

SHILLINGTON Information for Parents for full return to school- September 2020

This information has been written from the single most important consideration - **safety** and will try to answer as many of the questions that you as parents/carers will want to know.

The government guidance is very clear that **all** children in all year groups will now return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term. All children will return to school on **Monday 7th September**. Our new reception starters will begin their phased start to school from Wednesday 9th September and have already received correspondence detailing the specific start date for their child.

What have the staff done to make the school ready for the children to return?

School Building

All areas of the school and equipment have been deep cleaned. All classrooms comply with the updated rules on distancing requirements, as set out by the DfE. Children are now allowed to sit next to each other but facing forward in rows. Teachers when setting up their classrooms have organised their classrooms with this in mind.

In Early Years, we will follow the guidance for early years settings and stick as closely to the EYFS provision. There will be adaptations like the removal of soft furnishings which cannot easily be cleaned. The children will not be sitting at forward facing desks!

Each class will have a separate play and lunchtime space and times will be staggered. Children will not mix with another group in the same space. Use of the hall will be restricted. There will be no assemblies together in the hall.

Children will be able to use the usual toilets for their class. They do not now need to be separated. Toilets will be cleaned more frequently during the day.

Classroom based resources and equipment such as books and games can be used and shared within the class bubble but will be cleaned regularly. Frequently used equipment such as pencils and pens are not to be shared. Therefore, each child will be provided with their own set of frequently used items which will stay in school and be used only by the individual child.



Class Bubbles

Each year group will be a social bubble. Children will stay in class sized social bubbles as specified in the government guidance. This means that your child will be able to interact with other children within their 'bubble' (class) but not with others outside of their bubble. Each bubble will have consistent staff. Where there is a need for a small number of staff to work across bubbles in order to deliver the curriculum, they will keep their distance from children and other staff as much as possible as per the government guidance. In the classrooms, the teachers are working very hard to make them look and feel as normal but activities and teaching styles will need to be adapted so the children are as safe as possible. They cannot do work in groups around tables for example and should sit side by side not in groups, to reduce the risk. The staff will need to ensure that they physically distance from the children as much as possible. We do accept that children do not naturally do this though especially when they are engrossed in playing. Singing will only happen outside and in small groups as this has been identified as raising the risk.

What does my child need to bring to school?

Children need only to bring essential items to school:

- Book Bag (without keyrings, toys or accessories which encourage others to touch) containing reading book and diary.
- Named lunch box.
- Named water bottle filled with water only which will have sent home for refilling and washing daily. The water fountains are out of use.
- Coat.
- Indoor PE kit to be left in school as usual. This will be used in emergencies. As PE will be mainly have to be outside then on PE days, children can come to school wearing outdoor PE kit (Tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt, sweatshirt) which they will stay in all day. Please ensure these are school suitable and warm. Class teachers will tell classes on what days they need to come to school wearing outdoor PE kit.

What will the children have for lunch?

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they can have universal free school meals as normal. Children will be provided with a school packed lunch. We are hoping to be able to reintroduce hot food later in the term but have issues with space and the need to clean a space thoroughly before it is used by other children which isn't possible to manage at lunchtime as well as feeding all the children. For as long as possible we will use the outside spaces to eat and the classrooms.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Children are to wear school uniform when they return. The Government guidance acknowledges that uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

As said above, on days that the children have PE they can wear their PE kits to school and stay in them all day. These days will be communicated to you. Please ensure that they are dressed appropriately for the weather. Black shorts are to be worn if it is warm or dark coloured joggers and a hoodie in addition to their PE T-shirt for colder weather.

What are the arrangements for drop off and pick up?

In order to control the flow of adults and children and to maintain adults social distancing, we have had to make some adjustments to how, when and where you drop off and collect your child from. We ask that only 1 parent is to drop off/pick up to help reduce numbers of people on site and maintain social distancing between adults. We encourage you to walk to school where possible.



Drop Off

Pixies Pre-school

Drop off time 9-9.15: Parents and children to walk through the side gate and round the far side of the playground to the Pixie garden gate where a member of staff will meet the children.

Reception (EYFS)

Drop off time 8.55-9.05: Parents and children to walk through the side gate and round the far side of the playground to the Rainbows garden via the playground gate. Parents will drop children at the door, where staff will be. Parents to leave through the side gate and walk round the playground to exit.

Year 1

Drop off time 8.45-8.55: Children will come in through the normal side gate and a member of staff will greet the children at the bottom of the steps leading to the hall.

Year 2 and 3

Drop off time 8.45-8.55: Children to be dropped at the normal side gate and year 2 will walk around to the fire exit near the year 2 classroom. Year 3 will also enter by their normal door next to the year 2 classroom.

Year 4

Drop off time 8.45-8.55: Children to enter via the front door and walk to their classrooms.

