

Full opening of School - September 2020

Please find below a list of frequently asked questions from parents. We do hope you will find them useful. We will continue to add to these and amend, following the latest Government/DfE guidance.

Will Breakfast Club and After School Club start again?

From Thursday 3rd September, we are able to offer Breakfast and After school club for parents who wish to use this provision. Happy Faces and Breakfast Club are reviewing their Risk Assessment procedures in line with the latest DfE Guidance. Breakfast Club starts from 7:45am. Places must now be pre-booked. To register for a place, please email bc@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk

The afternoon provision will be available from 3:00pm-6:00pm and is run by Happy Faces. To register for a place, please contact Karen Reddy - karen@happyfaces.info

Children will be kept, where possible, within phase groups whilst at Breakfast and After School Club. It will not be possible to separate year groups whilst running a workable provision. However, the pre-booking arrangements will facilitate constant groupings so far as possible. We have assessed the potential risk associated with managing this provision in this way, whilst bearing in mind its important function for working parents.

We will continue to review this provision regularly, taking account of any further amendments to the Government guidance for schools and educational settings.

Will my child be taught by their normal class teacher?

Children will be taught for most lessons in their class group of up to 30 pupils, with their new teacher/teachers. Classes will be further 'grouped' by their year groups for breaks, lunchtime and assemblies.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes. Children should wear full school uniform each day. Please ensure that this is washed as regularly as possible. From September children will be able to get changed for PE and sessions will be outside whenever feasible.

What are the drop off and collection arrangements at school?

Parents will be provided with information for drop off and collection for each class and year group for September. Parents must follow the one way system. No more than one adult from the household should bring the child/ren to school. The school will initially operate a staggered start/finish. Year 6 are encouraged to come to school by themselves, observing social distancing or be dropped at the main school gate. From September, the school is unable to allow for siblings or children with child minders to be collected early or late. We recognise that for parents or childminders with siblings, a staggered start and finish time will mean that you may need to walk around the one way system to wait to drop off and/or collect your child. However, due to the increased numbers of adults on the school site, we request that you do not wait within the school

grounds. We are unable to accommodate pupils leaving earlier or later, as this would pose additional risk as well as logistical difficulties with increased numbers, as well as impacting on curriculum delivery. All children should be collected at their allocated time. This system, along with the timings will be regularly reviewed. Separate arrangements and times are in place for children who arrive by assisted transport.

Can my child be dropped off and collected from the school office?

If your child has a medical appointment, is late or requires an early collection, please advise the school office in advance and sign them in or out using the electronic system.

Can I bring siblings to school on the pick-up and collection?

If your child has siblings that have a different drop off, collection allocation, then yes they may come with you on the school run, if there is no one else to safely look after them. However, they should stay with you once you have dropped your other child off, and leave the school grounds with you via the one way system until their allotted time if later.

Will my child be taught in their normal classroom?

Children will be taught in their new classroom.

Can I come to the school office?

In order to reduce the number of adults in school, we ask that you do not enter the school building unless it is an emergency, or that your visit has been pre-arranged. Please telephone or email as your main form of communication. We are setting up a communication system where you can arrange to call your child's class teacher, if you need to speak with them. (Further details to follow). Jill and members of the leadership team will also be available, where possible, to speak with parents either during the course of the day, or between 4:00pm-6:00pm after school by telephone. Separate arrangements are being made for 'meet the teacher' and parents' evening, to enable you to 'meet' virtually. This system will be kept under regular review.

What arrangements in place for lunchtime?

A staggered rota will be in place for lunchtime. We are hoping that a full hot meal option will be available from September. We are awaiting information from Chartwells and will update parents once we have received this. The children will have lunch either in their classroom, in the dining hall or outside. If children bring a packed lunch, they should put this under their table.

Will children still get playtimes?

Yes, children will have staggered playtimes and will be supervised by adults allocated to their year groups. Children cannot bring toys to play with into school, as these could spread infection. Children will be allowed to play with others within their class and year group. Equipment will be available and will be cleaned after use. Children will not be

able to play with others outside of their class or year group. We will continue to follow Government guidance and review.

What should my child bring to school?

For children in Year 3 and above, we ask for your child to bring in a small pencil case with a small number of pencils, pen, a ruler and glue stick. This equipment will come in to school (named) and stay in school so we can reduce the risk of transmission. Children may bring a reading book that can stay in school for the week. Please ensure no additional items from home are brought in to school. Your child should also bring a water bottle (named). The water fountains have been turned off to reduce the risk of infection.

Snack times

Children from Nursery to Year 2 will have fruit, as part of the National Fruit Scheme in schools, healthy snack time. For children in Years 3 to Year 6, children are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable to have at playtime. This should be kept separate from their packed lunch. Please note we are a nut free school.

