

Return To School Plan



September 2020

Current guidance

The Government guidance released on Friday 28th August 2020 provided us further information for safety arrangements for schools from The guidance issued can be found in full [here](#).

Parent information is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

At East Boldon Junior School we have been working hard on our plans for a full reopening ensuring that we:

- ensure that the safety of everyone is paramount in all our decisions and actions
- fulfil the expectations required of us
- continue to provide a high quality, well balanced curriculum to best support our pupils in their education

Keeping children and staff safe

All schools must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures.

Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school, wherever possible, and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

All schools have been provided with a set of actions to 'prevent' and 'respond to infection' which are summarised below:

Prevention:

- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell
- clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- ensure good respiratory hygiene - 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- enhanced cleaning
- minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Response to any infection:

- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

→ manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community

→ contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Class and year group 'bubbles'

We will group each year group into 'bubbles' which will remain consistent and separate from other 'bubbles'.

For all of their time in school the children will be in their own year group bubbles with their own teacher and support staff.

Attendance

All children will be welcomed back to school from **Tuesday 8th September**. All year groups will be required in attendance.

We support the government here which notes:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.

Shielding children

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1st August. Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, please contact a member of the SLT team and we will work with you to support your child the best possible way we can.

Before Your Child Leaves Home in The Morning

Please check for any of the following symptoms

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

If any of these symptoms are evident book a test and do not send them to school, contact us on 01915362030 or email office@eastboldonjuniors.co.uk as soon as possible and notify us of test results once received.

Government advice must be followed, it can be found [here](#).

Travel to and from school

Children and families should ensure they are following social distancing guidelines whilst travelling to and from school and whilst accessing the bike store. We ask that there are no gatherings at the gates or our pathways to allow for a steady flow of pupils and parents arriving and leaving the site.

Morning Drop Offs

First day back – TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

To ease congestion, we will continue to have staggered start and finish times. It is important that we do not have parents congregating at the school gates and that we limit the number of interactions across bubbles.

We would encourage only 1 parent/adult to drop off and collect to help minimise the number of adults on site.

TIMINGS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT

Parents of older children will be asked (where possible) please do not come onto the yards in the mornings; we are encouraging a 'goodbye' and drop approach at gates if possible. There will be lots of familiar staff to welcome the children and guide them to their classrooms on our site and this will then limit congestion further to increase safety. Thank you for your support in this. We recognise this will be distressful for younger children and so we are asking parents to make judgements on their child's capacity to do this independently. If you feel they can – please do. If not – please feel free to walk onto the yards and bring them to their door.

End of the day – Collection

To ensure we are minimising contact and ensuring social distancing at the end of the day parents of older children are asked to not enter the yards if possible – the children will be led to their exit by the teachers and support staff. Please see the diagram at the end of this document for timings and exits.

Please can parents ensure they are on time to ensure a swift collection.

**Please note we will review the collection arrangements regularly and continually update according to the government guidelines to ensure they are working effectively, and we are happy with the safety precautions in place. Please be aware we will make amendments to timings if we feel it is necessary.

Arrangements in school

We will encourage the children to make good decisions about non-contact with others. It will not be possible, nor is it required, to enforce 2m social distancing measures in school. This means that children will encounter all the children in their class and they are likely to come into contact with pupils in their year group during play and lunchtimes. Children will wash their hands often and surfaces and equipment will be regularly sanitised.

Learning resources

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, **staff and pupils will have their own items that are not shared**. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently and meticulously or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different year groups.

Reading books can still be brought home, however on their return to school they will be placed in a box and left for 72 hours before returning to the shelves. If your child has a reading book at home, please send them back into school.

Assemblies

There will be no traditional whole school assemblies during the first part of the autumn term and these will be replaced by virtual assemblies which will be watched by children in classrooms on our large screens.

We are keeping an open mind about Harvest assembly and Christmas productions but all should be aware that full-scale productions look unlikely in the autumn term.

Enhanced cleaning regimes

Since lockdown and opening for keyworker children, our school has had enhanced cleaning systems in place and has also been regularly deep cleaned. We have adjusted our cleaning rotas with our site team to ensure that much more cleaning goes on during the school day – with particular attention paid to those surfaces that are frequently touched like door handles. School staff not normally involved in these duties like teachers and support staff have also been helpful in keeping their own classrooms clean and extra materials have been provided for this purpose. We anticipate these arrangements will stay in place until further notice.

