



Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to update you on our plans for the return of all our pupils on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. As we explained in our letter before the summer holidays, this letter today serves to outline in greater detail our plans for September and beyond, so thank you in advance for reading the measures below, and for emailing the school office should you have any questions or concerns about restarting next Monday; as ever, these plans are subject to change following daily risk-assessing, and direction from the Department for Education and Local Education Authority.

Before we explain our plans for Term 1, we would like to express our sincere gratitude that we are in a position to welcome back all our pupils once again. We are very much looking forward to seeing all pupils enjoying their time at school next week. We hope you have all had a restful summer break with your families.

**The first day of school for children in Years 1-6 is next Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.** The Government has made clear that pupils are once again expected to attend school every day. Children will be expected to wear full school uniform, too.

As you will know, it has been well reported that, across the country, cases of the Coronavirus in schools can often be attributed to adults associated with the school community such as staff, parents and carers, and visitors. Therefore, we want to continue to ensure we do not have a large gathering at the school gates; as before, we will stagger children's morning arrival and afternoon collection from school and ask that parents **do not gather at the school gate**. It is important that just **one parent** drops off their child at school each day to minimise the risk of transmission between households. To ensure your safety, and for reasons of transmission, we also ask that you do not enter the school building (unless by pre-arranged appointment). If you would like to arrange to speak with any member of the school team, please pre-arrange an appointment via the school office at [plumptonoffice@skylarkfed.education](mailto:plumptonoffice@skylarkfed.education).

The timings of our staggered drop-off and pick-up times are as follows:

**08.30am – 08.40am** – Kingfishers Class (Yr. 4/5) and Owls Class (Yr. 5/6);

**08.45am – 08.55am** – Woodpeckers Class (Yr. 2/3) and Lapwings Class (Yr. 1).

At the end of the day:

**3.00pm – 3.10pm** – Kingfishers Class (Yr. 4/5) and Owls Class (Yr. 5/6);

**3.15pm – 3.25pm** – Woodpeckers Class (Yr. 2/3) and Lapwings Class (Yr. 1).

We will make use of our two site entrances at Plumpton School to invite two class bubbles to arrive at a given time (you will still arrive at the front gate as normal, and drop your children off there). A senior member of staff will be on the gate each morning to help guide children to their classrooms safely. The youngest children (our Robins Class) have already been informed of our plans to welcome them.

Additionally, we are very mindful that we have split year-group classes within our school. The school will ensure these split year groups have opportunities to share and enjoy playtime and lunch time sessions together each day. Children will be able to play in year group bubbles, supervised by a member of staff; as before the summer holidays, children will also play in different 'zones' across the playground to avoid large gatherings of pupils in one area.





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Furthermore, Breakfast and After-School Clubs will **recommence from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, too**. Breakfast Club will be open from 7.45-8.30am (Monday – Friday). After-School Club will be open from 3.00-5.30pm (Monday – Thursday). We will be restricting numbers to **15 children maximum**. **Breakfast and After-School Club will need to be booked and paid for in advance of the sessions.**

As well as preparing for a return of all pupils from next Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, we are also mindful that we may still be required to offer remote learning with little or no notice if we find ourselves subject to a localised or national lockdown. As a result, in the first few weeks of term, we will also share with pupils and their parents individual log-in details for bespoke live online learning via **G-Suite** should it be necessary.

Finally, all children who are attending an educational setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to school/childcare, and their parents/carers need not self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting. Further guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>.

Thank you for taking the time to read this more detailed summary of the measures that will be implemented from September to ensure children are safe at Plumpton Primary School. Below, we list these measures as a handful of bullet points for your reference, as well as providing you with a reminder of some other measures first implemented before the summer holidays:

- Pupils will arrive at school and leave school according to the staggered times outlined above;
- Indoors, pupils will remain in consistent class bubbles throughout the school day;
- Pupils will play in year group bubbles and in zones during play times and lunch times;
- Breakfast and After-School Clubs will be limited to 15 children, and must be booked in advance;
- G-Suite log-ins will be provided in case of localised/national lockdowns in the future;
- Children will be prioritised for testing should they display any symptoms;
- Class sizes will be kept relatively small and classrooms well-ventilated;
- Children will wash their hands frequently throughout the day, including on arrival at school, before home time and between sessions;
- Cleaning staff will clean the school site at the beginning of the day and in the middle of the day, with a particular focus on high-touch areas such as switches, door handles and tables.

Thank you again for taking the time to familiarise yourselves with these measures. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Very best wishes,

Mr. S James  
Executive Head Teacher

Mr. J Hughes  
Head of School





## FAQs – 01.09.2020

**To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, but is subject to change.**

**The Government guidance for parents and schools is very long. What are the main points I need to consider?**

Attached to this email is a guide for parents from the Government which breaks down the guidance into key points. The 'headlines' for Plumpton Primary School are:

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- Cleaning staff will clean the school site at the beginning of the day and in the middle of the day, with a particular focus on high-touch areas such as switches, door handles and tables.

