



Parent guide for March 8th 2021 full school reopening

Welcome back!

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced that the government intends to re-open primary schools in England on Monday 8th March 2021, with all our pupils (from Nursery to Year 2) returning on this date.

We have reviewed the latest Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance from the DfE and will be following all guidelines with regards to social distancing measures, respiratory/hand hygiene arrangements, PPE and ventilation (see latest Risk Assessment for controls)

We are looking forward to having WPA full of pupils once again and we are confident, with sensible protocols and procedures in place, that we can do this safely. In the meantime, please take care and stay safe.

Please ensure that from March 8th you park on the road leading up to the school and not in front of the school – there is some building work going on so please be careful when crossing the road. No parents or non-essential visitors are permitted to enter the school building or the school site. All parents and children line up along the fence during drop off and pick up. Please do not allow children to mix, run off ahead or stand in front of the school building.

Public Health advice to minimise COVID-19 risks

Essential measures:

- If your child is ill, they must stay at home
- If an adult has symptoms, they must not drop off a child to school
- We have planned for enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Robust hand hygiene will be in place
- We will be engaging actively with PHE and track and trace
- We will be encouraging social distancing in school wherever possible.
- Anyone who has symptoms must get tested and return results promptly
- We will ensure face coverings and other PPE is worn appropriately

There is more detail about each of these measures throughout this guide.

Dropping off and picking up

Our procedures for picking up and dropping off will remain as before so if you are not a new parent, you will know the protocol well.

Reception and KS1:

Due to small numbers, we do not need to stagger our drop off times at this point. All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupil arrive at school by 8:40am. We will ask that you line up at the school side gates, maintaining social distancing measures. Reception parents will need to line up by the Early Years entrance (to the left of the office). Parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2 will need to line up by the KS1 entrance (to the right of the office). If you have children in different classes, please drop off your oldest child first and then join the back of the line for the other class.

Both entrances will be open every morning and afternoon. Your child's class teacher will be at the designated gate.

All children's hands will be washed and sanitised upon entry. We ask that parents remain distanced and do not try to enter the school. We also ask all adults to wear a face covering (this can be a mask or visor) when dropping off and picking up. Please stand 2 metres apart and depart quickly once your child is in school to avoid congestion. The guidance is still that primary children do not need to wear face coverings at any time in school. However, if parents choose to send their child in a face covering, the expectation will be that parents will have trained their child how and when to wear it and remove it safely. Staff will not be permitted nor required to support children or handle their face coverings.

Nursery:

If your child attends our nursery all day (30 hours), please drop them off at 8:45am and pick up at 3:30pm. If 30-hour children are not staying for lunch, they will also need to be picked up at 11:40am and returned at 12:30pm.

15-hour morning children will need to be dropped off at 8:45am and picked up at 11:40am.

15-hour afternoon children will need to be dropped off at 12:30pm and picked up at 3:30pm.

Please line up by the small gate (to the left of the office); children will then be allowed through once all Reception children are in school. Upon arrival, if Reception parents are still queuing, please join the queue and we will then welcome your child in at 8:45am.

All children's hands will be washed and sanitised upon entry. We ask that parents remain distanced and do not enter the school grounds. We also ask all adults to wear a face covering when dropping off and picking up. Please stand 2 metres apart and depart quickly once your child is in school to avoid congestion. Children do not need to wear face coverings at any time. However, if parents choose to send their child in a face covering, the expectation will be that parents will have trained their child how and when to wear it and remove it safely. Staff will not be permitted nor required to support children or handle their face coverings.

Please note:

- Please keep your child with you at all times – do not let them run ahead of you.

- Maintain your distance from other parents – do not group together at any point on the school grounds or outside of the school grounds
- Queue up outside the fence, maintaining your distance.
- Parents will not be permitted to enter the classroom or school building.
- Please do not pick up or drop off your child late or arrive too early.
- It is your responsibility as an adult to maintain social distancing. Please ensure your child follows the guidance too.
- Staff will not be able to physically help your child into the classroom. They will encourage and support as much as they can.

