

Dear Parents / Carers

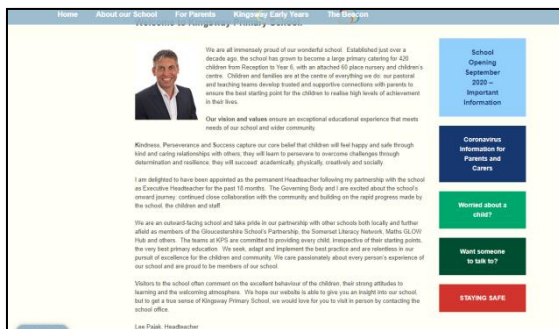
Welcome back to school – full opening on THURSDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER

(please note there was an error in the FAQs sent in July – it is NOT Wednesday, 2nd)

Happy New School Year! I hope you are all well and that you have been able to enjoy a break during the summer holidays.

We are really excited to be back to school – we know that getting back to a routine is really important for us all and that the children will be excited about their return; we can't wait to see them! I am sure you will have heard the government's announcements about the importance of returning. This letter aims to remind you about the information sent out at the end of term, to provide you with greater clarity about the updated risk assessments and

to offer you an opportunity to contact the school for further guidance and support if needed in the coming week.



All of this information can be found on our website: kingswayprimary.org.uk

New term and new start

It is my absolute pleasure to be starting on 1 September as the substantive Headteacher of our wonderful school. I am delighted to be able build on the great progress made last year. My role at Charlton Kings Junior School has now ended; I will be at KPS full time. I am delighted to welcome many new staff to the school as well and, of course, we are greatly looking forward to getting to know a whole new cohort of children joining us in Reception.

We've had a bit of a face lift! Many of the classrooms, along with the lower school corridor and main entrance have been painted. The rendering around school has been cleaned and the distance markings have all been refreshed. I am thankful to Mr England and Mr Butcher for managing these works over the summer as well as all the staff who help to prepare for a new school year.

A most impressive piece has been painted in response to the competition run by Miss Anderson to improve the front entrance. I know the competition winners will be keen to spot the elements which were incorporated into the design – it really sets the tone for our school's bright and inspiring future. If you have a moment, please enjoy the mural creation: <https://www.facebook.com/Brandonsmurals/videos/306982807289832>

Many thanks must go to our parents' association, SoKs, for paying for this design! It will give great pleasure to everyone for years to come and we hope to be able to add another couple of designs in the future!



Covid Safe School details

The hope this letter reassures you of the actions we are taking to support an effective, safe and smooth restart. We know that all this information can feel overwhelming and have tried to keep it relatively brief and easy to understand while including all the main parts. There are some basic principles outlined by the government that we are asked to follow:

We are asking schools to prepare for all pupils to return full-time from the start of the autumn term, including those in school-based nurseries. Schools should not put in place rotas.

Schools must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. Schools should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessments and draw up plans for the autumn term that address the risks identified using the system of controls set out below. These are an adapted form of the system of protective measures that will be familiar from the summer term.

Essential measures include:

- *a requirement that people who are ill stay at home*
- *robust hand and respiratory hygiene*
- *enhanced cleaning arrangements*
- *active engagement with NHS Test and Trace*
- *formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable*

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- *grouping children together*
- *avoiding contact between groups*
- *arranging classrooms with forward facing desks*
- *staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible*

In response, we have updated our risk assessments, building on our learning from the summer term and incorporating the new guidance. This risk assessment has been shared widely. For those who would like to explore our actions further, on the front page of our website, you will be able to access the documents that are being used by staff, governors and others who may access the site (such as our catering team or contractors). In certain cases, the risk assessment is supplemented further by additional guidance (for example for visitors to the school). If you have any questions or comments to make, we would be pleased to hear from you on:

admin@kingsway.gloucs.sch.uk

Should you wish, you can read the full government guidance, which can be found here and our website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#A>

We are making best use of the INSET days to consider:

- 1) How our risk assessment works in practice
- 2) How our curriculum is adapted to help children settle quickly, feel secure and be ready for learning
- 3) Training needs to help children make good progress

We want to hear from you

If you have any concerns about your child or would like to raise any questions about how the school can best support your child, or if your child is a bit worried about coming back and they need someone to talk with, please email our pastoral team on: pastoralsupport@kingsway.gloucs.sch.uk. Please just leave a message and we will be in touch. We want to do all we can to help any of you who are worried to settle as soon as we can.

Some other reminders from the headlines

This information is in addition to that sent at the end of term. If you have any other specific organisational questions, please email the office on admin@kingsway.gloucs.sch.uk

Coming to school

Schools should encourage parents, staff and pupils to walk or cycle to school if at all possible.

Attendance expectations – Government guidance

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- *parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;*
- *schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence*
- *the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct*
- *Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.*

Bring as little to school as possible

Only bring the minimum of what you need to school: drinks bottle and snack; lunchbox where needed; coats and reading books. We will be sending home reading books this term and have included a way of doing this more safely in our risk assessment. Further information will follow according to your child's year group.

Lunches

For the time being, the children will eat their lunches in the classrooms (apart from reception children who will eat in the hall when they start).

The children's lunchtimes are staggered to reduce numbers on the playground at once.

Children who receive free school meals (either because they are in Y2 or below or because they are in receipt of pupil-premium funding) do not need to bring a packed lunch to school. They will be offered a choice of packed lunch each morning.

All other children will need to bring their own packed lunch in a wipe clean box.

Before and After School Clubs

These will continue to operate under our new system. Information will be posted on the website in due course as well as how to book using Parent Pay.

Reducing numbers on site

Visitors to school

We respectfully request that you do not come in to school unless you have an appointment. If you need to speak with a member of staff, we ask that you either contact them through Class Dojo or email the school on admin@kingsway.gloucs.sch.uk. We are sorry, but we will not be able to accept unexpected visitors.

Morning drop off/Afternoon pick up

We request that where possible, only one member of the family comes to the school to drop-off/pick up. This will limit the number of adults on the site at one time. When you have dropped off or collected your child, we kindly request that you leave the site promptly and do leave the area too. We know it's nice to have a catch up, but if you can do that away from school, we would appreciate it.

One-way system

We continue to operate a one-way system around school. There are also hatched lines where waiting is not permitted at any time due to congestion

Staggered start/end times

Please keep to those times to reduce congestion these are published on the website and remain unchanged from those published in July.

New Home to School Agreement

A new agreement has been written. All parents and children are required to have agreed to this prior to starting next week. A link has been placed to Office Forms. If you cannot access this, please email the school office for a copy to be sent to you electronically.

What will happen if your child is unwell at school?

We will call you immediately. It is vital that you have systems in place to collect the child quickly should the need arise. Please make sure we have at least 2 emergency contact numbers for your children. The child will be looked after in a specially designated room by a member of the school team who will be wearing PPE. You will be required to test the child. The school will inform other parents and take guidance from the LA about next steps.

What happens if my child or anyone in my house is unwell at home?

They must not come to school. You must inform the school immediately. If your child/person in the house has any of the Covid symptoms, you must arrange to have them tested immediately and they must self-isolate until the result is clear.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

In the event of any illness, we will clarify the latest guidance from the LA / NHS.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19>

We are really looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Kind regards



Lee Pajak

Headteacher