

Frequently asked questions

Which years are starting and when?

The DfE guidance is that schools consider opening for nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6. They are seen as important transitional years and fundamental to children's development. We also have to offer continued support to key worker families, children who are deemed vulnerable (have social worker involvement) and those with an Education and Health Care Plan.

What is a 'bubble'?

A bubble is a group of children and staff that is separate from others. At no time will they mix with any other group, adult or children either collectively or individually. There will be no crossing of bubbles and maximal social distancing will be maintained at all times possible (with the exception of an unforeseen emergency).

What is the impact of a bubble?

It means that the number of people that come in to contact with each other is minimised and, should there be any concern about the spread of C19, we know who may have been in contact and we can provide appropriate support and guidance.

One of the issues, however, is that this means staff members can only cover one group. So, we cannot allow a staff member that works with Bubble A to work with Bubble B. On the surface, this seems relatively straight forward. But, it can quickly become a complex jigsaw and it puts pressure on the number of staff we need.

How will you maintain a balance between social distancing and pupil well-being?

The bubbles themselves reduce the number of people that will be interacting with the children. But, we will also apply a number of measures in class to support this: promoting distancing between children; smaller groups; more time outside; careful allocation of toilets; staggered breaks and lunchtime; no access to communal areas in school (no whole school assemblies); minimal movement around corridors; development of one-way systems etc.

In school, we cannot apply the two metre distancing rules that are applied outside of school. Of course, when you are coming to and from school, this is possible and we ask you to adhere to the rules and guides rigidly. In school, we simply cannot expect children to meaningfully maintain a distance of two metres at all times and to suggest we can would be wrong. We will do everything we can to support the children at an appropriate distance and encourage the children to respect this rule. But, by sending your child to school, you recognise that this is not enforceable and there is increased risk of exposure. Teachers and staff will do all they can, including sending children home who are not able to follow their guidance, but it is fundamentally important that you know the DfE recognises this is not a rational expectation in a primary setting with very young children.

What else will you do?

Later this week, we will send out our plan to show how you will be able to access the site safely. If you would like to see greater detail in the actions taken by the school, the risk assessment is available on the website for you to consider. As ever, we want to work in close collaboration with you and want to hear if you have any concerns or feel there is something you think we should consider further.

What can parents do?

Please sign our new home to school agreement to show you are supporting us and each other. If a parent does not agree to abide by these rules, we will need to withdraw our offer of support for the safety and well-being of all.

We still aim to reduce the number of people attending the site: come alone if you can and don't bring any more children to school than is necessary **but do bring them if you have to. Do not leave children at home unattended.** Please leave as quickly as you can. Please reduce contact with any staff members as much as you can – the HT and DHT will still be on the gate but at a distance. Other staff will remain at their class doorways; please remain a suitable distance from them and send any messages electronically. **Staff will not be allowed to accept handwritten notes from home and will not be allowed to accept anything passed to them.**

Which year groups can KPS offer at this time?

We are able to support all of the groups above **with the exception of Year 6.** Due to the number of pupils involved and the number of staff required to maintain 'bubbles', we cannot offer year 6 provision (other than for the specific groups identified above) at this time. We do not know yet when this will be available.

Will my child have their class teacher?

In some instances they will. But, unfortunately, as we cannot cross bubbles, there will be some that do not have their class teacher. We have tried to offer balance by providing a staff member that is known to them, but it has not always been possible.

How will I know if my child has their teacher?

We are still making final adjustments to the bubbles and some staff are exploring their fitness to return to work (some are classed as vulnerable or live with those in this category). We hope that by the start of next week, we will send you a list of who is teaching which bubble and along with a photo and a picture of their classroom.

Will my child be taught in their usual classroom?

In some instances they will. However, as we need to create bubbles and these cannot cross, there is a need to use additional classrooms in the school that are not their usual class. Each of these rooms will have been prepared to support the children to the best of our ability. We have done all we can to distribute the children around school in the safest and best way possible to support them.

How do I prepare my child to return?

Talk with your child and explain that school is going to be a little bit different when they come back. But, we are still the same school – this is just a short time of change and we hope to return to normal very soon. We will provide some online resources to explain who their teacher is. We will ask the teachers to do a quick introduction of themselves and we will also share a social story to explain what it is going to be like. If there are other things you would really like from us, please do let us know and we can consider this in our planning.

What should my child wear?

Children should wear clean clothes each day. When they get home, they should change and put their clothes in the wash. They should also have a shower / bath to make sure they are clean. As we are expecting frequent changes of clothes, they do **not** need to wear a school uniform and can wear trainers. Please just make sure they are suitably dressed.

What happens at lunchtime?

The children will either eat in their classrooms at a socially acceptable distance or outside if the weather is fine. Children in reception and year 1 will be provided with a free school meal as part of the universal free school meals provision. Others should bring their own packed lunch in to school. All children should bring their own named drinks bottle. Children in receipt of free-school meals will still receive their hampers each fortnight. Parents are required to provide a packed lunch from these hampers. **No food will be prepared on site.** The children will be given time to play on the field or playground in their own designated space to maintain the bubble. Only staff assigned to the bubble will be there to support them unless there is an emergency.

What happens at playtime?

The children will be given time to play on the field or playground in their own designated space to maintain the bubble. Only staff assigned to the bubble will be there to support them unless there is an emergency.

What can my child bring to school?

They should bring as little as possible in from home. A small bag containing their lunchbox, drink and a snack for breaktime. They will need to bring a coat if the weather is unpleasant. They should bring nothing else – this will be provided by the school and will remain on site in their own designated space. They must not bring in any other items from home – such as toys, games or cards.

My child is in year 1 and I am a key worker, what does that mean for me?

No child can attend two bubbles. Each has to remain separate and the children cannot cross from one to the other. So, if you wish for your child to be able to access full-time provision, they will need to join the Key Worker bubble. If you want them to join their class, they will need to join the class bubble in either group A or B. **Once a decision is made and the child has been assigned to a bubble, this cannot change.**

My child has an EHCP, is vulnerable or has other significant needs, what does this mean for me?

We will contact you in person in the coming few days to discuss the various options we have available.

Can you offer wrap around care?

We hope to be able to offer this soon. It will only be available to key workers as we do not have sufficient staff to run other groups. If your child wants to attend wrap around care, they can only be part of the Key Worker bubble. If they join the class bubble, they cannot access this provision.