Reception and Nursery classes - measures within the classroom

- Children will be grouped into their classes during classroom-based tasks.
- As our outside area is large, we will be able to facilitate free flow of children learning and exploring outside.
- The bikes, mud kitchen and other outside play resources will be available but will be used on a rota basis and washed between use.
- All children will have carpet time and phonics teaching every day. This will be done using carpet spot spacing and spacing out on tables.
- Resources will be cleaned in between sessions and sterilised at the end of each day.
- All staff will wear a face covering around the classroom. These may be removed when working at a distance, during whole class teaching and when outside.
- If other professionals/ staff need to visit another classroom, they will be required to maintain social distancing during the visit and wear a face covering. We will keep this to a minimum.

Years 1 and 2 class - measures within the classroom

- Children will be kept in their class group as much as possible.
- Children will not be allowed to play any close contact games and social distancing will be encouraged as much as possible.
- Whilst the same staff will be with class as much as possible, Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) will be covered by the principal
- All staff will wear a face covering around the classroom. These may be removed when working at a distance, during whole class teaching and when outside.
- If other professionals/ staff need to visit another classroom, they will be required to maintain social distancing during the visit and wear a face covering. We will keep this to a minimum.
- Children will have their own table and the table will face forwards. Group work and partner talk can and will take place but with social distancing and side-side talk being encouraged.
- Children will be provided with a small tray containing stationery that children use on a daily basis.
- Children will be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible.

What will my child need to bring/wear?

- Your child/children will need to wear their full school uniform. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods that are different to usual.
- Long hair must be tied back
- Jewellery MUST NOT be worn.
- Reception PE day is Friday and KS1 PE is on a Wednesday. Please ensure PE kit is in school for these sessions. WPA's PE kit consists of a house coloured top with logo, black shorts and trainers/ dap (see uniform section on the website for more details). We will be aiming to have the majority of PE lessons outside so please also ensure that your child has dark tracksuit bottoms and a warm hoodie/ sweatshirt.
- Your child will need to bring their book bag, coat, water bottle and a small packet of tissues each day. They may also bring labelled wellies.
- If your child has a packed lunch, this can be brought in their usual labelled packed lunch bag/box. All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.
- Children must not bring additional home items such as toys or blankets.

Curriculum

- Our curriculum remains broad and ambitious: all pupils will continue to be taught a wide range of subjects.
- We will also place an emphasis on wellbeing and social skills.
- We will also ensure that our remote education, where and if it is needed, is high quality and aligns as closely as possible with in school provision.
- The government has informed us that no external assessments will be in place: phonics (Year 1 and 2), foundation stage profile (Reception), End of KS1 SATS (in Year 2). We will instead carry out our own, in house assessments.
- Teachers will be assessing pupils from the beginning of term as we usually do and we will be supporting them to catch up on any learning they have missed or may need support with.
- The government has announced a 'Catch Up' package. However, we are likely to qualify for very little. Details will be issued to you as soon as we are informed.

Lunches

- School dinners and packed lunches for Reception to Year 2 will continue to take place in the dinner hall.
- There will be a one-way system (one door in and one door out) to minimise contact.
- Children will be required to wash their hands before and after eating. All tables and doors will be cleaned before and after dinner time.
- Our school meal provider is Edwards and Ward. Our office manager issued information on how to make meal choices. <https://www.gemswantageprimary.org/lunch-menus/> Contact the office if you are unsure: office@gemswantageprimary.org.uk
- All children from Reception – Year 2 will receive free school meals.
- If you provide a packed lunch, please ensure it is healthy. Chocolate bars and sweets are not permitted items. Do not provide your child with a fizzy drink.

Breakfast and after school club

- Breakfast club will restart on Monday 8th March for children in Reception – Year 2. This will be led by Miss Robins and will run, as before, from 7:40am – 8:40am. The office will contact you this week to confirm bookings. Please email office@gemswantageprimary.org.uk next week if you have not heard from us and wish to book a space.
- After School club - The government has allowed for small bubbles and groups to be mixed. Therefore, After School Club can and will operate. A separate Risk Assessments has been carried out and social distancing measures will remain. After school club runs from 3:30pm – 5pm and can be booked through Serious4Sport.

