

Stondon Lower School



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Everyone, every chance, every day!

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 and outside spaces

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 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 can not 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.

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.

Class Bubbles



Each year group will be a 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 and movement around the school in classes will be very limited. 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 be returned every day for washing and refilling
- Coat
- Indoor PE kit of shorts/track suit bottoms and tshirt as usual to be kept on children's pegs which will be used in an emergency for any child needing a change of clothes (school uniform not essential here, but school suitable is still very important)

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 pencil case of frequently used items which will stay in school and be used only by the individual child.

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.

On days that the children have PE they can come to school in their outdoor PE kits and stay in them all day. These days will be communicated to you and will be weather dependent. Please ensure that they are dressed appropriately for the weather. Black shorts are to be worn if it is warm or 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 adult's 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 the minimum numbers of adults/parents and no other children drop off/pick up where at all possible. This will really help us to help reduce numbers of people on site and maintain social distancing between adults. We encourage you to walk to school.

Children can be dropped off to school at their designated area between **8:45-9am**. **There is no walking bus because we can not mix pupils across year groups safely under the guidance.**

Reception (EYFS), Year 1 and Year 2 (KS1)

We ask that parents with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 drop off and collect their children from the back of the school. To ensure the safety and social distancing of adults we have implemented a one way system to manage the flow of people entering and exiting the school site.

Parents and children will arrive via the back gate (having parked in the rec car park if driving to school). The Year 1 and 2 teachers will be stood by their outside classroom doors to greet children. Parents will then exit the school site via the Hillside Road gate off of the field. Please think about your footwear adults especially if the weather is wet.

When collecting children, the reverse route will be in place. Parents enter the school site via the Hillside Road gate which will be open from 3:20pm. From this time, teachers will be outside their classroom doors and will be aware of your arrival. Parents and children will then exit the school site via the back gate and follow the path to the rec field.

If in doubt, remember that when you are with your child, you will always be using the safest route to and from the school- along the rec path.

Please see attached map for further clarification.



Year 3 and 4 (KS2)

Parents with children in Year 3 and 4 should use the main entrance when dropping off and collecting. Please use the main gate to enter and exit the playground. When dropping off in the mornings, queue along the railings and wall and wait at the bottom of the ramp until a member of staff asks you to walk up the ramp and then down the steps to exit the playground via the main gate.

We have introduced a small adjustment/staggered pick up time, where parents are asked to stand socially distanced within the playground whilst waiting for the class teacher to bring the class to the main entrance.

Year 3 : 3:25 pm

Year 4: 3:30pm

Families with several children in different key stages

Families that have more than one child that attends the school are not expected to be in two different places at the same time! Therefore, if you have children across key stages we ask you to drop off and collect from the front door in the school house using the side gate (off the car park driveway) to enter and exit the playground and children will enter and exit the school via the red front door.

For example:

If you have a child in Rec, Year 1 and Year 2, you will drop off and collect via the back of the school following the one way system that is in place.

If you have a child in Year 1 and Year 4, you will drop off and collect from the front of the school via the red front door.

We appreciate that these arrangements may not be the most convenient to people 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. As a school, we have carefully considered how we can make such provision work alongside our wider protective measures. Therefore, we will only be able to take advance bookings. Numbers will be capped.



Breakfast club and After school club will be based in the school hall to allow for greater room to socially distance. Children will be organised in the hall so they mix only with pupils in their bubble. Children will only be able to interact with children within their bubble during their time in Breakfast or After school Club. Limited equipment will be used and will be cleaned after each session, ready for the next session.

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/poor use/touching of masks will 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. Any worn by children to and from school, will need to be removed and kept with the adult dropping off at 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 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 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 parents questions. Please use the office as we were before to contact staff.

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 will 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 may need to leave and/or make appropriate provision that there is always someone within a 10-15 minute window who can collect promptly if requested.
- Your child will remain in the isolation area until collected
- A member of staff will stay with your child, but 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 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.