Coats and bags

Please keep items brought into school to a minimum as much as possible. All pupils in KS2 need a water bottle. Children are asked to wear PE kit on PE days to reduce the need for PE bags and changing in school. This can remain on all day.

The importance of fresh air

Windows and doors will be left open as much as possible to aid ventilation. Teachers will plan outdoor learning activities and therefore it is essential that the children come suitably dressed for all weather possibilities.

Extra-curricular clubs

There are no clubs currently but this will be reviewed and will be phased in gradually as per guidance.

School office

School offices will remain closed to personal visitors. Parents should do all they can to ensure that children have all that they need for the day (e.g. packed lunches/water bottles) at the start of the day and if there is an instance where their child needs to be collected at a different time, they should telephone the school to make arrangements.

All other communication should be done by telephone or e-mail if possible.

Communication

Communication with parents is really important to us. Due to the current restrictions we would request that meetings with members of staff are by prior arrangement only so that social distancing and safety precautions

can be put in place. If you would like a phone conversation or a face to face meeting, please email or telephone the office 01915362030 to support making these arrangements.

Behaviour

In addition to our school rules children must be aware of the new requirements in the addendum namely that they must:

- Children will be supported to maintain distance and should not touch staff and their peers where possible. This may not be possible for some children with complex needs.
- Use their own specific equipment (including resources) and not share any of these;
- Not share any food, drinks, cups or water bottles;
- Work, eat and play in their designated groups, and minimise contact with children from other groups (including in the playground, anywhere on the school site and on our way to and from school)
- Move around school as instructed and avoid other people
- Never cough or sneeze towards another person; catch all coughs and sneezes in a tissue and throw it away (catch it, bin it, kill it), then wash their hands
- Wash hands frequently (including whenever they are asked to), with soap and water for 20 seconds (e.g. by singing happy birthday twice) or with hand sanitiser if instructed

It is essential that the children always listen to and follow instructions and adhere to the guidelines set by the government and the school. This is required inside school and outside during breaks and lunches. Any child who is unable to do this is risking the safety of themselves, other children and staff and we may ask parents to collect them immediately.

A risk assessment will then be completed to determine whether it is safe to have the child back in school. If we deem a child to be unsafe to have in school, we will work with parents to arrange provision the child can access safely.

School lunches.

Lunches will be eaten in the main hall. Hot lunches and school provided packed lunches will be offered for all pupils including those entitled to free school meals.

We have arrangements in place to ensure that during lunch time separation between 'bubbles' is maintained. Children will always have the chance to wash their hands before and after eating.

Packed lunches

Please ensure your child has all the cutlery they need and their meal is easy for them to manage on their own. It is up to parents if they send in disposable or reusable containers but we ask that they are fully cleaned and disinfected between use.

Availability of water on site

All pupils should have their own water bottle that is untouched by other children or staff. Water is available in each classroom for the children to refill their own water bottles.

School uniform

It is an expectation that all children will wear the approved school uniform except on days when the children have PE. On these days, we ask that children come to school in their PE kit to minimise any bags being brought into school. We expect our children to take great pride in their school and this is reflected in the way they dress for school.

Curriculum

Whilst we are confident that many children will quickly 'bounce back' after the lockdown we are aware that there will be some children returning who have experienced bereavements amongst friends or family or who have experienced anxiety or stress during this time.

We have planned a specially designed curriculum for our children to support their adjustments. We also have remote packages to revert to if needed.

Collective positive mindset – contextualising the lockdown

We do not feel that it is helpful to focus on what has been 'lost' during the shutdown. A young person's school career is typically 468 weeks long and most children have been out of school for 14 weeks, which represents below 3% of their total school career.

Moreover, during that time many of our children have been working hard and producing good work remotely and have benefited from time spent with their families, exploring and experiencing different opportunities to grow, learn and achieve in different contexts.

Our staff will remain calm and measured knowing that whatever the situation we have the staff with the best knowledge and experience of how to teach, and help our children in 'closing the gap' where required. We will not make our children worry unnecessarily or make them think that things are worse than they are and where issues present themselves our language will reflect our established 'growth mindset' philosophy – 'you can't do it yet'. We have got this, East Boldon Juniors family!

