

## Full reopening of school - 8 th March 2021

### FAQs

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.

#### Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes. Children should wear full school uniform each day apart. Please ensure that this is washed regularly. The Government encourages all schools to return to their usual school uniform policy. (Details of uniform are on the school website). Uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. Children should also wear a coat or school jumper on these days to keep warm..

#### What are the drop off and collection arrangements at school?

Parents should follow information for drop off and collection for each class and year group that has been provided. Parents must follow the one way system except for collection from AM Nursery and drop off at PM Nursery to enter and exit via Chase Alley.

No more than one parent from the household should bring the child/ren to school. The school operates staggered start/finish times. The school is unable to allow siblings or children with childminders 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. This will continue to be reviewed.

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 from their collection point. This system, along with the timings will be regularly reviewed.

We strongly request that once children have been dropped off/collected, parents immediately exit the school grounds and do not socialise or congregate on the school grounds or near Chase Alley or the surrounding roads.

Separate arrangements and times are in place for children who arrive by assisted transport.

Children who have been informed to self-isolate must not attend school to drop off/collect their siblings.

#### Will my child lose learning time due to staggered drop off/ collections?

The children will not lose learning time, the timetables have been adjusted to reflect the staggering of year groups. The full curriculum entitlement is being taught. Slight adjustments have been made to lunchtimes and reducing movement around the school to maximise learning provision.

### Will face coverings be worn by staff/parents/children?

Face coverings will be worn by **staff** in communal areas and corridors, where it is difficult to maintain social distancing. Face coverings are not commonly used in class and not in the Early Years. Staff can wear visors in the classroom setting.

**Parents** must wear face coverings if entering the school building. Despite measures there are times that it's difficult to socially distance, so parents are required to wear a face covering for these circumstances. **We would strongly advise parents to wear face coverings unless exempt.** Transmission related to schools is predominantly due to adults rather than children.

The Government guidance states that **children** under 11 Years of age are not required to wear face coverings. However, if there are particular reasons why parents wish their children to wear a face covering they will be allowed to do so, but they must be worn sensibly. This is an individual parental decision. If a parent wishes their child to wear a face covering to/from school, or within the classroom, they must store face coverings in a clear sealable bag and children must be taught how to remove them hygienically and safely. Children benefit greatly from being able to see, hear and read facial expressions. Wearing a face covering for pupils under 11 years will restrict this.

### Can I come to the school office?

If your child is late or requires an early collection, due to a medical appointment, please advise the school office in advance and sign them in or out using the electronic system. **Face coverings must be worn when entering the school building.**

### How can I communicate with my child's class teacher?

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. Members of the leadership team will also be available, daily, to speak with parents between 4:00pm-6:00pm by telephone.

You are encouraged to also use the home school diary/communication book or Tapestry to share information. The school office forwards emails to teachers, so please also email in if you need to share information concerning your child. How we communicate will be reviewed regularly. Please remember you can always contact our Parent Support Advisor Mrs Dotchin on

[parentsupportadvisor@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk](mailto:parentsupportadvisor@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk)

### 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 wear their PE kits to school when it is their PE day. This helps reduce congestion and eases the need to clean changing areas between lessons.

### **How will the school manage curriculum expectations?**

The curriculum will remain broad and ambitious. Curriculum planning will be informed by using regular formative assessment.

Children will participate in Year group appropriate subject lessons, which are differentiated to provide appropriate challenge and support. This is an important time for teachers to refocus the children on aspects of classroom routine and metacognition that have been absent from their recent learning experiences.

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,

Homework for children will be given to children, with a strong focus on reading followed by a focus on core curriculum subjects.

### **What are the assessment arrangements for this year?**

Children will be assessed when they return to school through in-class formative assessment [for example, looking at their bookwork, discussing work with teachers], brief quizzes or tests [eg spelling, times tables] and the usual end of unit assessments that teachers carry out.

Children will be quickly identified who would benefit from additional intervention programmes or work to get them back to their age expectation.

National SATs have been suspended for 2020/21. The school will be assessing children more formally in the Summer term and this will be reported to parents in the Annual Report and consultation meetings.

A Catch-up support package will be in place where pupil assessments have shown clear gaps in learning.

### **What will happen if a child has to self-isolate, a class has to self-isolate or the school goes into National or local lock down (remote learning)?**

The school's Remote Learning Continuity Plan will continue to be in place for when pupils need to individually self-isolate/a class/year group has to self-isolate and/or if the school is affected by National or local lockdown.

Pupils who need to individually self-isolate will have work provided for them in the Virtual School found on the website.

For any class groups that need to isolate, remote learning will continue as per lockdown 3.0, with the teacher providing live lessons, recorded lessons, resources

and individual work through Google Classroom.

