



# WELLSPRINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*Headteacher: Mark Lunn*

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, Boris Johnson announced the 'road map' for the country's Covid-recovery programme, yesterday. Here we have a summary of some of the things he talked about regarding schools, along with published updated guidance. I thought it would be useful for you to read, so you can quickly unpick all the key messages. This is not an exhaustive review, as there is a great deal of guidance to sift through at present!

### **Attendance 'mandatory' for all pupils**

The DfE's guidance states that school attendance will be "mandatory for all pupils from March 8".

The ability to issue sanctions such as fines will also be reinstated, and the government have charged schools with responsibility of following up absence and "reporting children missing education to the local authority".

*However, as a school trying to manage the ebb-and-flow of government guidance ourselves, we appreciate how hard it is for parents/carers and their children managing all these different changes. We will try to support families in that transition back to school-routines, as much as we possibly can.*

### **Three on-site tests for secondary pupils, but none for primary pupils**

Returning secondary pupils will be tested three times on site and then again once at home in the first two weeks after reopening. They will then be provided with home kits for twice weekly testing thereafter, but there will be no testing of primary pupils.

*Staff at Wellsprings will continue to undertake a twice-weekly test, and we have reported no positive cases under this programme of testing, or needed to isolate class bubbles, in the last seven weeks.*

### **Face coverings in secondary classrooms**

The government confirmed today that it is recommending that the use of face coverings in secondary schools be extended to all indoor environments, "including classrooms", for a "limited period" until Easter.

In primary schools, it is advised face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors "in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible" (for example, when moving



around in corridors and communal areas)”. However, children in primary school “do not need to wear a face covering”.

*Staff at Wellsprings have been wearing face coverings in communal areas, and in class when in close proximity, since November 2020. We have always stated, if pupils coming into school feel less anxious wearing a face covering in school, we fully respect the right for parents/carers and pupils to make that decision.*

*We have also asked visitors to wear face coverings when coming on site, additionally. Please refer to the ongoing risk assessments and plans on our website:  
<https://www.somerset.org.uk/sites/wellsprings/Pages/Welcome.aspx>*

### **Consider ‘staggered starts’ or adjusted finish times**

The guidance states that schools should “consider staggered starts or adjusting start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave”.

However, this “should not reduce the amount of overall teaching time.”

*We have had staggered starts and end-of-school arrangements since June 2020. This will obviously continue, and we have calculated that we meet the government requirements for teaching time using these arrangements. Please refer to the ongoing risk assessments and plans on our website:  
<https://www.somerset.org.uk/sites/wellsprings/Pages/Welcome.aspx>*

### **Close contacts must self-isolate**

The government had originally planned to use lateral-flow tests to keep pupils who were in contact with confirmed cases in the classroom.

However, this process was paused last month amid concerns about the effectiveness of the tests. Monday’s guidance confirms that schools must send home anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, “advising them to self-isolate immediately and for the next 10 full days counting from the day after contact with the individual who tested positive”.

*These arrangements match those that were in place prior to the recent Lockdown arrangements.*

### **No rotas or class size reductions**

Schools “should not plan for rotas as there is no requirement to reduce occupancy in schools”, the guidance states. “Instead, everyone must follow the system of controls.”

There is also “no need for class sizes to be adjusted from the usual size”, the DfE said.

*We have class sizes across the whole of the school, below 30 pupils. We will continue with staggered breaks and lunches, along with keeping every bubble isolated from*



*each other, throughout the day to reduce the risk of potentially spreading the Covid virus.*

*Children are in the company of an adult at all times throughout the day, and toilet-routines and school transitions around school are supervised.*

*All the existing routines will continue (e.g. hand-washing, ventilating rooms, increased hygiene management).*

*Please refer to the ongoing risk assessments and plans on our website:*

<https://www.somerset.org.uk/sites/wellsprings/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

### **Provide meals as usual**

School kitchens are expected to be “fully open” and providing food for pupils including those eligible for free school meals.

However, schools should also “continue to provide free school meal support to pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are learning at home during term time (due to confirmed isolation)”.

*We will await further guidance on this, but we are aware of no changes to our pre-existing arrangements we had prior to the recent Lockdown.*

### **Remote education requirements still in force**

Although attendance will be mandatory from March 8, schools will still be required by law to provide remote education to any pupils who need to continue to learn from home, due to Covid-related isolation.

“This includes, for example, where such guidance means that a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate or that clinically extremely vulnerable children are to shield,” the guidance states.

*This is ‘as before’ the recent Lockdown. Where an individual/family are isolating because of Covid-related issues, we will provide work for this period. However, we will not be able to provide ‘real-time’ feedback as staff will be teaching their class throughout the day. However, if a ‘bubble’ is isolating, and the staff are not ‘affected’ by Covid but are isolating with their bubble, then the type of remote support currently offered, would be available.*

*FS guidance:*

<https://www.somerset.org.uk/sites/wellsprings/Documents/EYFS%20Remote%20Learning%20report%20for%20parents%20JAN%202021.pdf>

*KS1/KS2 guidance:*

<https://www.somerset.org.uk/sites/wellsprings/Documents/KS1%20and%20KS2%20Remote%20Learning%20report%20for%20parents%20JAN%202021.pdf>

### **Resume wraparound provision**

From March 8, schools should “work to resume” all before and after-school educational activities and childcare for pupils “where this provision is necessary to support parents to



work, attend education and access medical care, and to support pupil's wider education and training".

*Breakfast and After School clubs have continued this term. We will ask working parents to book their timeslots using ParentMail as we currently do.*

*Please refer to the newsletter outlining these arrangements:*

*<https://www.somerset.org.uk/sites/wellsprings/Newsletters/7.%2018.12.20%20Newsletter.pdf>*

### **Ofsted inspections remain suspended**

Routine, graded Ofsted inspections will "remain suspended for the spring term", the DfE guidance confirms.

However, it is "intended that these inspections will resume in the summer term", and the DfE is "continuing to keep the inspection arrangements under review".

*Schools judged 'requires improvement' may be visited during the Spring term before 'full inspections' return. Wellsprings is judged a 'good' school by OfSTED (July 2019), and under current arrangements we would expect a return 'full' visit in 2023 under the 4-year timescale, currently advised by OfSTED.*

I hope the 'summary' is helpful- there is considerably more advice offered at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/963541/Schools\\_coronavirus\\_operational\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf) if you wish to read the 67 page document!

As ever, we will update you when we know any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Lunn  
Headteacher

