

Frequently asked questions regarding September Opening

Section 1 – day to day practicalities

Will my child be coming back to school in September?

Yes. Provision is being made for all pupils to return to school on Thursday 3rd September, 2020.

Do I have to send my child back to school in September?

Yes. The government have outlined that attendance at school will be compulsory in September for all children. Children must therefore be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, your child has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance etc). You should therefore continue to follow our normal attendance procedures from September and inform us on a daily basis if your child is unwell and therefore unable to attend school.

Do pupils need to wear uniform?

Yes. We ask that all children return to school in September in full uniform. We also request that children now bring in their PE kit and, for children in reception, a pair of wellingtons that can be left in school during the term. We have been informed that the uniform does not need to be washed any more than normal. However, for your own safety and peace of mind, you may choose to wash it frequently.

What will my child need to bring to school?

The government continues to recommend that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day. We therefore request that children only bring the following essential items into school:

- named book bag
- named water bottle
- named healthy fruit/vegetable snack in a sealed container (NB – we are still awaiting confirmation that KS1 fruit deliveries will continue)
- named coat, sunhat etc
- named PE Kit
- named lunch box (if they are not having a school lunch)

They should not bring any other non-essential items (such as toys, large bags etc) into school as we will have everything they need at school, including stationery.



Will the school day be the same as before Covid?

In the main, yes. But, we need to stagger playtimes, lunchtime, and the beginning and end of the day; we are planning a slightly different structure to the day according to which year group your child is in. The children's overall school day will not be any shorter and many of the routines will be the same.

I have children in different year groups. What time should they come to school?

To help parents, we have arranged for siblings to drop off during the middle slot – between 8.40 and 8.50am. Please see the timetable.

I have children in different year groups. What time should I collect them?

We have arranged for siblings to be collected during the middle slot. They should be collected at 3.10pm. Please see the timetable.

Where should I drop off my child / collect them from?

We would like all children to come straight to their classroom by the external doors and have created a one-way system around the outside of the school to enable this. Unfortunately, you will not be able to enter the building.

How will the classroom be organised?

Many soft furnishings, toys, project display and practical resources will be removed to reduce contamination and to ensure thorough cleaning can take place. The pupils, where possible, will be seated at forward facing desks. This will not be the case in the reception nor Year 1 classes.

What are the arrangements for lunches?

We are currently finalising how lunchtimes will run with our providers: Caterlink. Free school meals will be provided in some form (probably a packed lunch) to all of those children in reception to Year 2 and those who are otherwise allocated these meals. If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals because your circumstances have changed, we would encourage you to check as not only will meals be provided, but the school will also receive pupil premium funding for them which will allow us to support their learning in other ways. Please see: [Gloucestershire Free School Meals](#)

Will breakfast club / after school club be open?

Yes. We have worked with breakfast and K clubs to ensure that 'Wrap-around Care' can be provided. Both of these clubs will operate in the school hall. The children will be kept in slightly broader bubbles of: R, Y1 and Y2; Y3 and Y4; Y5 and Y6 whilst they are at the club. Breakfast Club will start at 8am. After School Club will run until 5.30pm – further details can be found here.

Will there be any additional after school clubs?

Up until October Half Term we will not be running any additional after school clubs. This is to allow us monitor the new arrangements without additional logistical issues. We will review this regularly during the Autumn Term. We hope to have these up and running soon.

Can my child walk home alone?

As usual, appropriately responsible and trust-worthy older children may be allowed to walk home with permission from the school. Should you wish to grant your child permission to walk home alone, please complete the attached risk assessment and return it to school. You should wait until the school has confirmed agreement prior to allowing your child this freedom.

Will there be any school trips?

Schools are permitted to organise non-residential trips. Each year group will carefully consider and risk-assess any planned trips and parents will be fully informed. We have already started to think about these exciting events and will update you in September.

Will there be swimming lessons?

This is dependent on guidance from the local health and safety executive and Swim England. We will let parents know the arrangements at the start of September.

Staying safe at Kingsway Primary School

We know there will be many more people accessing the site in September. Please help us to keep everyone safe by following the expected social distancing rules of 2m at all times. The school markings will be refreshed over the summer to help guide distancing.

Are parents allowed in school?

We need to keep the number of adults visiting the school to a minimum. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please make contact via email to the school office on admin@kingsway.gloucs.sch.uk or via Class Dojo directly to the teacher to make an appointment for a telephone conversation. If your child has forgotten something, please leave it, labelled with their name, on the table outside Reception and we will deliver it to them.

We will continue to operate the same one-way system and we encourage all parents and ensure that parents do not come within 2 metres of each other or the teacher at drop off. Please remember that staff are not permitted to take the children from you unless there is a very specific reason and a risk assessment for that child has been put in place.

Why is there a new home-school agreement?

We think it's important that we set out how school will now be operating, what you can expect from us and also what we will need from our families so that we can minimise the risk to people's health whilst enabling children to settle into the new term as easily as possible.

How often will measures be reviewed?

