



WELLSPRINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Key information for school opening, September 2021

31.08.21

Over the past year and a half, the school has developed a range of approaches that have reduced risk levels, in light of the Covid 19 pandemic. The information below helps explain these routines.

We have developed plans for:

- all children returning to school from the start of the Autumn Term;
- health and safety expectations to match Government advice and our school risk assessment;
- pastoral support for all pupils.

Attendance

The first school day for **Reception and Year 1-6 pupils** to attend, is on **Tuesday 7th September**. The Foundation Stage staff have already been in touch with Reception and Nursery parents regarding their starting arrangements for the first week few weeks, as this differs slightly to the rest of the school.

Nursery children's first day will be on **Thursday 9th September**.

We will reinstate many of the routines at the end of last academic year, while we wait to manage the transition back to school this term. We appreciate that Covid cases have crept up again and the prediction is this term, they will significantly increase as children return to school. Cases in Scotland have increased significantly as schools have returned earlier, and it is very likely to be mirrored in England. **Returning with no 'measures of control' in place would be very unwise.** Primary children do not have the test twice-weekly like Secondary school children, which is the main control mechanism for Secondary schools.

While 'bubbles' will not be fixed like they were previously, we will still try to manage pupils mixing by only having Key Phases together on the playground outside (eg Year 3/4 or Y5/6), and even when using the dining hall, we will keep classes separate.

The Government have stated that where a child (or staff member) tests positive, identified close contacts (children or 'double-vaccinated' staff) only need to take a PCR test and if negative, they no longer need to isolate for 10 days. If the test is positive, the close contact would obviously need to isolate. This would mean not having to close whole 'bubbles' in the event of a positive Covid case. **However, schools STILL need to be able to identify which pupils/staff are 'close contacts' in the event of a positive Covid case, so it is important we still have some measures of control around contact in place.**



It is very important that children and parents/carers and siblings displaying symptoms must not come to school or onto the school site to collect siblings, they should take a PCR test and self-isolate until the results are known.

Parents must inform the school if their child tests positive for Covid-19 or have their child tested with a PCR test if they show symptoms. NHS now organise self-isolation periods and they will contact families directly if this needs to happen. Please inform the school immediately if your child needs to self-isolate.

We expect to review the following arrangements for possible changes throughout the half term, depending upon the number of Covid cases that may arise in the coming weeks. We obviously want arrangements to return to 'normal' as soon as possible, but we recognise that we are all in a period of re-adjustment.

Information on dropping off and collecting children

The children will be dropped off/collected at the same point each day.

Year 3/4 children will be collected from the park area (as before) at the rear of the school, and the teachers will escort them via the side gate.

Timetable for dropping off and collection

Front Gate (Rec/KS1); Nursery at FS entrance	Side Gate (Y3/4)	Rear gate (Y5/6)
8.50 Hedgehogs (end 3.10)	8.45 Hares (end 3.05)	8.45 Foxes (end 3.05)
8.50 Badgers (end 3.10)	8.50 Robins (end 3.10)	8.50 Rabbits (end 3.10)
8.50 Kingfishers (end 3.10)	8.55 Adders (end 3.15)	8.55 Otters (end 3.15)
8.55 Red Squirrels (end 3.05) **		
8.55 Grey Squirrels (end 3.05) **		
9.00 Nursery Squirrels session 1 (end 12.00) **		
12.00 Nursery Squirrels session 2 (end 3.00) **		
There will be a designated waiting area for each class, at their allotted time.		Children will be dropped off at the gate. Children can wait in the covered area.

** Foundation Stage children will have a partial timetable for the first few weeks. The times above reflect the eventual start and end times when the children have completed their transition into their classes. This is expected to be in place fully, by the final week of September.

Reception children will be in on Tuesday 7th September for individual appointments in the Foundation setting. For the rest of **week 1**, they will attend the morning session (8.55-12.00).

In the **second week** (w/c 13.09.21) all Reception children will be in from 8.55 until 1.00 having lunch in school.

Week 3 (w/c 20.09.21) will see them in from 8.55 until 3.05 full time.

Nursery children will be dropped off/collected at the exterior cloakroom entrance leading to the nursery room (beyond the pencil gates).