**Pupils are now, largely, in class bubbles. Do they still need to practise social distancing within these bubbles?**

Across the country, primary school pupils will now spend much of the school day in 'class bubbles' of up to 30 pupils. Unlike before the summer holidays – when we returned in June – pupils will be unable to sit 2 metres apart as pupil numbers have now increased considerably. However, we will still encourage pupils to maintain social distancing wherever possible; for example, we will discourage prolonged physical contact between students. To support this, we have also adapted the classrooms of our older pupils to ensure pupils are not facing one another on group tables, but the class teacher and the front of the classroom.

**Will my child interact with pupils in other bubbles?**

We are very mindful that we have split year-group classes within our school. The school will ensure these split year groups have opportunities to share and enjoy playtime and lunch time sessions together each day. Children will be able to play in year group bubbles, supervised by a member of staff; as before the summer holidays, children will also play in different 'zones' across the playground to avoid large gatherings of pupils in one area.

**Do I send my child to school if I have just returned from a summer holiday abroad?**

Please refer to the Government's list of countries and territories from where you can travel to England and may not have to self-isolate: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>.





## **What are the expectations regarding pupil attendance?**

The government has made clear that all children are to return to school in September. The law governing pupil attendance is now the same as before the Lockdown.

## **How can I keep my child safe, and those in their bubble?**

Everyone should follow the official Government advice. This may change regularly but the key messages of social distancing (staying at least 1m+ apart) and not mixing with other households are essential. We really appreciate your support in reinforcing these messages at home.

## **How will the school day look from now on? Will it be 'normal' for pupils?**

We have had to make some changes to the normal school day, including moving assemblies from the school hall (where we once had all our pupils together) to classrooms where pupils will remain in their class bubbles. We will gently guide pupils through these modifications when they return on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

## **How can I ensure my child is well-prepared for the new health and safety arrangements at school?**

Please ensure that any long hair is tied back and that, if your child is wearing shoelaces, they are able to tie these themselves. This will help prevent teachers having to get too close to pupils.

## **What should pupils bring with them each day?**

Pupils may now bring their book-bags to school with them; although, we still ask parents and carers to limit the number of items children transport between school and home. As ever, we discourage children to bring toys and personal effects with them to help prevent potential transmission between school and home.

## **How are you risk assessing this wider return?**

As before the summer holidays, all schools in the Skylark Federation have a live risk assessment which is updated daily – and even hourly – following constant reassessment of the risks posed. These measures form part of what has been highlighted in the above letter.

## **When children are working in their classrooms, will the rooms be well-ventilated?**

Yes, at the beginning of each day all windows are opened in classrooms (and remain so for the entire day). Additionally, all doors are propped open, too.





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## **What time does my child need to arrive at school?**

The timings of our staggered drop-off and pick-up times are as follows:

**08.30am – 08.40am** – Kingfishers Class (Yr. 4/5) and Owls Class (Yr. 5/6);

**08.45am – 08.55am** – Woodpeckers Class (Yr. 2/3) and Lapwings Class (Yr. 1).

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## **How will Parents' Evenings and Opening Afternoons work this term?**

As we continue to emerge from Lockdown, we expect Open Afternoons and Harvest performances to be conducted virtually. We will communicate our plans for these events and for Parents' Evenings with you in due course.

## **Can you explain the school's Safeguarding arrangements from September?**

We appreciate that the Lockdown will have been challenging for families. Accordingly, we are ready to respond to the challenges that may arise when we welcome all our pupils back to school next Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Communication is key: please let us know if there are any issues we should be aware of at school.

## **What are the school's uniform expectations?**

Pupils are expected to wear full school uniform: the normal school uniform code applies.

## **What are your school-dinner/catering arrangements?**

Chartwells – our school catering service – has ensured that all food preparation and serving arrangements are Covid-secure. In addition, all their staff are trained in these measures. The amended school timetable also provides us the opportunity to stagger lunch times and to sanitise chairs/tables between sittings.

## **What happens if there is a confirmed case?**

If there is a confirmed outbreak at school, local health teams will work with the school to agree what action is needed.





## **Will my child be eligible for testing if they display symptoms of the coronavirus?**

All children who are attending an educational setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to school/childcare, and their parents/carers need not self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting. Further guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>.

## **Will teachers be wearing PPE?**

Only for first aid, intimate care duties and if a child displays symptoms of Covid-19.

## **Will there be temperature checks for children?**

We will no-longer test every pupil's temperature on arrival; instead, small, consistent class bubbles will be the principal control measure for helping prevent potential transmission of the virus.

## **Can a single adult bring their other children to drop-off?**

Yes, as long as they do not interact with any other children, adults or families on the school gate.

## **Will staff be able to comfort children in the same way if they are upset?**

Staff will not be able to touch children except for first aid or intimate care, but we will be able to comfort pupils verbally.

## **How will going to the toilet work?**

The youngest children will have access to their normal toilets. Older children will operate on a one-in-one-out basis.

## **How will lunches work?**

Children will eat with others in their classroom/year group bubble. We will stagger lunch times to limit the numbers of pupils in the school hall at any one time.

## **What happens if we are late for our scheduled drop-off time?**

You will have to arrive at 09.15am, once the last of the staggered groups has arrived for the day. This is to minimise interaction between groups.