### **What arrangements are in place for lunchtime?**

A staggered rota is in place for lunchtimes. Children have their lunch with their class and year group. School meals and packed lunches can sit together. The children will continue to have their lunch in the dining hall or outside (weather permitting). If children bring a packed lunch, they should put this under their desk. If you would like your child to have a school lunch please pay via Parentpay (for Years 3- 6 only).

### **What are the break time arrangements?**

Children will have staggered break times 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 bubble. Equipment will be available and will be cleaned after use. Equipment will be used on a rota basis. 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?**

Children in the younger year groups have been provided with their own stationery equipment which is frequently cleaned.

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 into school (named) and stay in school so we can reduce the risk of transmission.

Children in Years 3,4,5 and 6 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 6, children are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable to have at break time. This should be kept separate from their packed lunch. Please note we are a nut free school.

### **Class Celebration of birthdays**

We are a healthy eating and nut free school. We ask that pupils do not bring in cakes, sweets or similar for birthday treats for their classes. As an alternative parents may choose to purchase a book or a wet play game for the class. The items purchased for a child's birthday will be left for 72 hours before use. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

### 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 10 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 will be sent home and told to follow 'stay at home' guidance for households with possible confirmed COVID-19 infection ([Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)), which sets out they must self-isolate for at least 10 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 10 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.

[\(https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/) or ordered via NHS119 by telephone for those without access to the internet.

WCPS has been provided with a small number (10) 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 10 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 10-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 10 days.

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

WCPS 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 Public Health England 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 follow the NHS COVID-19 early outbreak management guidance and will work closely with Public Health England to guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on the advice from the Public Health England, 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 10 days. The school will follow the system of controlled measures.

**Has the school run through procedures before we have a confirmed case?**

WCPS has full procedures and plans in place to follow the latest government guidance should a confirmed COVID-19 case occur in school.

Please see the flow LB Merton Process Flowcharts (version 6 18/9/2020) under Protective Measures on the school website.

<https://www.wimbledonchaseschool.co.uk/news-events/protective-measures/>

LB Merton Process Flowcharts: What to do if there is a possible or confirmed case or an outbreak or cluster, of COVID-19 in school.

**What are the behaviour expectations at WCPS?**

The school's Behaviour Policy has been relaunched and is available on the school website and this has been shared with pupils. A Return to School Behaviour Policy is also available that is related to safety measures/COVID-19 for keeping safe.

**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 assessments are available on the school website. Our key overriding principle is one of safety and risk mitigation.

**Should my child attend school?**

School attendance is mandatory. It is the expectation that all children of school age should attend school. The current guidance states that parents will be sanctioned for non-attendance. We will work closely with parents to ensure all children feel happy and safe. We will also provide pastoral support and the support of other agencies where appropriate.

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

There are no plans to take 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. There are no plans for Primary school children to be tested at school.

**What clubs are available?**

At WCPS, we need to take a safe and sustainable approach. 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). Clubs will be run within year groups only. Clubs will be cancelled due to bad weather and parents will be informed to collect their child at the end of the normal school day. Providers will conduct their own risk assessments, following DfE, specific affiliation and/or Sports England guidance. This provision will be reviewed regularly and parents will be kept informed of any changes. We are mindful of ensuring a variety of provisions so far as possible within these constraints. Children are finishing the school day at staggered times and club leaders will be supervising the children from the dismissal of the first year group each day. Therefore children are able to go straight to their club once they are dismissed.

**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. 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 attending school. Parents are encouraged to speak with Mrs Dotchin, our Parent Support Advisor to discuss medical and healthcare plans. Where children are unable to attend school due to shielding, work will be set by the class teacher. This will form part of the school's remote learning strategy, available shortly.

**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 Spring/ Summer 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.

**Will there be any trips this year (including residential trips for Years 5 & 6)?**

Currently the DfE advises against all domestic (UK) overnight and overseas educational visits. Whilst this advice remains under review, we are unable to book trips at the present time due to insurance restrictions. There are no educational visits booked at this time. This will be 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 park in the main visitors gate near the kitchens for drop off and collection. Please make sure that your child's blue badge is clearly displayed and that you advise the school office in advance.

**Will Breakfast Club and After School Club start again?**

We are able to offer Breakfast and Happy Faces will provide After School Club for parents who wish to use these provisions. 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](mailto:bc@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk).

The after school provision will be available from 3:00pm-6:00pm and is run by Happy Faces. To register for a place, please contact Karen Reddy [happyfaceschase@gmail.com](mailto:happyfaceschase@gmail.com)

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.

**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 or leave a classroom. Hand sanitiser is also available in all offices and must be used on entering the dining hall.

**What are the routines for hand washing?**

Regular hand washing is 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.