



RETURNING TO ON-SITE LEARNING FOR ALL – MARCH 2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Is it safe for my child to come back to school?

The government has stated that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low. With all of the protective measures described below, this risk of your child contracting COVID-19 is reduced significantly.

Attendance will be compulsory from 8th March 2021 for all children, so if you have any specific concerns which are not addressed in this FAQ, please do get in touch with us as soon as possible and we will work through these with you.

How will the school ensure my child avoids contact with anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19?

All staff, children, parents and carers will be expected to continue to follow the government guidance around self-isolating if they show any symptoms of COVID-19:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If someone starts displaying symptoms during the school day, the child or adult will immediately be isolated in a designated area and arrangements will be made for them to go home. Anyone who has been in contact with the individual will be notified.

We will engage fully with the NHS Test and Trace process. This means that everyone in the school must:

- **Book a test if they are displaying symptoms.** Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they, or anyone in their household, have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- **Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive** for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- **Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus** (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

We will maintain good communication with parents and carers throughout this process if it arises.

What is the school doing to minimise contact and mixing of children whilst they are on site?

As in the autumn term, we will be operating Year group 'bubbles' up to 90 children – a whole year group of three classes of up to 30 children and the teachers and teaching assistants that work within them. In addition, within that structure, we will also be doing everything we can on a day to day basis to maintain distancing between classes. For most of the day, children will not normally even mix between classes but we can only run break and lunchtimes if we align our protective mega-bubbles with our year group organisation.

As is described below in more detail, the drop off and collection times, break time, dining room & lunchtime will all be staggered to ensure that there is reduced mixing of year groups. We will plan movement around the school carefully so that year groups can avoid mixing at transition times, for example when moving from the classroom to the dining hall via school corridors.

Whenever a shared space is used by a year group, such as the hall or the dining room, it will be cleaned by wiping down primary contact surfaces before the next year group uses it.

For the most part, staff will be organised to work within the year group they are deployed to and we will avoid staff working across year groups wherever possible. However, there will be occasions where staff have to work across year groups to maintain safe, full time education on site for all children. This could include where classes need to be covered; or where emergency support is needed at short notice. Some staff who provide support for individual children with SEND will also have to work across year groups to maintain their support. In these situations, we will do everything we can to implement additional protective measures to limit the risk of cross transmission between groups of children.

Will my child be expected to stay 2m from every other child and adult once they are in their class or their year group?

No. In their guidance, the government has recognised that complete social distancing is not possible with 30 young children in a classroom for the whole day. Children will however be encouraged to minimise direct physical contact with other children in their groups.

How will my child arrive at school and leave at the end of the day to minimise contact and observe social distancing?

Below, there is a chart showing how children will arrive at school and leave at the end of the day to ensure there is as little contact between the year groups and social distancing can be observed.

Children should only come to school with one adult.

It is absolutely essential that parents and carers do not wait around on or near the school site before or after drop off.

Please can parents & carers make every effort to arrive earlier rather than later as it is much quieter at the start of the rolling start.

Parents with children in several different locations will need to think through how you could work this to minimise your movement around the site.

Year 6 children (who from September will be right at the top of the upper building) should arrive at 8.40am **via the Greydells Road gate**. We would encourage children to walk to school independently, but if this is not possible, **please can we ask that you do not park in the close as this will become congested**. *Please look at our Facebook page where we have posted a video explaining these arrangements more clearly.*

Year Group	Location	Start time	Entrance	Where do I queue?	Exit	End time
Nursery	Nursery classrooms (AM sessions)	8.30	Enter through lower site main gate off of public footpath	Down the sloping path, standing on the yellow markers	Out through Nursery gate	11.20 to 11.30
	Nursery classrooms (PM sessions)	12.30	Nursery gate	Down the nursery path, keeping left, 2m distance	Out through Nursery gate, keeping left	3.20 to 3.30
Reception	Reception classrooms	8.50 to 9.00	Enter through lower site main gate off of public footpath	Down the sloping path, standing on the yellow markers , round the playground, keeping left, 2m distance	Out through reception outside area and the blue gate onto the public footpath	3.00 to 3.10
Year 1	Year 1 classrooms	8.50 to 9.00	New gate opposite Pike End	Line up around the back of the Year 1 building	Gate near the preschool	3.10 to 3.20
Year 2	Year 2/3 block	8.40 to 9.00	Year 2/3 double gates	Along the main concourse, round the Year 2/3 playground, 2m distance	The new pond gate	3.00 – 3.15pm
Year 3						
Year 4	Year 4 classrooms	8.40 to 9.00	Statue gate	Do not queue – send your child straight into class via external classroom doors	Statue gate and down the concourse, keeping right	3.00 – 3.15pm
Year 5	Year 5 classrooms		Statue gate		Statue gate and down the concourse, keeping right	
Year 6	Year 6 classrooms		Greydells Road gate Or (if siblings) Statue gate		Greydells Road gate 3.15pm or Statue gate 3.00 – 3.15pm	

What is the school doing to ensure there is frequent hand washing and good respiratory hygiene practices?

All staff and children will clean their hands more often than usual – washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and drying them thoroughly.

Hand sanitiser is available around the school in frequently accessed areas, such as the school office hatches and staffrooms.