Limitations

- We will not be offering any other after school clubs e.g. music club for the remainder of this term to avoid further mixing. We hope to begin to offer these soon.
- We are not permitted to take children on educational visits out of school this term. We will create our own experience/ WOW days in school. We will also be utilising the fantastic virtual resources that many organisations have created.
- Where possible, we will sing and chant outside to avoid transmission.
- We are not able to hold parent assemblies or performances until further notice. These will be held online.
- No contact sports are permitted. This will include partner work in gymnastics for example.
- Staff meetings will be held online.
- Learning reviews, parent workshops and forums will be held via phone, Zoom or similar.
- Parents will not be permitted within the school building at any time (unless in case of emergency). This includes the school office.
- **If you need to speak to a member of the school team, please email the office (office@gemswantageprimary.org.uk) in the first instance and this will be passed onto the relevant staff member. Smaller messages and notes can be written in the child's reading record. Alternatively, please call the school office for more serious, present issues such as sickness.**

Prevention

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have COVID-19 symptoms, or someone in their household does, do not attend school.
 - Do not bring your child to school if they or someone in the household has symptoms. Book a test and inform us immediately.
 - If someone in your household or your child tests positive they must not attend school. Other members of the household should continue to self-isolate for the full 10 days. We will inform the Health Protection Team to seek advise.
 - You must inform school if your child or someone in your household has tested positive.
 - If a child shows symptoms whilst in school and is awaiting collection, they will be made comfortable in the first aid room.
 - PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection.

2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual

- COVID-19 is an easy virus to kill while it is on skin.
- Children will clean their hands regularly: on arrival at school, returning from breaks, before and after eating and when moving to new tasks.
- Children will use hand gel and soap and water during the day.
- Regular and thorough cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future.

3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

- Please provide your child with a packet of tissues and remind them of catch it, bin it, kill it
- Please practise using the language at home so that children recognise it as 'the norm'

4. Enhanced cleaning

- More frequent cleaning of rooms that are used by different groups
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned more often than normal
- Pupils will use designated toilets and these will be cleaned regularly
- Pupils will be encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet

Attendance

- It is your duty to ensure that your child attends regularly at school.
- A small number of children will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus – if this is the case, we will provide you with remote learning through Google Classroom (school-age) and Evidence Me (Nursery)
- Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will provide access to remote education. Absence will not be penalised in this case.
- All other pupils **must** attend school.
- If you have concerns, please do discuss them with us.

Full school uniform reminder:

Nursery

- School purple **sweatshirt**/cardigan with logo
- School polo shirt (with collar) with/without logo
- Any suitable leggings, skirt, trousers, jogging bottoms etc
- Trainers/ suitable closed shoes
- NO sandals or crocs please
- Wellies
- Waterproof trousers/coat/ all in one
- Coat

All pupils are expected to wear full school uniform

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

- School polo shirt (with collar) with /without logo
 - School purple **knitted** jumper/cardigan with logo
 - Navy blue trousers, shorts, skirt, culottes, pinafore
 - Navy or white socks or tights.
 - Lilac gingham dresses can be worn from April to October half term as summer uniform.
 - Plain black school shoes
 - Coat and wellies
- For PE:
- House-coloured PE T shirt with Logo
 - Black shorts
 - Black jogging bottoms (for colder days)
 - Trainers must be worn for PE
 - Warm hoodie/ tracksuit top for PE (for colder days)

Hair

- Long hair must be tied back completely each day.
- Hair accessories can be worn but must be navy blue, black or purple only. These must be small and not distract.

No jewellery is permitted. Please keep this safely at home.

Children must not attend school wearing nail polish or anything else that would distract such as visible temporary tattoos or extreme haircuts.

Key messages

Please remember: we are all part of the same team and we cannot wait to welcome you all back in safely. We will do our best to support all of our pupils and parents through this and make things appear as normal as possible.