The school's risk assessment is a 'live' document and will be reviewed whenever any measures are required and in response to any changes in guidance. The full risk assessment can be found on the school website.

Section 2 – Curriculum and Learning

Will children be following the normal curriculum when they return?

We recognise that many children have missed a significant proportion of the school year and therefore will not have engaged in all key learning opportunities within our broad and balanced curriculum. However, we also know that many children have continued to make good progress during this time with the support and commitment of you as parents, as you have worked tirelessly to support home learning during this time.

Learning will be focused, fun and engaging and will be as close to a normal curriculum as possible. We have reduced some elements of our learning in the short-term to allow us time to focus on coming back together as a school and to helping children re-start after a strange time. We will have a strong focus on mental health and well-being and will be revisiting the 5 ways to well-being programme. We will send you much more detail on a weekly basis in September.

Some activities, such as contact sport and whole-school assemblies are not permitted to take place just yet – we will arrange suitable alternatives for the children to do in at this time.

Our focus within our curriculum design and planning continues to be based upon the following principles:

- Supporting children with the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement.
- Supporting children (and parents) with approaches to improving their physical and mental well-being (children will be engaging in regular physical education in their protective group/class, using the outdoor environment wherever possible).
- Promoting a broad and balanced creative curriculum using both the indoor and outdoor environments to support learning.
- Systematic phonics teaching which is reinforced across the curriculum through daily practice.
- Reading – promoting a love of reading across the curriculum and providing children with the skills needed to develop their fluency.
- Writing – developing children’s passion as writers who write for a range of purposes.
- Maths – developing children’s fluency in applying and solving number problems and developing reasoning.

Will my child receive tutoring?

The school will be assessing the children and planning teaching to cover key aspects of learning the children may have missed or need to consolidate. We are determined to do all we can to help the children catch up on any missed learning and have a phased programme of support for the school. We are allocating specialist teaching with a particular focus on phonics and reading every morning for the first half term – particularly in Years 1 to 3.

We will keep you fully informed of our work and discuss with you how can best support your child. Additional support may be offered to individual children according to their need as determined by the school. Parents will be informed of any arrangements.

Will staff be using PPE?

No. Government advice is that this is not appropriate in an education setting and so they will not be provided with PPE. The only exception to this is if a child becomes ill at school with coronavirus symptoms: in this case the member of staff supervising them will need to wear some protective equipment to minimise the risk of contagion.

Can my child wear a facemask?

No. The DfE Guidance states: ‘Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for

specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission'

We will be following this guidance and is included in our risk assessment.

Can you really expect young children to 'socially distance'?

No. We recognise that young children will be excited to be back at school with their teachers and friends and it is impossible to predict the impulsive nature of children. We will be actively promoting and reminding pupils of positive messages about social distancing and good hygiene. We would really appreciate your support in preparing your children for the fact that with social distancing in place things will be very different with regards to children and adults holding hands, hugging etc. To support you, there are some books on our website that may help.

Section 3 – Specific advice on managing illness

What if my child still needs to shield or self-isolate due to medical advice?

At Kingsway Primary School, we recognise that:

- a very small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Read the [current advice on shielding](#)
- if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent (see below).
- some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will ensure children are able to access our remote education provision.

What happens if my child shows symptoms of illness prior to attending or whilst at school?

Please ensure that your child **does not attend** school if they show symptoms of Covid19

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19, even if you think they are actually struggling with another medical condition, they should not attend school.

If children or staff become unwell during the day, we will continue to use our 'medical room' to isolate the child or staff member. Children will be supported by a trusted adult if they become unwell during the school day and you will be called to collect them. We respectfully ask that you collect them as soon as you receive a call from us to keep all members of the school community safe and well. Staff will use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when helping your child in this instance if they are unable to socially distance themselves whilst caring for your child.

If your child or you show symptoms of Covid19, you should refer to the NHS website and arrange a test;

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> If your child is tested, we ask that you alert us at school and inform us immediately of the outcome of the test. If your child's test is negative, they can return to school immediately (as long as they are feeling well

enough). Should a member of staff become unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, they will also be referred for a test. Should the outcome of the test be positive, we will follow the advice from Public Health England (PHE) and advise you accordingly of the actions to be taken.

If someone tests positive, they should follow the [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#). They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#)

As a school, we would take swift action if we were to become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) and would contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace. The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. We will then send a letter out to all parents and staff if needed outlining the action to be taken.

What will happen if my child needs to self-isolate due to a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

You should follow the advice provided earlier in this document should need to self-isolate due to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID19. If your child does need to self-isolate, we will continue to ensure that remote education plans are available for them to continue to access our curriculum and planned learning opportunities at home.

What will happen if we have a further period of enforced school closure?

In the event of a local outbreak, the PHE health protection team or local authority may advise our school or a number of schools to close temporarily to help control transmission.

Schools have been instructed to have ‘a strong contingency plan’ in place by the end of September to cater for this eventuality. We are currently reviewing our provision and investigating a new learning platform. We will update you on this further once the system is in place.