We also ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach, ensuring there are plenty of tissues available, and lidded bins which are frequently emptied.

What additional cleaning will the school be doing?

Since June, we have arranged an enhanced cleaning schedule throughout the week including frequently used surfaces being cleaned more regularly during the day.

Staff will have access to cleaning materials to use during sessions.

In the event of the confirmed case, additional deep cleans will be undertaken.

Will my child have to wear school uniform?

Yes. Wearing uniform is an important part of getting your child back into a normal school routine.

Children will need a PE kit as usual, including suitable clothing for outdoor PE as the halls will not be used.

In the Early Years and Year 1, children will be allowed to come to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE. In all other year groups, children should come into school in school uniform and will get changed here just for the PE lesson.

For the remainder of spring & summer term 2021, children do not need to wear school shoes.

Will my child have to sit at a desk all day, facing forward?

Children in the Early Years should not be expected to sit facing forward at desks all day. We believe attempting to implement this would have a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing and would prevent them accessing their full entitlement to the early years curriculum.

Children in Key Stage 1 & 2 are equally entitled to a curriculum which engages them through a full range of individual, group and whole class activity. The furniture in the classroom will be organised flexibly to support this approach and to support children in reconnecting with their peers socially and academically.

In the dining room, we will space children out as much as possible and remind children to eat carefully and considerately. They will be encouraged to enjoy the social aspects of mealtime and to interact with their friends by facing each other and talking to each other.

Will staff, or my child have to wear a face covering or other PPE (personal protective equipment)?

Government guidance is that children are not required to wear PPE in primary schools.

If a child/adult were to have suspected COVID, then any staff member supporting them would wear additional protective equipment.

Parents, carers, and visitors are asked to wear a face covering when they come onto the school site, including for drop off and collection, or into any of the school buildings for any reason.

My child has special educational needs, and/or a disability. How will you support them to return to school?

We will review all health care plans and individual risk assessments with you prior to your child returning.

Where children have 1:1 or group support from an adult, this will resume as soon as possible.

We know some children might struggle with the protective arrangements which are in place. We will be talking to you about the practical implications of these changes to their routine and discussing how we might overcome those barriers.

If you have any specific worries or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or the SENCO, Emma Verlander to discuss these emma.verlander@fairlands.herts.sch.uk

What will children be learning about whilst they are at school?

We will be delivering a full, broad and balanced curriculum offer, including the delivery of all areas of learning in the early years and all national curriculum subjects in Years 1 to 6.

We have been planning our home learning opportunities carefully during the lockdown so that children have not been missing out on key learning. We also know that parents and carers have been **chatting, playing and reading** with their children and this will have resulted in wonderful progress in many areas. However, we do know that many children may have developed gaps in their knowledge & skills in some aspects of the curriculum, and we will create time in the autumn term to catch up on key learning.

We also know that some children might be anxious about coming back to school and need support with their personal, social and emotional development. Our Jigsaw curriculum 'Puzzle' for the spring term is 'Healthy Me' and we will make this a high profile to help children reconnect with being back at school. Through their Jigsaw lessons, there will be plenty of opportunities for children talk about their experiences, worries and feelings and teachers will address issues sensitively as they arise.

Will you continue to provide home learning for children who are not attending school on site?

If children are not attending school due to clinical or public health advice, we will offer the full curriculum through remote learning support.

Children would ideally have access to a quiet space and their own laptop at home in order to access this.

During lockdown, my child in Nursery attended school at different times & sessions. Will this continue?

No, from 8th March, all Nursery children will go back to attending the session times that they were attending in the autumn term.

Will there be swimming lessons and trips?

For the time being, we will not be running swimming lessons or residential visits, in line with government guidance. We will keep this under review and reintroduce these when our risk assessments allow.

We intend to go ahead with our usual menu of other trips, visits and visitors as much as possible. Each of these will be risk assessed thoroughly before they go ahead.

Will you provide breakfast and after school club?

Yes. Our breakfast club and after school club provision are running as normal.

Information about booking places can be found on the school website or from the school office.

Parents access to school site

Unfortunately access to the school site continues to be limited to briefly dropping off and collecting children; prior appointments and emergencies only.

The school offices will therefore be largely closed to parents/carers except for the following circumstances:

- to drop off or collect medicine
- if a parent/carer is contacted to collect a child in an emergency
- for parents/carers attending a pre-arranged meeting

If you need to come to the hatch to speak to someone in the school office, you must wear a face covering.

If you need to contact the school, please use one of the following channels:

- Email admin@fairlands.herts.sch.uk for general enquiries, parentforum@fairlands.herts.sch.uk with feedback or ideas or a direct contact if you have one
- Call the school on 01438 351053 between 8am and 4pm (the office will be closed during half term)
- Money should be paid online using the school gateway or cash and cheques should be sent in an envelope with the child's name and the purpose clearly marked.

All visitors to the school will need to supply their mobile phone number in order to support with the NHS Test & Trace process.

Will parent consultations take place?

For the spring term, all parents & carers will have had a phone call during the spring lockdown.

Please note that the above arrangements are based on our current understanding of government guidance and our risk assessments as of Friday 26th February 2021. There may be changes, which we will keep you informed about.