Can my child access the toilets?

Children will have access to the toilets as usual, but will be allowed to go in staggered order. They will need to wash their hands as they leave their classroom and then wash their hands as they would normally do when leaving the toilets. Where practical an adult will observe younger children, however, as an extra precaution all children/adults will be asked to use hand sanitiser as they re-enter the classroom.

Is hand sanitiser available in school?

Yes, we will be promoting good hand hygiene and children/adults will also use hand sanitiser whenever they enter a classroom. Hand sanitiser is also available in all offices.

What are the routines for hand washing?

Regular hand washing will be implemented throughout the school day. Children and adults will wash their hands as they enter school, before and after breaks, lunchtimes and before they leave at the end of the day, as well as when they go to the toilet.

What if my child feels unwell or is displaying Covid-19 symptoms?

In order to reduce the risk of the infection spreading, **you must not send your child to school if they are unwell and they must not come to school if any member of the household has COVID-19 symptoms**, or have tested positive in the last 7 days and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home. If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and told to follow 'stay at home' guidance for households with possible confirmed COVID-19 infection (<https://www.government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>), which sets out they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and they

should arrange to have a test <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> to see if they have Covid-19. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.
PPE must be worn by staff caring for a child if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.

How will the school engage with the NHS Test and Trace Process?

WCPS will ensure that staff members and parents understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

Book a test if they are displaying symptoms and provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> Self isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops Covid-19.

Tests can be booked online through the NHS test and tracing for coronavirus website. (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/>) or ordered via NHS119 by telephone for those without access to the internet.

By the Autumn term all schools should have been provided with a small number of home testing kits that can be given directly to parents collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at school, where we think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. Advice will be provided with these kits.

Parents and staff must inform school immediately of the results of their tests.

- If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to COVID-19, they can stop self isolating and other members of their household can stop self isolating.
- If someone tests positive, they should follow the stay at home guidance and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of the symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first become ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days.

How will school manage confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community?

School will take swift action when they become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive. The school will follow the latest guidance, including contacting the local health protection team. The team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive attended the school-as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The school will work closely with the Health Protection Team (HPT) to guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on the advice from the HPT, schools 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. The school will follow the system of controls measures. We will update this information in September as appropriate.

How will the school manage curriculum expectations?

The curriculum will remain broad and ambitious. Modification to the curriculum will occur at the beginning of the academic year, to settle children back into school so that they are happy to learn, and then address gaps in knowledge. Curriculum planning will be informed by using regular formative assessment.

A Catch-up support package is due to be provided to schools and we are awaiting further information on funding and guidance.

As a school we will also provide pastoral support provision. We will aim to support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement. We will address and equip pupils to respond to the issues linked to Covid-19. We also aim to support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental well-being,

How will the school manage physical activity in schools?

Sport and physical activity will be provided whilst following systems of control. Pupils will be kept in consistent groups, sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned and contact sports will be avoided. Outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible.

WCPS will use the following guidance to safely provide [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation](#). We will also follow guidance provided by Sport England. Children should bring their PE kits to change into for PE and these should be taken home and washed weekly.

How will the school manage music in schools?

WCPS is keen to offer music sessions to the pupils. We will carry out Risk Assessments to reduce the risk, following the Merton Music school Risk Assessment guidance.

Limiting group sizes, physical distancing and playing outside wherever possible. Music sessions will take place where good ventilation is available and instruments will not be shared.

What will happen to Online learning

A number of Online learning resources will continue to be provided for children in Nursery to Year 6 as part of home learning (Homework) activities.

Schools have been advised to prepare to offer immediate remote education from the end of September to plan for the possibility for a local lockdown. We are doing this.

Will the online learning platform move to live lessons?

WCPS is looking strategically at platforms, including Google classrooms to deliver interactive lessons, and Google meets to communicate with both children and parents as

part of the plan of the possibility of a local lockdown, in order to ensure continuity of education via remote learning.

What are the behaviour expectations at WCPS?

The schools Behaviour Policy will be re-launched in September and will be available on the school website and shared with pupils at the start of the new school year. A Return to School Behaviour Policy is also available that is related to safety measures/Covid-19 for keeping safe.

Can I talk to my child's class teacher?

As always, communication between class teacher and parents is very important. However, due to social distancing rules, and the need to minimise the number of adults at school, meetings will be difficult. We are looking at ways you can communicate with and 'meet' your child's class teacher during the early part of the Autumn term. More details will follow. Please do contact the school office via email if you would like the class teacher or a member of the leadership team to contact you. Jill or a member of the leadership team are available to take calls between 4:00pm to 6:00pm, so please feel welcome to make contact.

