

## **Frequently Asked Questions - COVID-19 2020**

**Please note that all information is subject to short notice change**

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

The Government has asked primary schools to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 alongside priority groups. The Government's ambition is to bring back all primary school year groups for the last month of the summer half term if conditions nationally make it feasible. This will be kept under review.

We have opted to take a cautious approach to reopening school which will involve a phased return.

### **Why aren't all the children coming back?**

The DfE have based this on the need to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus so have taken into account the need to reduce numbers returning as a gradual process and ensure that smaller groupings in classes can be maintained.

### **If one of my children is eligible to return can't their sibling come back too?**

Sadly, the answer to this is 'no'. Siblings cannot attend unless they are in another of the selected year groups. This would raise the number of pupils attending the school.

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

All children in the selected groups may attend if parents wish unless self-isolating or shielding. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time and we will respect their choice.

### **I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is, should I send them back to school?**

Children who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. Children who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child is able to understand and follow those instructions. Children who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the social distancing guidance and including those who are pregnant, can attend. DfE May 2020

### **How big will the classes be?**

The DfE is recommending class group size should not exceed 15 pupils per small group (Bubble) and one teacher plus a TA where required. Where there are not enough

teachers, teaching assistants will lead a group. Desks will be as far apart as the room allows. Having completed audits and risk assessments, we will have some Bubbles of less than 15 as we believe that this is what our setting can safely accommodate.

**How will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?**

We will of course do our best to support distancing, but 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 and use this to inform their decision making.

**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.

There are some great stories and simple explanations to help e.g.

Time to Come In, Bear: A Children's Story about Social Distancing Written by Kim St. Lawrence Read by Ryan St. Lawrence.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA\\_SsZFYw0w&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA_SsZFYw0w&feature=emb_logo)

How to Explain Social Distancing to Kids

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HTA3ql6uWY&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HTA3ql6uWY&feature=emb_logo)

For very young children who may not understand the concept of viruses and germs, this video from Sesame Street's Grover is a great way to show them the "good" and "bad" of being far away and too close up to someone.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOrt8WMwVEo&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOrt8WMwVEo&feature=emb_logo)

**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 in classrooms and other learning environments.
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as large toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more regularly than usual.

**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 setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing, after the toilet or when dirty
- be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use 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.

- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise 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. With the summer weather coming we will be moving towards more of an outdoor learning approach, where possible and will keep children in their Bubble within one set classroom for the day.

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

Lunches will be delivered to and eaten in classrooms or Bubble Play Zones. No food or lunchboxes will be stored in classrooms and all rubbish will be removed at the end of the day. A mid-day supervisor will be allocated to each Bubble 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) for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- regularly clean the setting and resources.
- regularly clean the children's personal resources (pencils etc.). Children will 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 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 equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. Any resources that are shared (e.g. large toys) will be thoroughly disinfected after use.

### **I'm a keyworker and my child has been in the childcare provision throughout. My child is in Reception, Y1 or Y6 what will happen to them?**

Your child may join their year group in one of the Bubbles once it is safe to admit their class to school.

**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 ask just one parent/carer to collect their children and to observe a 2m social distance space around each family. Only one parent or carer should accompany the child to school to minimise risk. Parents will not be invited to enter the school site but will drop off as described above at the designated gate.

**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.

**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 and what it will be like now. It will be different. Use our 'Children's Guide to Returning to School.' It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending.

**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. The children, their families and our staff have all gone through an incredible period of change and experienced loss on a number of different levels. All have had changes in routine, loss of communication etc. and some may have sadly even experienced the loss of a family member. This shouldn't be ignored. We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed as another major priority with lots of outdoor learning.

**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 children's needs are met. There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, rebuild friendships and play. They will have Time to Talk, for times when they may feel overwhelmed plus systems for sharing worries in each Bubble.

**Will staff and children 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.*

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

Yes because this will ease their transition back into school and support the monitoring of washed clothes. The Government is advising that once returning from an educational setting, clothes should be removed and washed, and a clean set of clothes worn the following day. Uniform is easily machine-washed and dried overnight if needs be.

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

No, because all the physical spaces suitable for breakfast club are currently in use. We will provide breakfast if a child arrives hungry. Other activity clubs will bring too many children into contact and mix the school groupings.

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

No, until the situation is deemed safe, we would prefer to minimise additional adults coming in and out of school.

**Will the school office be open?**

This is a very busy time of year with new admissions and leavers so your queries will be answered as soon as we are able.

We will not be allowing parents to come onto the school site unless this has previously been agreed and only in exceptional circumstances.

I would ask that parents ring or email the school as opposed to presenting in person. We will communicate with parents electronically via the School Gateway APP, email, telephone and via the website.

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

We will continue to set home learning activities, during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. These will be posted to those without technology provision. Homework for pupils eligible to return will be posted on our website as the teachers will be busy with face to face learning and this limits capacity for preparing, printing and posting packs. Please contact school if you have any difficulties accessing this homework.

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

The government advice is: When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative.

Please see the newsletter June 9<sup>th</sup> for specific information.

### **Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?**

Access to testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work - including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers. Education settings, as employers can book tests through an online digital portal. There is also an option for employees to book tests directly on the portal.

### **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 or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance. If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE should 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, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, 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. See the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance.*

### **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 or group within their childcare or education setting 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, 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 June 1st?**

No, there are no plans to take the children out of the school grounds until further notice.

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

You can contact your child's class teacher by emailing the school office who will then pass the message on. Your teacher can give you a call if appropriate or email a response.

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

We do not want your child to bring anything into school with them other than their water bottle. Please do not bring PE kit, rucksacks, book bags or pencil cases or lunch boxes.

Please look out for emails and texts as information is updated daily from the DfE, review of Risk Assessments and guidance from the Trust.