

FAQ raised by NL parents at zoom meetings in preparation for return to school

<p>1. How many children will there be in one bubble?</p> <p>They exist for a maximum of 15 children. Each returning class has been placed into two roughly equal sized bubbles. However, bubbles in school vary in size, with some bubbles of 14 currently intending to return and some with no more than 6 but we are aware these numbers may change as children in returning year groups may come back in the coming weeks.</p>
<p>2. What do the children need to wear?</p> <p>School uniform as it is easier for their clothes to go in the wash at the end of the day. However, if there are items they have outgrown/or they feel comfier then school PE kit is fine. We want the children to be comfortable and prepared for lots of time outside. Trainers rather than school shoes is most appropriate footwear. The children should not bring changes of clothes or PE kit with them. We want to be able to clear cloakrooms at the end of each day to aid cleaning.</p>
<p>3. Should the children bring a snack in?</p> <p>Yes, a couple of snacks is a good idea (it doesn't have to be just fruit, but preferably not lots of crisps and chocolate). The snacks need to be easily opened by the children themselves and they can bring these in a lunch box. We won't be providing a fruit snack for KS1 children as we usually do.</p>
<p>4. If a child feels a bit unwell do you want them to stay home?</p> <p>Yes, absolutely. We only want children to come to school if they are feeling completely well. If they feel unwell in anyway (not just Covid symptoms) they must stay at home. We are not taking pupil temperatures on the gate. But if a child starts feeling unwell during the day, we will call parents to collect straight away or if a child appears "under the weather" we may take their temperature (we have an infra-red thermometer) and then take it again half an hour later and call parents if the temperature has risen. If your child suffers from hayfever, please let us know so that we don't mistake a runny nose/itchy eyes with possible Covid symptoms and send them home. We can also administer hayfever medication. If you present this to the office then Mrs Richardson will provide you with the necessary forms for completion.</p>
<p>5. How have the classrooms been set up?</p> <p>The classrooms look a little bare – lots of cleared surfaces to aid cleaning, half of the chairs have been removed with the rest spread out around the room. The tables (or the children) are not arranged in unfriendly rows. The sides/worktop spaces of the classroom have been cleared to aid thorough, regular cleaning. Toys & resources that are left out are things that can be wiped down. (Holly Class: construction/painting/making area but there is no playdough & no dressing up toys). Displays are still up so it looks like a familiar and welcoming environment and children are returning to their own classroom. Each child has their own wipeable stationery pack with everything they need.</p>
<p>6. How strict are we being about social distancing?</p> <p>There is a recognition by the DfE that young children in particular can't socially distance. We will support this by supervised regular handwashing, removing unwashable toys, having activities spaced out, reducing the amount of shared resources eg the children will have their own stationery packs. We will still have access to outdoor play (but no sand accessible in Holly). We will remind the children not to put hands in each other faces but we are not expecting them to stay 2 metres apart. Hygiene is key and working within isolated bubbles that don't mix in school. However, we can do all this in school but require our parents to also follow social interaction/distancing guidance.</p>
<p>7. Will children be constantly told to keep apart? Or get told off for getting too</p>

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<p>close?</p> <p>We will be gently reminding the whole group about not hugging, licking things, putting fingers in their mouths etc. However, we won't be telling children off. We recognise that social distancing with small children is very difficult and we want their time in school to be a positive experience.</p>
<p>8. Can the children play with one another at playtime or with equipment?</p> <p>The children will wash their hands before they go out to play and wash them again when they come in. Each bubble has their own area to play outside and each bubble has their own playtime equipment box and this can be wiped down at the end of the day. We will remind them to not get too entangled with one another but we're not going to make them play in a hoop two metres apart from other.</p>
<p>9. My child has really bad eczema at the moment. Can they bring in their own cream from home?</p> <p>If it's a prescription cream from the GP we can manage that. We are aware that lots of us were suffering with sore hands from all the handwashing in school before we closed. But we're hoping with only two days in school, the children's hands will have time to recover. We won't be able to manage 15 bottles of different soaps.</p>
<p>10. What's the procedure if a member of staff thinks a child is displaying Covid symptoms?</p> <p>The child's parent will be called to collect them and the child will be isolated and given a place to sit (outside the front entrance door or inside with ventilation) with an adult to supervise them until the parent arrives. If the child is displaying possible Covid symptoms they should be tested. We would then inform the parents of that bubble and close it down until we have the results of that test. If it's negative, the bubble will resume as before and if it's a positive result the bubble will be closed for 14 days. We will also contact Public Health England for their advice on any further action we may need to take.</p>
<p>11. What happens if my child doesn't settle back into school or find it beneficial, can they stop coming?</p> <p>Yes. Parents are able to make the choice whether their child attends and can continue to make that choice. We will not be making judgements about whether your child attends or not. If a child is really unsettled and continues to be so we will phone that parent & the child can go home and try again another day if they'd like. However, as far as we can, we will do everything we can to make it a welcome place for all children attending.</p>
<p>12. If my child is in the bubble not with the teacher, does that mean my child will not see them?</p> <p>Yes – for as long as the guidance for separate bubbles of 15 children continues. We have needed to create two bubbles for each class. Both bubbles will be working with at least one familiar adult that they were working with before. The class teacher will be providing the work for the other staff to deliver and there will be lots of liaison between the class staff team to make the learning experience as effective as possible for all.</p> <p>We are also reviewing arrangements for September and currently favouring a plan where children will come back to their current class teacher for a short time and build in transition visits to their new class and classroom over this period. There are many practical challenges that this creates and we have to see whether ODST Academy will allow us to make some changes, to make this possible.</p>
<p>13. Will the children from each bubble do the same thing?</p>