Pick up:

Parents to enter the site via the side gate and wait on the playground. To exit the site, use the grass path behind the Pixies building which comes onto the main school driveway. The zig zag pathway to the playground can only be used one way. The only exception to this is those of you with buggies/mobility aids where manoeuvring on grass is impossible or very difficult.

Pixies – 3.10pm from the Pixie garden gate.

Reception (Rainbows) - 3.15 pm from the Rainbows garden.

Year 1 – 3.25pm via the path at the side of the Reception garden.

Year 2 – 3.25pm via the fire exit door from their classroom.

Year 3 & 4 – 3.30pm via the path at the side of Reception garden after Year 1 and one class at a time.

Please wait as close by to these areas but safely distanced making it easy for the teachers to spot you. They are still struggling a bit to match children to adults as its early days and the face masks don't help this.

Please help us by....

- Do please wear face masks.
- Make sure that whoever picks up your children knows where to go.
- Be on time to collect your children.
- Collect bikes and scooters on the way out reminding all children to wait until they are off side before riding them. Be careful here also as there may be people still arriving to go to the playground.
- Please do not allow children to go up onto the grassy bank alongside the main school driveway.

We appreciate that these arrangements may not be the most convenient but this is about protecting parents and children and allowing you to socially distance much more easily. We respectfully ask that families adhere to these arrangements when arriving to and from school. Signs will be in place and members of staff will be around to ensure social distancing is maintained.



Are the breakfast club and afterschool club taking place?

Government guidance advises that our Breakfast club and After school club provision can resume but as you know Dawn til Dusk have withdrawn from the school. We will run our own provision and are committed to making it work for you all, although under these restrictions we have to carefully balance risk and making the club either grow too successfully or be underused and therefore a drain on the budget. You have had separate information about this. Please contact the office to gain Parentmail access to prebook places.

Does my child need a mask?

PHE and DfE guidance on face coverings is open to change at the moment. At the time of writing, Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as children and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education. Therefore, children will not wear a mask/face covering whilst in school.

As a reassuring step for families, adults may choose to wear a mask on the way to and the way home from school and whilst on the school site.

Will staff be wearing masks?

The majority of staff will not require a mask. The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is only needed in a very small number of cases, including:

- where a child becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at schools whilst waiting for parents to collect the child from school
- where a child is receiving first Aid or intimate care

What if my child is unwell?

If your child is unwell whilst at school we encourage them to let an adult know what the complaint, injury or medical need is so that we can respond appropriately.

If a child becomes unwell and we suspect this is related to Covid, the following procedure will apply:

- A member of staff will attend to your child. Please be aware that this staff member could be wearing PPE; face shield, protective gown and gloves. These will be shown to children at the start of the term to reassure them that it is routine in this instance and nothing to be scared about.
- The member of staff will take your child to our designated isolation zone
- Your child's temperature will be taken.
- We will then follow the procedures set out by the NHS for reporting and next stage assessment
- You will be required to collect your child immediately – please ensure your employer is aware that you will need to collect your child if requested. If you are unable, you must ensure we have an emergency contact identified, who is not in a vulnerability grouping and can respond in a 10-15 minute window
- Your child will remain in the isolation area until collected
- A member of staff will stay with your child, but maybe wearing PPE and at a suitable distance
- Whereas normally we like to encourage children to be resilient with illness and will coax them through the day, we can't under current guidelines. If your child is a little unwell with normal childhood type symptoms, please keep them at home until you are sure it's not Covid. If there is any suspicion, please organise a test to confirm.

If your child is absent from school, we ask you to be honest with us for their absence. If at any time you or your child displays symptoms associated to Covid-19 in the family home, you must inform us immediately. Testing and guidance on next stages is available on the NHS website. We should be notified immediately of the test results.

Will we know if anyone at school has symptoms or is taking a Covid test?

If there's a confirmed case of coronavirus, our local health protection team will coordinate reported outbreaks. This team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who's been in close contact with the person when they were infectious, and make sure they are asked to self-isolate. As a school we will monitor which members of staff have been in contact with each bubble to assist with this process and inform all parents as appropriate and necessary to do so.

How do I keep in contact with the school or class teacher?

We are unfortunately unable to have parents within school unless by appointment. Therefore, if parents need to contact the school or speak to a teacher, please leave a message where possible with a member of staff at drop off or pick up, phone the office or email the office who will then pass on your message or use your child's diary. Please do not use the messaging function on Seesaw as teachers will not be able to monitor that throughout the day as they will be teaching. In Lockdown this was a really valuable way to communicate but then staff were more flexible or working from home and so they could manage parent's questions. Please use the office as we were before to contact staff.

What is happening with the Catch up funding the government announced?**Will my child get extra help?**

Our immediate priority will be to get the children back in and settled into school, used to their new classrooms and teachers and learning again. It will become clearer where the gaps are as we assess what they can do and then we will know how to fill those gaps. We will give you all more information about this when we know.

How long will all these changes be in place?

We don't know. The guidance is continually changing and as I'm sure you are aware, local areas could be asked to follow enhanced measures at any point.

