

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - RETURNING TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2020

Please note that all information may be subject to short notice change

### **Which year groups are returning to school?**

The Government has asked all schools in England to welcome back ALL children into school full time from the beginning of September. All children will be a part of class groups which will operate as Class Bubbles of no more than 30. Lots of our classes have less than 25 children and we have lots of space in most of our classrooms.

### **Why are the government now asking all children to return?**

Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore all schools have to ensure that all pupils can return to school.

### **Does my child have to attend?**

All children must attend school unless they are self-isolating with Covid-19 symptoms, or are unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice. School will need evidence of this. The government have decided that parents will once again be fined for non-attendance.

### **How will you guarantee that social distancing takes place eg. keeping children 1m+ apart?**

Government guidance states that schools must introduce "consistent groups to reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of children and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group". The government also recognises "that children, especially young children, cannot socially distance from staff or from each other and this provides an additional protective measure. Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible."

We will of course do our very best to support social distancing, but in line with government guidance, parents must understand that in returning to school there is a very real likelihood that some children may touch adults and one another and may come into close contact. The age of some of our children is such that this may be unavoidable, and we cannot be expected to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are able to do but should be confident that hygiene measures are robust and children will not mix with other bubbles.

### **How can I explain social distancing to my child?**

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make them feel safe. Children in school during the summer term have managed distancing very well indeed.

### **What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?**

#### ***We will:***

- follow the 'COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings' guidance.
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available including hand sanitiser and tissues in classrooms and other learning environments.
- clean surfaces that staff, children and young people are touching, such as large toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more regularly than usual with antiviral disinfectant.

#### ***We will enable and support all adults and children to:***

- frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- clean their hands-on arrival at the school before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing, after the toilet or when dirty.
- not touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use special bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it').

- ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently.
- encourage young children to learn and practice these habits through games, songs and repetition.
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day.
- where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation e.g. opening windows and doors (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding).

### **Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?**

Government advice on the scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. When the weather is suitable we will be using outdoor learning where possible and will keep children in their Class Bubble within their classroom for most of the day. They will move with only children from their Bubble for intervention.

### **Will teachers and other adults move between Class Bubbles?**

All teachers and other staff will be able to operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable.

### **How will lunch time work to ensure children are safe?**

Lunches will be on a two-week rota with some lunches delivered to and eaten in classrooms or Bubble Play Zones and some taken in the dining halls. A mid-day Supervisor will be allocated to each year group to supervise, remove any rubbish and provide additional cleaning.

### **What other sorts of things will you do to make school safe for my child?**

In addition to social distancing and hygiene measures mentioned above, we will:

- give children a designated classroom (which we are going to refer to as their Bubble Class) for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- regular cleaning of the school and resources will take place.
- regular cleaning of the children's personal work stations.
- children will have their own stationery packs and not be allowed to bring in their own resources such as pencil cases, crayons, etc.
- use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes as identified in our Risk assessments.
- confine resources to rooms to minimise sharing and when sharing is essential, clean resources before transference.
- organise Class Bubble playtimes to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them.
- employ a set charter on safety in the classroom shared with all the children and staff at Glapton.
- remove unnecessary items from classrooms.
- remove soft furnishing, soft toys and small toys that are hard to clean.

### **Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?**

Children will be given their own stationery equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. Any resources that are shared (eg. large toys) will be thoroughly disinfected after use. Resources that are shared between Class Bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between bubbles, 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 bubbles.

### **Will everyone arrive at school at the same time causing an increase in risk?**

We have organised a staggered drop off and collection time for children and their parents from different gates. We also request that just one parent/carer drops and collects their children and to observe a 1metre+ social distance space around each family at gates. Parents will not be invited to enter the school site but will drop off as described above at their designated gate and time.

### **Will the school have assembly, sports days or other similar events?**

Bubbles will have an opportunity for reflection within their daily sessions, but there will be no mass gatherings as a school. Mrs Hurst will visit each bubble each week and virtual assemblies will take place.

### **My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?**

We ask that you help support your child by talking about what school was like before lockdown and what it will be like now. It will be a little bit different but lots will be the same. Use our 'Children's Guide to Returning to School.'

