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August 2021

Returning to School: FAQs **Guidance for Parents and Carers**

After the uncertainty of the past year and a half, we're all desperate to return to some sort of normality. As expected, many of the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted during the summer and the Government issued new guidance to schools last week. Hopefully, these 'Frequently Asked Questions' will help you to understand what school is going to be like and clarify anything you may be wondering about. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further enquiries.

Q. Does my child have to return to school next week?

Yes. Attendance is mandatory for all pupils from Thursday 2nd September and all the usual rules about school attendance will apply.

Q. What if they have symptoms of COVID-19?

You must NOT send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- *A high temperature (above 38°C)*
- *A new, continuous cough*
- *A loss, or change to, their sense of smell or taste*

If they do develop any of the above symptoms, please inform the school and isolate until they have had a PCR test. These can be booked via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by dialling 119. Note: 'lateral flow tests' are not suitable for this purpose. Following a negative result, your child can return to school as normal (provided they are well enough!). If the test is positive, you will be advised by NHS about isolation etc.

Q. What are the drop-off and pick-up times?

School will start at 8:50am prompt, any child arriving after this time will be marked as late. The gates will open from 8:35am but children’s supervision remains your responsibility until the bell goes. School will finish at 3:15pm for all classes.

Nursery sessions are **9am-12pm & 12pm-3pm**. Nursery parents will be allowed to enter the building to help their children settle in; this should reduce the queuing time we experienced in 2020-21.

Q. Will Breakfast Club be running?

Yes, Breakfast Club is running from 7:30am every day. This should be booked in advance and the prices are below. To book your place, please email Mrs Rowett on mrowett@wharnciffeside.sheffield.sch.uk and make your payment/s via sQuid.

Option	Price	Details
A	£5	1 session (specify when booking)
B	£20	All week (Mon – Fri)
C	£12	All week (Pupil Premium)

Q. Will ‘bubbles’ be used?

No. Bubbles will no longer be in operation. This means assemblies can resume as normal and children will be able to play with their friends in other classes.

Q. What other measures will be in place?

School will continue to encourage good hygiene practices (e.g. regular handwashing & ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’). Appropriate cleaning regimes will be maintained and classrooms will be kept well ventilated.

There is no requirement for staff, pupils or visitors to wear facemasks; but please feel free to continue wearing one on school grounds if you wish.

Staff will continue to use the twice-weekly lateral flow tests and take appropriate action if they obtain a positive result.

Q. What happens if somebody does test positive? (using a PCR test)

The infected person will have to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Children and vaccinated adults who have been in contact no longer need to isolate unless they show symptoms themselves. As with other settings, NHS Test and Trace will work with the family of the positive case and identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where parents specifically identify the individual as being a close contact. If that is the case, you will be advised to go for a PCR test.

Q. Are there likely to be further lockdowns?

Given the government's commitment to return to normality and start to 'live with COVID'; I believe further lockdowns are extremely unlikely.

Quote from the guidance on gov.uk:

"Our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health."

Having said that, schools are expected to have an 'Outbreak Management Plan' in place. This details what extra measures we will take if the number of positive cases start to increase (i.e. a return to bubbles etc.). During 2020-21, we had a total of 4 positive cases in school and these were all unrelated to each other (suggesting that transmission did not occur in school).

Second quote from the guidance:

"Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in schools should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of schools or groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible."

Q. What happens at lunch time?

Lunch times will no longer be 'staggered' as in 2020-21. Children from Reception to Year 6 will use the hall for lunch. Dinners are cooked on site by Taylor Shaw and are FREE to all children in Reception – Year 2. They cost £2.20 per day for Y3 – Y6 (unless you are in receipt of free school meals). If you think you may be eligible for FSM, please speak to the office or go to <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolmeals>. Meals can be ordered in advance via sQuid or on the day during registration.

If Nursery children are staying all day, please send them with a packed lunch.

Q. What about snacks and drinks?

Please continue to send your child to school with a water bottle each day (clearly marked with their name). This will enable them to get constant access to fresh drinking water throughout the day. Children in EYFS / KS1 will continue to enjoy free fruit at break time. Snack bar for KS2 children will be open from Monday 6th September – or send your child with a healthy snack from home.

Q. What happens on PE days?

After positive feedback from parents and staff, we have decided to continue to allow children to come to school in their PE kit on their designated PE day/s. Your child's class teacher will inform you on which days this will be (nobody will be doing PE on the first day back so please send your child in the correct uniform).

Q. What else is happening?

We aim to resume our normal programme of activities as soon as possible. You will be sent a calendar containing dates for parents' evenings, Christmas plays etc. and informed of any changes via our weekly newsletter. If your child's class are due to go on any trips, you will be informed separately as and when (note: payment for trips goes through sQuid too so please ensure you are registered).

Q. What are the rules around holidays?

As identified earlier, children are expected to attend school full-time from Thursday 2nd September. Please try to avoid taking your child out of school during term-time.

If you do need to take a holiday during term-time, please complete and return a 'Term-time leave application form' at least 20 days in advance of travel. Requests will not normally be granted unless under 'exceptional circumstances'.

If travelling abroad (at any time), it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date with the government's travel rules and undertake appropriate quarantine upon your return (if required).

Q. My child is still quite nervous about returning to school. Where can I go for further advice?

Sheffield Parenting Hub are running a number of FREE virtual sessions for parents of children who are anxious about return to school. These can be booked via the links below and should be especially useful for the parents of children with SEND.

[Thursday 26th August 2021 - 1pm - 2:30pm](#)

[Tuesday 31st August 2021 - 1:30pm - 3pm](#)

[Wednesday 1st September 2021 - 10am - 11:30am](#)

THANK YOU FOR READING



Mr Gaughan

3rd March 2021



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