

FAQs

Updated in line Government Guidance August 2021

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 from when it is their PE day (when they should come in PE kit). Please ensure that this is washed regularly. Uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.

What are the drop off and collection arrangements at school?

From September 2021 the school doors open at **8.45am** and the children will **register at 8.50am**.

The pick up times are;

Years Reception, 1 & 2 at **3.20pm**

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 at **3.30 pm**

These are the school times that were in place before the pandemic.

Parents should continue to try and 'drop and go' / 'collect and go' to reduce congregating on the school grounds.

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

How will I enter the school grounds?

Parents and pupils can enter and leave by either the Merton Hall Road entrance or the Chase Alley entrance. Each entrance will have an 'in' and an 'out' to try and reduce congestion - these will be clearly signposted.

Both entrances will be opened at 8.40am and 3.10pm.

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

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors where social distancing can be adhered to.

If social distancing cannot be adhered to we ask that face coverings are worn by all adults.

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.

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

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. An accelerated support package will be in place where pupil assessments have shown clear gaps in learning.

How will a child know what a 'close contact' is?

NHS Test & Trace will contact those who test positive – or their parent or legal guardian – to identify close contacts. They will ask a series of specific questions to help the individual understand what is meant by a close contact, making it easier for them to be identified. Being in a setting with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

How will the school know if a pupil or member of staff has tested positive?

We ask that parents and staff continue to inform the school of a positive test result.

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

We will follow government guidance and advice from PHE on a case by case basis.

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.

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?

There will be an increased number of clubs on offer before and after school. Children no longer need to be placed in bubbles. Club information is sent out through the SIMS Parent app.

Will my child need to self isolate?

From 16 August 2021, anyone under 18 who has been identified as a close contact with a positive case, is **exempt** from any legal requirement to self-isolate. Individuals are advised to take a PCR test as soon as possible and may wish to minimise social contact whilst waiting for the results of a PCR test

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)?

The Government guidance has stated that schools can now consider educational visits, which must be conducted in line with relevant COVID secure guidelines and regulations. Year groups are looking at possible trips this term that will support the topics being taught and that are safe to do. Any trips or educational visitors [for example a theatre group) will be rigorously risk assessed.

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 continually review 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 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

Can my child access the toilets?

Children will have access to the toilets as usual. 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.