



Wheatcroft Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now in a position to share with you some of our proposed plans for fully reopening the school from September. We are currently following the Government guidelines to support us in our management of minimising the risk to our staff, pupils and wider community. There will no doubt be more guidelines shared across the summer, and we will contact you if this means that any of our plans will change. Based on the current guidelines, this is how we plan to organise a full return whilst ensuring we continue to minimise the risk to our Wheatcroft community.

Attendance, Arrival & Departure

From September, attendance is mandatory for all pupils so we will be expecting all children to return to school full time from Thursday 3rd September. To reduce the number of people at the gates and the mixing of groups, we are currently working out the logistics of gate timings and ensuring that this is done in the best way possible for the teachers and you as parents particularly if you are dropping off siblings. We anticipate that the arrival times will be staggered for all classes between 8:45-9:30 and departure from 2:45-3:15 with designated gates being allocated for either Stanstead Road, Constables Way or twitchel pedestrian gates. We may need some of you to support each other with dropping off and collecting and we want to ensure that we have the plans clearly organised to ensure our children are safeguarded at these times too. We will be in touch with confirmed times over the next few weeks to enable you sufficient lead time to organise appropriate support.

When you bring your child to school, a member of staff will be there to greet the children. We have already considered and planned for children who may be nervous coming back into school. The teachers of our younger children will be sending you guidance so that you are able to support them to ensure we do not have congestion at the gates. We ask that only one parent from each family brings or collects children from school and that wherever possible siblings are kept safely at home if they do not attend the school.

If you have any messages for the teacher, we ask that you telephone or email the school office. Visitors are only permitted in exceptional circumstances therefore you will only be allowed to enter the site or gain access to the office by appointment only. Normal attendance procedures will need to be followed; therefore if your child is unable to attend for any reason you must telephone the office on the first day of absence and follow this up with a written letter on the child's return.

Learning, Education and the school day

Teachers will be following the curriculum for your child's year group and have carefully planned in phase teams a broad curriculum with some flexibility to ensure the most important missed contents are covered. As the children return, staff planning will continue to be informed by assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding. In the event of any lock down or isolation, we are well placed through Tapestry and Google Classroom to ensure remote education will support these pupils.

Children will be taught in their class groups and the school day will be staggered to ensure we minimise the mixing of groups. We will also stagger breaks and lunch times and will ensure that all areas are zoned. Most of the learning will be within your child's classroom with their own teacher but they will also have opportunities to learn outside. On occasion, other staff will operate across different classes, year groups and during lunch times; however, they will socially distance from children and other staff as well as observing good hygiene practices.



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Wellbeing

Please ensure that you continue to use the resources shared with you during lock down to support the emotional wellbeing of your child. Miss Brown will be sending out more information in September with more information regarding our 5 ways to wellbeing.

Lunch Times

HCL lunches will be provided and we ask that you support us by paying for these online and ensuring that your child chooses their lunch before they arrive at school; this will prevent the need for sharing of screens or the unnecessary handling of money. Lunch time sessions will be staggered and children will eat in their class groups. Children who bring a packed lunch from home will eat this within their classroom. All children will have a time outside to play during their lunch break.

Equipment

Children will be provided with their own general resources such as pens and pencils that will not be shared with others. Other classroom resources will be shared within their class bubble but will be cleaned regularly along with all frequently touched surfaces. Where any resources are shared between classes, such as sports, art or science equipment, these will be cleaned between each use or rotated to allow them to be left unused for 48 hours (72 hours for plastics). For all children, we ask that you provide them with a small packet of tissues to keep in school. You must also ensure that your child has a clean full water bottle each day and if your child is in KS2, a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables for the morning. Face masks can be worn to and from school but guidelines state they are not to be worn within school. Pupils will be expected to remove them independently when they arrive at school. If you choose for your child to wear a mask, you must provide them with a clearly named easy seal bag to store their mask in.

Uniform

All children will be expected to wear full school uniform including black school shoes. We currently do not require them to bring indoor shoes to change into. All long hair is to be tied back with a plain hair band and PE kits are to be kept at home. On days your child's class has PE lessons, they will be asked to attend school in their PE kit as they will not have access to cloakrooms to change in. Please ensure that your child's kit is appropriate for the weather that day particularly as we go into the cooler term when they may need a tracksuit. Your class teacher will inform you of your day in September.

Handwashing

Children will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly using soap and water. All classrooms will have access to hand sanitiser; however, you can provide a small bottle for your child to keep at their desk if you are confident they are sensible to use this appropriately.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We will be in touch in the Autumn term if we are able to provide these as we are not currently in a position to commit to any trips, visits or performances until we have further guidance from the Government. We are currently liaising with Alan Mallett regarding whether or not he can provide his football club as current guidance states that contact sports are not able to take place. We are awaiting confirmation and risk assessments from the music service and will be in touch with more details when we have received this information.



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Developing Symptoms

If your child or anyone in your household develops any symptoms of COVID19, they must not attend school and must get tested. If a child or member of staff develops symptoms whilst at school, they will be isolated, sent home and asked to get tested. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing website or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. All children and staff will remain in school until the results of the test. Parents must inform us immediately of the results of a test. Should a result be positive, then we will seek immediate advice from the public health team.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The Croft

We are pleased to say that currently 'The Croft' will be in a position to open from 3rd September and Mrs Smith will be in touch with you over the summer to clarify how they intend to minimise the risk to these children. We have looked carefully through the Government guidance to consider what changes may need to be made to ensure the risk to the children is minimised and this will be clearly explained to you soon. It is important to note that if your child does attend this provision they are effectively in more than one group. In the event of any child testing positive then it is likely that all bubbles the child attends will need to isolate.

Further Reading

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

My thanks go out to the whole staff team who have worked over the past two days setting up the school to ensure that the plans for September opening can go ahead. We are now all going to stop for a few days and have a well-deserved and long awaited rest over the summer holidays. The office is now closed; however, the admin emails will be checked periodically to ensure we are aware of any urgent matters. In the meantime, please click on the video links below to see a short message from your new teachers. If you are in Nursery or Reception, this will be posted on Tapestry soon.

KS1 https://youtu.be/V0H1_9g_a8w

LKS2 <https://youtu.be/D47K8RwvzsQ>

UKS2 <https://youtu.be/HEcYyIvtaMk>

We wish you all a lovely summer break.

Yours sincerely
Mrs D Miller
Headteacher