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<p>Yes - the class teacher will be preparing work for both bubbles and liaising closely with the staff team. Learning in school will reflect the Home Learning Provision (available as before on the website) and this will enable them to continue with their learning on the days they are at home. There is no expectation that they will complete everything on the home learning sheet. After a couple of days back at school, they will be tired!</p>
<p>14. Do you want us to return school reading books? Not yet and not to the class teacher – it would be best to wait until September (or you could return them to the school office).</p>
<p>15. Can the children wear trainers all day? Yes – they won't be getting changed for PE or outdoor activities. We want to avoid open toed sandals and we want them to be dressed appropriately for outdoors as much as possible. They do not need to bring in wellies. We want to keep cloakroom items to a minimum and send everything home at the end of each day, to help with the cleaning.</p>
<p>16. How are we managing toilets? Each bubble has their own set of toilets and handwashing will be supervised by staff. Toilet areas (and classrooms) will be cleaned when the children are outside at lunchtimes and at the end of each day as well as a deeper clean on a Wednesday between bubbles. Staff also have cleaning packs if surfaces need to be wiped down in between times. There will be lots of reminders including a handwashing rota about the required times to wash hands throughout the day. They will be supervised by staff for this. Lidded bins (with foot pedal opening) have been provided for each classroom/ cloakroom.</p>
<p>17. Is this arrangement now the pattern until end of the summer term? It is a Government ambition for all year groups to return for a month in school. However this looks unlikely with the current 15 max bubble regulation. We haven't received any guidance for what comes next.</p>
<p>18. If our allocated entrance is the rear car park gate can we park still in the car park? Yes and you can wait in the car until you see a member of staff arrive at the car park gate to collect your child's bubble. There is a screened off area separate from the cars for children to queue behind.</p>
<p>19. If there is a confirmed Covid case in my work place do I need to let you know? It would be good to be informed. But unless you yourself have been tested positive, then we are "far enough removed" to continue in school.</p>
<p>20. Where will the children be eating their lunch? Outside in a separate area to other bubbles. If it's raining they will eat in the classroom. They will be supervised at lunch and play times by the staff attached to their bubble.</p>
<p>21. Are we going to talk to the children about their feelings about Lockdown/Covid or will it be "business as usual"? This will depend more on the age of the children. We will definitely not be sitting children down for "Covid" lessons. We will be giving our Year 6 children opportunities to talk about their feelings if they would like. They will be more aware of what this period of lockdown has meant for them and what they have lost with regards to this final season of their time in primary school. We will also acknowledge, again probably more for older children, that there have been some really positive family times together, extended time for children with parents/ siblings. With younger children there will be more focus on ways to help us and</p>

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others be safe and well. We will be sensitive and approach questions children have with age appropriate responses focusing on positive messages. If a child raises a question who may have more knowledge about Covid than their peer group, then a member of staff will have a quiet word and answer their question age appropriately/listen to what they want to share away from the wider group.

22. Why have some councils taken a different stance on opening?

This varies regionally as some councils (particularly in the North) control all of the schools in their county/borough. However, in some parts of the country more schools are in a number of Academy Trusts and the council only control around a third (or less) of schools. In addition to this, some parts of the country have had more cases and may still be suffering as an area more than others. We are luckier in West Oxfordshire in that people don't have to travel to school by public transport.

23. Have there been any Covid cases at the school that we know of?

We know of one Key Worker parent who tested positive a while ago. We don't know about the school community as a whole. There were a couple of staff who potentially had it at the beginning but there was no testing available at that point.

24. Have teachers been able to receive the antibody test?

No this isn't something that is available to us. But the school can request Covid tests for staff relatively quickly.