### **Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?**

No. The initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. We will also ensure that skills in English and Maths and other subjects are 'caught up' through our Catch-Up curriculum. We will be prioritising identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress in phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics, identifying opportunities across the curriculum so children read widely, and developing their knowledge and vocabulary. The curriculum will remain broad, so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects including sciences, humanities, the arts, PE/sport, RE and RHE on our Creative Fridays.

### **How will you know what my child needs to catch up on?**

Our curriculum planning will be informed by an assessment of pupils' starting points and addressing the gaps in their knowledge and skills using strategies such as quizzes, spelling tests, hearing them read, scrutinising a piece of writing and a check on phonics.

### **All tests were cancelled this year. Will my child be tested next year?**

Yes! All the usual tests will still take place in the summer term:

- the phonics screening check
- key stage 1 tests and teacher assessment
- the Year 4 multiplication tables check
- key stage 2 tests and teacher assessment

### **How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?**

In addition to that mentioned above, our SENDCO Mrs Pye and our Senior TA Miss Cosway will be working to ensure that all children's needs are met. There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play, rebuild friendships and have 'Time for Talk' for times when they may feel overwhelmed plus systems for sharing worries in each Class Bubble.

### **Will staff wear masks or PPE?**

The Government guidelines state, 'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way.
- if a child or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home, a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.'
- If any child or adult feels unwell, staff supporting that person will wear PPE to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19.

### **Can my child wear a mask to school?**

If you choose for your child to wear a mask to school this will be disposed of once your child has entered the safety of the school site. Your child will be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it. They will wash their hands immediately on arrival (as is the case for all pupils), dispose of the temporary face covering in a special bin or place a reusable face covering in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

### **Will my child need to wear a school uniform?**

Yes because this will ease their transition back into school and help them feel that things are back to normal. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate

tone. Uniform is easily machine washed and dried overnight if needs be although clothes do not need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

### **Will the breakfast club and after school clubs be open?**

Not straight away while we settle the children and assess how we can best safely use spaces to provide these services. We will provide breakfast if a child arrives to school hungry. Other activity clubs will phase in over the first half term.

### **Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?**

Only essential visitors or volunteers will be permitted to minimise additional adults coming in and out of school. We will ensure our site guidance on physical distancing and hygiene is explained to visitors on or before arrival. Where visits can happen outside of school hours, they will. A record is kept of all visitors.

### **Will the school office be open?**

Yes - Office hours are 8am to 4.30pm. Phone lines operate from 8am to 4.30pm only.

The start of the term is a very busy time of year with new admissions so your queries will be answered as soon as we are able. We will not be allowing parents to come onto the school site or in to the school building unless this has previously been agreed and only in exceptional circumstances.

Parents are requested to e-mail or telephone the school as opposed to presenting in person. We will communicate with parents electronically via the School Gateway app, e-mail, and via the website and partnership book.

### **Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children who do not return to school?**

No. However where a class, group or small number of pupils needs to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, we are expected to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education. We let you know the details of how this will work in September.

### **Will children and staff be eligible for testing for the virus?**

Parents/carers of school age children across the country should understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) for their whole household if their child is displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace.
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).
- We will ask parents and staff to inform us immediately of the results of any test.

### **What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?**

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below:

“If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or change in taste or smell in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to book a test. If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision. A window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. If they need to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate toilet. The toilet will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency, we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with possible symptoms they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see ‘What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?’ below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.”

**What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?**

We will follow the Government guidance set out below:

“When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their Class Bubble should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms. As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England’s local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children or young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.”

**Will there be any swimming lessons or trips once school opens on 2 September?**

There are no plans to take the children swimming until the summer term. Class Bubbles will be able to take their Class Bubble on a local trip if their risk assessment shows it is safe to do so.

**How can I speak to the class teacher if we are socially distancing?**

You can see your child’s class teacher briefly each morning or arrange a telephone call by e-mailing the school office. who will then pass the message on. Your teacher can then e-mail a response, or give you a call if appropriate.

**What should my child bring to school each day?**

Your child can bring their water bottle, lunch box (Year 2,3,4,5 and 6), mobile phone (Y6), coat, sunhat, school book bag and school PE bag. Please do not bring rucksacks or pencil cases.

**Are staff looking forward to seeing us again?**

Yes! We can’t wait to see you all again and get things back to normal where we can.