



Guide to School - March 2021

We are pleased to confirm that all children will be returning to school from 8th March. This document sets out the arrangements for the return.

Many of the changes to the normal school day we made in September and so will be familiar but we ask that all families read this guidance thoroughly.

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

Like before, 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 and do not gather at the school gates.

The drop off and collection times are as follows:

Sun and Moon classes and Y4:	8.40 - 8.50am and 2.50 - 3.00pm
Y1, 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.

We repeat our request that only essential items are brought in from home. This should be limited to lunch, snack, water bottles and reading books. Do not bring these in large rucksacks.

Attendance

The government has made it clear that there is an expectation that all children attend school from 8th March and non-attendance could result in penalty notices.

We will not be authorising any requests for any holiday should the government permit holidays this academic year. Do note that we have three non-pupil day scheduled for 19th – 21st July which parents may wish to use for holiday purposes.

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 maintain a 2m distance while on the school site.

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/covid-support/>

PPE and Masks

We are recommending that family members wear a face covering when they drop off and pick up their children.

Staff will be wearing masks in communal areas and some staff may choose to wear masks in the classroom.

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.

Covid Tests

Current guidance is that pupils in primary schools will not be routinely tested for Covid. However, staff will be testing twice weekly in order to pick up any asymptomatic cases to prevent further spread.

Uniform

Children should wear uniform as usual. We do understand that sourcing some items of uniform may be difficult as non-essential shops are closed. If your child has outgrown their shoes etc. then let your child's class teacher know.

You can still order jumpers etc. from the online provider:

<https://www.smartypantsschoolwear.com/brinkley-grove.html>

PE Kit

The arrangements for PE will be the same before the most recent closure, with children in all years except in 5 and 6 bringing their PE kits. Year 5 and 6 must wear their PE kits to school on the relevant days.

Learning

As was the case after the last school closure, it will be important for us to assess the children and make sure that we alter the teaching to take account of any lost learning.

Consequently, for the first two weeks of the return, we will assess the children's wellbeing as well as their reading / phonic knowledge. After the Easter break, there will be more formal assessments of their maths. To make sure that families are aware of where their children are in their learning, we will arrange parents' meetings in early May. We will use the same online system as before.

We will alter the curriculum slightly to give the chance for the children to express themselves in the post-lockdown recovery period. This will be through two whole school projects. One will be a letter writing project and the other will be an art project. No doubt the children will tell you all about it once they get started and, depending on the restrictions in place in the future, we hope to invite you all to an art exhibition to see their collected art works.

Staffing

There has been an increase in the number of staff who have been asked to shield until at least the 31st March. As a result, your child may not have the same adults working with them as they would do normally. We hope this will not be the case after the Easter Break but this cannot be guaranteed at this point.

Lunches

Our kitchen is fully reopening 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. We will continue to 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.

Return of school laptops

If we provided you with a laptop to complete the home learning with, Mrs Emms will be in touch to arrange when you can return the computer. It must be returned as lent, including with power leads and cases.