

Frequently Asked Questions about Reopening:

When will other children be returning to school?

We will keep this under regular review and we will respond to any changes in the Government guidance. At the moment, we are unable to say if or when further eligible groups will be able to return to school. We are limited by the number of children we can take in a group whilst adhering to all of the required protective measures.

My child is in Year 6, will they get any time at school before the end of the year?

Now we have outlined the first phase of our re-opening plan, one of the next things we will do is write to our Year 6 children. They are very much in our minds and leaders will be working with the Year 6 teams to plan out what we can do to ensure that they have the best end to primary school we can possibly give them. We will be in touch with Year 6 families very soon.

The Government have said that 15 children can return to each classroom. Why can't Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 therefore come back into school?

Our school has an extremely high proportion of key worker families and these continue to be the first eligible group for school. We have measured our classrooms to give each child a 2m social distancing space from other children and to allow space for the adults and this means that we are only able to accommodate 8 spaces in each classroom.

Can my child wear a face shield/mask to school?

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. When used, face coverings must be worn, handled and disposed of correctly and we do not think that this will be possible within school and therefore may end up presenting more of an infection risk. Communication is such a key part of school life and we are asking that staff and children do not wear masks. Firstly, as they are not recommended within an education setting, but also because we think that for some children, this might be quite intimidating. Children may well see staff wearing PPE, including face shields, but this would only be when that was needed to ensure safety (please see question about PPE below).

My child's school uniform no longer fits. Do I need to buy summer uniform?

Where possible we want the children to be able to recognise this as 'school' and so ask that where possible children wear PE kits/sports clothes in as close to school colours as possible (white polo t-shirts or round neck t-shirts, green or black shorts) and that they wear trainers. We intend to spend as much time outside as possible and we don't want children to bring in additional clothes for PE. The Government also highly recommends that clean clothes are worn each day by children and staff.

Will staff be wearing masks or PPE?

Staff will wear PPE when:

- carrying out the enhanced cleaning regime during the day (disposable gloves and an apron).
- a child whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs.
- a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A face mask will 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 gloves, an apron and a face mask will 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 will also be worn.

If you have any concerns about the school's use of masks or PPE, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Will you take my child's temperature at the start of each day?

Government guidance states that settings do not need to take children's temperatures every morning and that routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus.

It is vital that parents continue to follow the standard national advice on the kind of symptoms to look out for that might be due to coronavirus. If anyone in your household develops a fever, or a new continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you are advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#) (which states that the ill person should remain in isolation for 7 days and the rest of the household in isolation for 14 days).

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

We will of course do our best to support distancing, especially with any adults in the school but the DfE guidance acknowledges that young children will find this particularly tricky: *'We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.'*

We will ensure that children in each group do not mix at any time and we will give regular reminders using our 4 key rules. Supervision levels will be high due to the low number in each group and therefore we will be able to consistently model and remind of the expectations. However, we know that children will find this difficult and there is every chance that children will touch adults and one another and come into close contact.

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

Children will stay with their group, whether this is in their allocated classroom or outside. Government advice on the scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission and therefore, we will take as much of our learning outdoors as possible and we will require children to come dressed appropriately for this.

Does my child have to come to school every day?

Full day and regular attendance is expected once school reopens as this is different to the emergency provision that we have been running at Ridgeway Farm.

My child is in the first priority group but I don't want them to attend – do they have to? What will happen if they don't? Will parents be fined if they don't send their children back to school?

No. While we are strongly encouraging children in eligible groups to attend, we will not penalise people for keeping their children at home. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools and colleges will not be held to account for attendance levels. We do ask that you contact the School Office to let us know that you won't be taking the place.

Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils? Can I send them in with their own pencil case?

Children will be given their own set of stationery for their use. They must not bring any equipment in from home. Laptops and iPads that are shared will be cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe after use. Children will be encouraged to maintain good hand hygiene.

Will children gather for Collective Worship?

Collective Worship will take place each day, within each group. The groups will not mix or gather for any activity.

What will my child be taught?

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. They have all gone through an incredible period of change and may have experienced loss on a number of different levels. This shouldn't be ignored. However, we also know that children like and need routine; therefore, new routines will quickly be established and when children are ready, we will continue teaching lessons as normal.

We plan to make use of our outdoor learning environment as much as possible.

We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed.

Will there be any clubs running?

No, we will not be running any after school clubs of any kind this term.

I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that my child being in school may put a family member with an underlying health condition at risk? How do I decide whether to send my child in or not?

The Government guidance states:

Children and young people 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 and young people 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 or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.

Children and young people 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.

Please contact the School Office if you are at all unsure how this applies to your situation. **You should not send your child to school if they are unwell. Anyone with any of the symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend.**

What happens if someone becomes unwell at school?

If anyone at school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

Whilst awaiting collection, your child would be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision. PPE will be worn by staff caring for your child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.

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

When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and pupils who are attending an education 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 or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group within school will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider group do not need to self-isolate unless the child 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 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.

Why are different schools doing different things to reopen?

Every school will need to apply the guidance to its own setting taking into account, among other things: the size of classrooms, the number of families in each priority group, the number of staff who are able to return and the available entrance and exit points for staff and children. We are working with the other schools in our Trust to ensure that we have a consistent strategy, applied to our own schools. Whilst the plans for Lydiard and Ridgeway are very similar, they do differ slightly due to the difference in staffing numbers and the layout of the buildings. You will see lots of discussion in the media about the steps schools have needed to take to ensure that it is as safe as possible for more children and adults to work and learn on site. Everyone is doing what they believe to be the right thing and the safest thing for their communities.