From week 1 (on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th September) existing **Nursery children** are invited to attend half days 9am-12noon. They will attend on these days regardless of whether they normally come in on Thursday or Friday.

From week 2 (w/c 13.09.21) all children will stay on the days they have booked from 9.00-12,00 (or until 1pm for those normally attending a full day). However, as we will have spaces, you may book additional sessions within your 15 or 30 hours. Sessions for new Nursery children will be phased in from the beginning of week 2.

From week 3 (w/c 20.09.21) existing children will attend their normal hours.

'Bubble' groups

The Government has advised that schools no longer need to keep classes operating as 'bubbles'. Children will now start to have shared play times, on occasions, within their Key Phases (eg Year 3/4 together). Having these contact periods outside, the risk of Covid transmission is significantly reduced.

We will have communal spaces now being used (eg dining hall, the main hall) however, **whenever possible** we will try to keep classes separated when indoors. Examples of this are during assemblies (which we will do in smaller groups) and in the dining hall when the children are eating.

One way routes up the stairs (by Robins class) and down the stairs (by the reception area) will help maintain distancing between classes, as before.

Key information to children will be shared using child-orientated materials. At the beginning of the year, there will be Key Stage assembly to all children to remind them of the school routines so they are aware of the changes.

As before, classes will be encouraged to access points across the school externally as much as possible. **The less we use corridor spaces, the better.**

Access into school for each class will be via different doors to minimise contact across age-groups as much as possible.

Hygiene

There will be key areas we will continue **clean very regularly**. There will be regular cleaning in classrooms throughout the day by staff. If areas are used by more than one class, staff will clean these after each session.

Children will use hand sanitiser on entry into school, and throughout the day. **On moving around school they will apply gel before leaving their classroom and on arriving back.** Children should apply this rule when using the toilets- hand sanitizers points are provided outside toilets and in other areas (the children will 'gel' before going into the toilets). Before eating, children will wash their hands as they would do at home.

Staff will be expected to continue to maintain good hygiene rules in class and around school themselves, **with regular hand washing and when appropriate social distancing in closed spaces.**



Initially, we will be asking staff to wear a face covering in communal spaces. As routines return to 'normal' further into the term, we will expect this (and perhaps some other control measures) to be relaxed if appropriate. Staff will have to re-continue to do twice-weekly LFT tests to monitor the possibility of infections within the school.

Staff in undertaking toileting routines (in the EYFS), are advised to take the precaution of wearing protective masks, gloves and/or gowns.

Bikes and scooters will now be able to be stored in school, although we ask that children only handle their own bike/scooter.

Ventilation

Windows/doors will be opened to keep rooms well ventilated. Children may need to wear extra layers as the school term gets into the colder months and we will 'run' our heating earlier to counteract keeping doors and windows open.

Breakfast and After school clubs

These clubs will start on Tuesday 8th September. They will be based in the dining area, where possible keeping classes separate on different tables. If admission numbers increase significantly, we may need to access other areas across the school (for example, using the computer suite and hall).

Lunches

A school meal will be provided for those children receiving Universal Entitlement (Reception and Key Stage 1) and for those in KS2 entitled to [Free School Meals](#). **A menu has already been sent and pre-ordered for those children having a school meal.** As stated, we will now be eating these meals in the hall, and staff will work hard to clean areas between the changeover of children in these spaces.

Water bottles

Every child needs their own named water bottle. Water fountains will not be in use, but each class has access to drinking water to refill their water bottle.

Pupil uniforms

Children should wear:

- School jumper;
- White shirt or polo shirt;
- Grey trousers/shorts/skirts/dresses or summer school dress;
- Long hair tied back and no jewellery/watches;
- Black shoes.

PE Kit

- White T-shirt



- Black shorts
- Black daps or trainers for outside games

Children will need to come into school in their PE kit on the days they will be doing PE. Obviously if the weather is colder/raining, your child will need to wear plain, preferably grey jogging bottoms and their school sweater to ensure they are warm enough.

A change of clothes for FS children is also required. No toys from home, please.

Parents/carers are asked to apply [sun cream](#) at the beginning of the school day when the weather is warmer.

