



Guide to School - September 2020

The government has issued guidance stating that all children should come back to school in September but there are various actions that schools need to prepare so that we can reduce the risk of infection spreading in school.

This document sets out the key measures in place and the actions you can expect from us, as well as setting out how parents and children need to support the school to be safe.

Most importantly of all, **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY DISPLAY ANY SYMPTOMS OF THE CORONAVIRUS.** They must stay at home. You must seek a test and we will ask to see confirmation of a negative result before they can return. Similarly, if a member of a pupils' household is displaying symptom, that person must not enter the school grounds.

Following the current guidance, we will send other children home from school if a child in their group is displaying symptoms. We will wait to see the outcome of their test and then be in touch with you.

Guidance is clear that should there be a confirmed case of Covid-19 in school, we must contact the Local Health Protection Team and follow their guidance. We will keep families informed at every step.

Bubbles

From September, the school will be organised into seven different 'bubbles'. These bubbles will be grouped by year group and they will not mix with any other bubbles in school. They will arrive and leave school at different times (see below), have different breaks and lunch times, not mix for lessons (such as phonics) and there will be no assemblies. These groups are a key part of the protective measures in order to reduce the risk to everyone.

Arrival and Collection

The start / finish times for the children will be staggered to minimise mixing of adults on the school grounds. Each time is a window. Do not arrive at school until the relevant window is open so that we can minimise the number of people on the school at the same time. Do not queue outside the school gates, either before or after school. As there is a ten minute period to drop off and collect, we can have fewer adult on site at one time.

We will maintain our current one-way system around the school and we ask that no more than one adult picks up a child.

If you have children in more than one year group, you may drop off the other children as you go around the school. This is so that we can minimise the numbers of adults on site. Once you have dropped off or collected your child, please leave the school.

The drop off and collection times are as follows:

Sun and Moon classes, 1W, Y4:	8.40 - 8.50am and 2.50 - 3.00pm
1S, Y3, Y6:	8.50 - 9.00 and 3.00 - 3.10pm
Y5, Y2:	9.00 - 9.10 and 3.10 - 3.20pm

Children who attend Oliver's Lodge can be dropped off and picked up at the normal entrance. The children will be dropped off to class and collected in the same format, with Oliver's Lodge staff acting as parents.

Parents will not be allowed in to 'red' areas that have been painted by the entrance to each classroom. Parents will need to say goodbye to their child on the path and the child will use school hand sanitiser before entering the classroom. This will be administered by an adult from the child's group.

As the times of entry / collection are longer than normal, the school car park gates will be closed to cars for longer periods. Please bear this in mind if you usually use the car park, for example when dropping off / picking up from Oliver's Lodge or nursery.

Social distancing

Official guidance recognises that social distancing will be hard to maintain with children in primary schools. For this reason, children in each bubble will not be expected to maintain a 2m distance.

We do ask that families do maintain a 2m distance while on the school site. We are aware that 1m+ is in place in some locations, but we feel that we cannot offer the 'plus' element, such as masks and additional hand hygiene for visitors.

There will be no mixed bubble assemblies.

Should a child regularly and / or deliberately breach social distancing measures we will, in the first instance, speak to the family. We will work together to help the child understand our expectations and ask for parents to support us. You can find the amended Behaviour Policy here: <https://brinkleygrove.essex.sch.uk/Parents/COVID-Support>

Learning

We are aware that many children will have inevitably missed out on some of the learning during the school closure and we will begin to work with the children to 'catch them up'. Class teachers will carry out some 'soft' assessments in the first few weeks of school so they can plan for the term ahead. We will also be focusing on the core learning from the Summer Term. We will not carry out assessments that are more formal until late October so we can ensure the children have settled back in to school.

There will also be a focus on personal and social education (PSHE) to help the children rediscover their social skills and manage their feelings about returning to school. To aid with this, we are redeveloping an outside area of the school that we can use for team building, exploration and social development.

Lunches

Our kitchen is fully reopening from September and we will be providing hot meals once again. Children in reception, years 1 and 2 will be eligible for a free meal as usual. Children in years 3 -6 can order a hot meal in the usual manner. There will be no vouchers for families eligible for free meals as they will be fed as usual in school.

Water bottles MUST be brought in as we are discouraging the use of water fountains.

School office

We are encouraging all parents to leave the school site as soon as they have dropped off their child. Where possible, please phone the office / use Class Dojo to contact the school. This term, we will begin use Google Forms for reply slips in order to reduce visits to the office and we ask for all payments to be made by SIMS Agora.

If you must go to the office, there is a queuing system. Only one adult is allowed into the lobby area by the 'hatch' and you will need to stand behind the marked line. Others must wait outside the office using the white lines to ensure social distancing.

Seeing teachers

You cannot enter the school at this time. If there is a matter you wish to discuss you will need to make an appointment for the staff member to call you. Class Dojo can also be used to share any worries or concerns.

We are making plans for parents' consultation and will inform you of the procedures in September.

PPE and Masks

Children will not be allowed to use PPE on the school grounds. The guidance is clear that PPE such as masks when they are used by children who cannot use them correctly increases the risk of infection. Please do not allow your child to bring a mask in.

Staff will use PPE if a child displays symptoms and will support them until they are collected. We have offered staff the option to use masks if they wish and so your child may be with staff members who are wearing PPE routinely.

We will be encouraging children to use tissues routinely and these will be disposed of into lidded bins in every classroom. Children must wash their hands after using these bins.