Assessment

Our teachers will make adaptations establishing 'what has to be learned' rather than sticking rigidly to our usual long term plans. Class teachers will use their own expertise to establish starting points for each class in the autumn term and will likely have to take 'a step back' in order to help children then move forward with confidence but each child and class will be different.

To strengthen routines, relationships and resilience it is important that, in a measured supportive way, teachers and children get back to established ways of working rather than spending too long on a formal testing regime, especially when children's confidence may be low.

Broad and balanced curriculum

Although there are some restrictions in place (eg singing in large groups) we fully intend to continue with our normal ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term.

Pupils with additional needs

We are aware that for some children with additional needs, returning to school after lockdown may cause additional anxiety or stress.

Staff will continue to be responsive to the needs of individual pupils and additional support will be provided where necessary. Small group or 1:1 support may take a different form in the autumn term so that adults and children remain safe. Staff who are in close contact with individual children may wear PPE.

Children or staff suspected of having COVID-19

In line with DfE guidance in the case of a suspected infection the school will:

- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. We ask that parents and staff inform the school immediately of the outcome of any test;
- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community. The school will text or e-mail parents with a notification of a confirmed infection including which 'bubble' this may affect. We will not share the names or details of people suspected of having or confirmed to have coronavirus;
- contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice. For the avoidance of doubt the new advice says that we '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' now means:

→ 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.

- When a case is suspected in school the child will be immediately isolated from other pupils and staff. Staff supervising these children should also try to ensure they remain two metres away while still aiming to provide the reassurance and care children will need. Enhanced PPE is available for these staff. The school will contact parents and request they collect their child from the school immediately.
- We ask that parents whose child has been identified as having a suspected case of COVID-19 should seek immediate medical advice.

The guidance says 'Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test.'

If no test is undertaken then we expect children to self-isolate according to the Public Health England guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance->

[for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection](#) and families should keep the school informed about their planned date of return following isolation.

In the event of a local authority wide lockdown: The school would revert to arrangements which were in place during the nationwide lockdown and remote learning will be continued.

We hope you find this update useful and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

East Boldon Juniors School Organisation



Who is returning?	Y3	Y4	5SC	5JM	Y6
Transport	Parents must follow social distancing procedures. Only one adult to drop off/pick up a child from school. Please no groups or mixing between families. To arrive only at the agreed time. PLEASE BE PROMPT AND VACATE THE PREMISES IMMEDIATELY FOR SAFETY REASONS AND BE AWARE OF STANDING ON OUR PATHWAYS AND NEAR OUR MAIN EXITS.				
Entrance/Exit? Times?	Gate: Park entrance	Gate: Park entrance	Gate: Park entrance	Gate: Main Gate	Gate: Main Gate
	Entrance and exit: Playground (follow RED arrows) 8:50 – 15:25	Entrance and exit: Soft surface - Main hall door (follow BLUE arrows) 9:00 – 15:35	Entrance and exit: Soft surface - Y5 door (follow GREEN arrows) 9:00 – 15:35	Entrance and exit: Garden - Y5 door (follow YELLOW arrows) 8:55 – 15:30	Entrance and exit: Garden - Y6 door (follow WHITE arrows) 8:55 – 15:30
Toilets	Y3 wing	Y4 wing	Y4 wing	Y6 wing	Y6 wing
Playtimes	AM break: 10:15-10:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:00 (lunch) 12:00-12:30 (playground) PM break: 13:45-14:00	AM break: 10:45-11:00 Lunch: 12:30-13:00 (lunch) 13:00-13:30 (playground) PM break: 14:15-14:30	AM break: 10:45-11:00 Lunch: 12:30-13:00 (lunch) 13:00-13:30 (playground) PM break: 14:15-14:30	AM break: 10:30-10:45 Lunch: 12:00-12:30 (lunch) 12:30-13:00 (playground) PM break: 14:00-14:15	AM break: 10:30-10:45 Lunch: 12:00-12:30 (lunch) 12:30-13:00 (playground) PM break: 14:00-14:15

Note: School has three main wings and three sets of toilets. Year 5 classrooms are on separate wings. So their toilets and break times are different from one another.