

Frequently asked questions from the parents' survey

Q: We would like to know in detail the safety measures that would be taken by the school. What are the class sizes?

A: I have given details in my letter dated 22.5.20 - please refer to the list of measures that the school will be taking. This also details how children will be grouped. There will be 8 children in a class. We have conducted a survey of the school site and will be reviewing our COVID-19 risk assessment each week, and carry out any necessary changes. We will also be sending out a survey at the end of each set of 2 days to ask parents for feedback to ensure that we are confident our measures are effective before we bring in more children.

Q: I don't want my children to be separated from people they know for them to become anxious and unsettled. How will classes be grouped?

A: The children will stay in register order, in groups of 8. Each child will be allocated 2 days a week. The children will stay in 'bubbles' with the same group of children throughout the day. Siblings will be allocated Mondays/Tuesdays. There is no guarantee that they will be placed with their friends. We will try to assign their class teacher and teaching assistant wherever possible, but where demand is high, they may be taught by another member of staff. Children may need resettling, particularly in the early years, but we have experienced staff who will be on hand to support.

Q: It's far too soon to be sending children back. The risks are too great. Will you be repeating the term or the whole school year to make up for the time lost?

A: Thank you for sharing your thoughts. We will not be repeating the year or the term. All children will be in the same boat nationally. We will adjust our curriculum for the summer term and are currently reviewing the curriculum for the next academic year to look at how we can support gaps in learning.

Q: I can only bring my Nursery child in if I can also bring in my Y2 child. Will you be offering this to siblings?

A: Unfortunately, we do not have any spare classrooms, and cannot open the school up wider than the specified year groups at this current time. If we are asked to bring back year 2 children as well, we will have to reduce the number of days that other year groups are being offered.

Q: My child has asthma so there is added risk. Will the school put in alternative provision if I decide not to send him in? Will there be online provision?

A: Yes, you will still be able to access the online learning that is currently being offered.

Q: If my child returns to school, it would be for social reasons. Will my son be placed in a class with his friends.

A: We are allocating children by register order, and this may mean that your child is with a friend, but we cannot guarantee this will be the case for every child.

Q: I am not sure whether I want to send my child in. Can I change my mind later, can I request a place then?

A: We are allocating classes now. If there is space in a class in your child's year group at that stage, they can join that group.

Q: My child is currently accessing the keyworker provision at Burlington during lock down. Will my child be able to continue to access this?

A: We will be offering keyworker children 2 days a week to slot into a 'bubble' of children in their year groups (Y1, Reception and Nursery).

In addition, we are able to extend this to additional Y2 keyworker children after June 1st. Spaces are limited as we have to apply social distancing. Therefore, please let us know which days you will need to access this. We are currently working with the juniors to determine if we can continue to provide the after school care for keyworkers, and will let you know as soon as possible.

Q: Can my children come in on the same days?

A: Yes - we have allocated siblings in the infant school on the same days.

Q: Can my child come in on the same day as her friend?

A: The children will be allocated a place in register order. So she may/may not be with her friend.

Q: I do not know how the school can keep nursery children away from each other. How can you ensure children adhere to social distancing rules?

A: We will remove furniture from the classrooms and reduce the number of activities that are out in Nursery and Reception. We will try our best to keep children away from each other, and will not mix the groups/'bubbles' of children. However, we cannot guarantee that children in Nursery and Reception will be able to socially distance.

Q: Are all children wearing masks?

A: No. The advice to schools is that children do not wear masks to school. However, if any parents feel strongly that their child should wear a mask, this will be allowed. They will not be able to take it on and off, and will need to keep it on for the whole day, other than when they eat their lunch. Parents are responsible for teaching their children not to touch their masks, take it off or share it at any time.

Q: My child has allergies. Are all staff epipen trained? Is allergy information passed on if the usual staff are not looking after my child.

A: We have a number of first aid staff across the school and many staff are epipen trained. We cannot guarantee that a first aider will be in your child's class, but allergy information and 'care plans' will be passed on to whoever is taking their class.

Q: What would happen if there is a suspected case in my child's group?

A: The child would be sent home and the parents advised to get tested straight away. All children accessing school can access COVID-19 testing:

<https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

If the child tests positive, all other children and staff in their 'bubble'/group will be informed and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

Q: How will children socially distance in lunch halls?

A: Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms. They will only have access to their classroom, toilets and the playground. They will not access any other communal areas of the school.

Q: Will Acorns be running again as normal?

A: No, we are unable to offer afterschool club as this will mix the bubbles/groups the children are in.

Q: We are worried about our child's mental wellbeing. Will we be able to pull them out if the whole experience of social distancing and being in a strange classroom is effecting them negatively?

A: Yes, but we ask that you allow your child at least 2 weeks to settle in. As we will be allocating classes on Tuesday, it is important that parents confirm whether or not their child will be coming in from 2nd June if they are in one of the year groups identified.

Q: I am worried what will happen if my child hurts herself, will she get the reassurance she needs from the teacher? A hug (probably not) so how is she going to feel reassured? If she needs help doing something, will she be supported?

A: Staff have been advised to socially distance as much as possible. This means they will not be able to hug or hold hands, in the way that they would normally comfort children. However, we will be able to comfort them by talking them through how they are feeling etc. If there is an injury at playtime, first aid can be administered with staff using gloves and masks. If children need support in class, the staff have been advised to support them without having to come too close.

Q: Will it be normal school opening times?

A: No, we will have staggered start times and collection times. You will be sent information for your child's allocated start/collection time, classroom and staff who will be supporting your child, before the 1st June.

Many parents have shared their concerns around the reopening of schools and are choosing to keep their children at home. If you do not feel it is safe for your child to return to school, you will still be able to access the online home learning that is currently being provided. You will not be penalised for not sending your child into school during the summer term. We will update you if the situation changes.