and we can't wait to have them back either. We are writing now to give you some further practical information about how the school will operate between now and the Easter break, which starts on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

In summary, things will generally work in the same way that they did in the autumn term, from September through to Christmas. That said, there will undoubtedly be some anxiety amongst families and staff about returning to school, having been encouraged to socially distance as much as possible since January and avoid large groups. There is also a worry that as more people are vaccinated and restrictions begin to ease, that guards will drop; we as a community may not be as 'strict' with our control measures as we once were, and we may find ourselves having to close bubbles. With this in mind, we wanted to remind you of the key points that we all need to follow over the next few weeks.

1. The class/teaching group structure will remain as it was previously.
2. The beginning of the day will be flexible with children able to be dropped off between 8.40 and 9am. Staff will collect children from the gates, parents are unable to enter the site at this time.
3. **Face coverings MUST be worn by ALL adults** (unless medically exempt) at drop off and collection times as you leave your vehicles or walk into the drop off /collection areas. **Masks MUST be worn correctly, covering nose AND mouth.**
4. Only 1 adult to drop off or collect. Adults MUST socially distance from other adults and families at drop off and pick up times.
5. Collection at the end of the day will be staggered:
  - Any family with more than one child in our school or playgroup should collect them from the playground promptly at 3pm.
  - KS1 (YR,Y1,Y2) should be collected from the playground at 3.05pm.
  - KS2 (Y3,4,5,6) should be collected from the playground at 3.10pm.
  - At collection we will need your cooperation to ensure children are collected promptly and leave the site quickly to avoid any gathering and to clear the playground for the next group of parents to arrive.
  - The Village Hall car park is very busy at the end of the day. Please consider using the church car park if you can.
6. Children should return to wearing school uniform, as far as is possible. We know that sourcing uniform and shoes is tricky at the moment. Plain clothes, as close to school colours as you can get (no logos) and trainers are fine.
7. The transfer of items between home and school will be reduced:
  - Pencil cases and other stationary is not needed. We will provide everything the children need in school.
  - Children wear PE kit to school on their PE day to avoid the need to get changed. PE kit is not left in school.

- Monday Rubies & Sapphires
  - Tuesday Diamonds, Pearls, Emeralds
  - Wednesday Diamonds, Pearls, Emeralds
- Children in Sapphire class wear their gardening clothes on Fridays.
  - Children in Diamond Class wear their forest school clothes on Fridays.
  - No bags or rucksacks to be brought in. All equipment will be provided in school and we have nowhere to safely to store them.
  - Children in KS1 may bring a book bag.
  - Lunch boxes and water bottles may be brought in as normal.
8. Caterlink will reopen our kitchen and provide hot meals. A menu is attached to this email.
  9. Playtimes and lunch times will be staggered.
  10. We are unable to administer medicines at this time. Where it is essential that prescribed medication is administered within the school day, we will support the child to self-administer.
  11. In order to avoid large gatherings, events such as whole-school assemblies will not take place until the current guidance changes.
  12. There will be no after school clubs this side of the Easter holiday.
  13. This term finishes at 3.15pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

### **Rapid Asymptomatic Testing for Families with School-Aged Children**

The government has confirmed twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, to help find more COVID-19 cases and break chains of transmission.

Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or a class being sent home due to an outbreak.

There are no plans to test primary school children for COVID-19, unless they have symptoms, in which case they arrange a test via 119 in the usual way. These rapid tests are for members of the household only.

Tests can be delivered to your home, or collected in person from the testing sites in Gloucester, Cheltenham, Pershore or Worcester. There is also the option to take an assisted test at one of the centres.

If you would like to take up this offer, the link you need to get started is

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

To be clear, **these kits are not provided by the school**, they need to be ordered by families using the link above.

Testing in this way is optional, not compulsory, and children will not be prevented from attending school if you choose not to take up the offer.

Please remember to inform the school if anyone in the household tests positive on one of these lateral flow rapid tests.

### **Symptomatic Children & Families**

We must remember that COVID-19 has not gone away and therefore the following guidelines are absolutely critical to us being able to reopen in as safe a way as possible.

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above, stay at home and [arrange to have a test](#)

#### Stay at home and self-isolate

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have a positive test result but do not have [symptoms](#), stay at home and self-isolate as soon as you receive the results. Your household needs to isolate too.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, arrange to have a [test](#) if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a home self-sampling kit, a test site appointment or a test result.

If you are notified by NHS Test and Trace of a positive test result you must complete your full isolation period. Your isolation period starts immediately from when your symptoms started, or, if you do not have any symptoms, from when your test was taken. Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms, and the next 10 full days.

You can return to your normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 full days if your symptoms have gone, or if the only symptoms you have are a cough or anosmia, which can last for several weeks. If you still have a high temperature after 10 days or are otherwise unwell, stay at home and seek medical advice.

If you are isolating because of a positive test result but did not have any symptoms, and you develop COVID-19 symptoms within your isolation period, start a new 10-day isolation period by counting 10 full days from the day following your symptom onset.

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms at any point after ending your first period of isolation you and your household should follow the steps in this guidance again.

*Please remember to inform the school immediately if anyone in the household develops symptoms, receives a positive test result or is told to isolate by NHS Test & Trace.*

## **If you have a negative COVID-19 test result after being tested because you had symptoms**

If your test result is negative but you still have symptoms, you may have another virus such as a cold or flu. You should stay at home until you feel well. Seek medical attention if you are concerned about your symptoms.

You can stop isolating as long as:

- you are well
- no-one else in your household has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19
- you have not been advised to self-isolate by [NHS Test and Trace](#)

Anyone in your household who is isolating because of your symptoms can also stop isolating.

### **Support**

As always, please remember that we are here to support you. We absolutely understand that it is not easy to ask for help, but we can only help if we know. Whether it's someone to listen, someone to give advice, a referral to another agency or signposting other sources of support, we will do our best to help. You can always catch Mrs Kelsey or Mr Rickaby on the gates at the start or end of the day or call/email the office and someone will get back to you. We may not always have the answer straight away, but we'll always do our best to find a way forward.

Looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Mr Gibson, Mrs Kelsey and Mr Rickaby.