Can children or staff wear PPE including facemasks?

Government Guidance states: "Schools and other education settings should not require staff or children to wear face coverings. Changing habits, additional cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus." Staff may however, wear protective equipment if a child or adult becomes unwell; if intimate care is required; or if a risk assessment supports the use of PPE. Children will be advised of this.

Will Social Distancing Measures be in place at school?

We have put in place a range of protective measures and worked alongside the Local Authority and unions to risk assess and review these. The school's detailed risk assessment for September will be available on the school website. Our key overriding principle is one of safety and risk mitigation.

We will limit contact as much as we can, however, social distancing for primary children, particularly Early Years is not going to be possible. The Government has acknowledged in its guidance that, unlike older children and adults, Early Years and primary age children cannot be expected to social distance from each other and staff.

Should my child attend school?

School attendance is mandatory from the beginning of the Autumn term. It is the expectation that all children of school age should return to school from September onwards. The current guidance states that parents will be sanctioned for non-attendance. We fully recognise that some children will be anxious to return to school. We will work closely with parents to ensure all children feel happy and safe to return. We will also provide pastoral support and the support of other agencies where appropriate.

What are the transition arrangements for children joining Nursery/Reception in September 2020?

Due to the current guidance, it is anticipated that full transition arrangements will commence in September and will take place using a longer phased approach so that children feel confident and settled within their new environment. Separate communication detailing the transition arrangements for Nursery and Reception have already been sent to parents. Please also refer to the school website for the Nursery and Early Years Handbook for 2020.

My child is returning to school, what will the provision look like for them?

We will not be expecting children, including Nursery or Reception children to sit at tables all day. Children will be taught in their own class groups, of up to a maximum of 30 children. The provision will be similar to how it was before the Summer term, only with resources that can be safely wiped or cleaned at the end of the day. Where possible, children will sit at tables, alongside each other, facing the front of class. We will continue to maximise the use of outdoor learning so that children are not restricted to sitting at tables. A brief video is available on the school website for children/parents to visualise the school layout and routines. These will be explained to children on the day of their return and will be ongoing.

Will children have their temperature checked when they arrive at school?

There are no plans to take all children's/adults' temperature on arrival at school. We have been advised that this is just one of many symptoms, and it may not be present even if a child/adult has tested positive for COVID-19. If however a child/adult becomes unwell during the school day, then their temperature will be taken as part of the school's overall first aid procedures and you will be told to collect them and take them home. Follow the government's 'stay-at-home' guidance and arrange to have a test.

Will clubs start in September?

At WCPS, we need to take a safe and sustainable approach to fully re-opening. With rooms taking additional time to clean, extracurricular clubs will in the first instance, be delivered by sports providers. The clubs will be run outside (weather permitting). Providers will conduct their own risk assessments, following DfE, specific affiliation and/or Sports England guidance. The extra curricular sports clubs will commence with effect from 14th September. This provision will be reviewed regularly, with more details to follow. We are mindful of ensuring a variety of provision so far as possible within these constraints.

What should I do if my child is shielding or self-isolating?

A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self isolating and have had symptoms of Covid-19. Shielding advice for adults and children will pause on 1 August subject to a continued decline in rates of community transmission of Covid-19. This means that the small number

of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school. If rates of the disease rise in local areas, children from that area will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent. Some pupils no longer required to shield but who remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school. Parents are encouraged to speak with Mrs Dotchin, our Parent Support Advisor to discuss medical and health plans.

What systems of control measure will be in place at WCPS?

Schools must comply with Health and Safety Law, which requires them to assess risks and place appropriate control measures. The school has drawn up plans for the Autumn term that address the risks identified using the following systems of control: Requirement of people who are ill to stay at home; robust hand and respiratory hygiene; enhanced cleaning arrangements; active engagement with Test and Trace; consideration of how to reduce contact and maximise distancing. WCPS will ensure that controls are effective, working as planned and updated in relation to public health advice. Control measures will be regularly reviewed.

What are the school's plans to support pupils travelling to school?

Social distancing has significantly reduced available transport capacity. We will aim to support two types of travel to school: Dedicated school transport and wider public transport. We will work with the Local Authority to ensure the safe journey of our pupils with SEND to and from home. As a school we encourage parents, staff and pupils to walk or cycle to school if at all possible. Due to considerations of safe travel and increased cleaning measures, adults at school will be altering their work patterns, so that they can travel more safely during quieter times. If you have a blue disabled parking badge for your child you will be able to pick-up and drop-off at the main visitors gate near the kitchens. Please make sure that your child's blue badge is clearly displayed and that you advise the school office in advance.