



St Ives Infant School
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Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your patience as we prepare to fully reopen again for all our children, on Monday 8th March. Many of the measures are very similar, if not the same as before, however as there has been quite a long break it makes sense to revisit the arrangements fully at this point.

Systems of Control

The government acknowledge the new variant of the virus is more transmissible but that the PHE (Public Health England) advice remains the same in terms of how we can control the virus. The actions we all need to take are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection', with all of our school community having a part to play in minimising the risk of transmission. This means that as we plan to reopen fully, we have reviewed all the new school guidance, our risk assessment and we have put specific plans in place in order to adhere to the guidance and minimise risk.

In brief, the government guidance is;

Prevention

- Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend school.
- Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances
- Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- Ensure good Respiratory hygiene by promoting 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach
- Maintain enhanced cleaning including more frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents

In specific circumstances:

- Ensure individuals wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary (intimate care, Close contact for sustained period, Covid symptoms)
- Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing where available

Response to any infection

You must always:

- Promote and engage with NHS Track & Trace process

- Manage and report any suspected or confirmed cases of Covid 19 amongst the school community
- Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Ventilation continues to be one of the main protective factors for the school, so please be aware that school may, be cooler than usual. Please feel free to send your child with extra layers (not necessarily school uniform) if the temperature dips.

School Operations

Staggered days will continue as follows:

Year Group	Site Access Details	School day starts	School day ends	Site Access Details
Nursery	8.40am Bottom Gate	8.45am	3.30pm	3.25pm Bottom Gate
	Children that attend part days should be collected/dropped off at the top gate please			
Reception	9.05am Bottom Gate	9.15am	3.15pm	3.10pm Bottom Gate
Year 1	8.50am Top Gate Only	9.00am	3.00pm	2.55pm Top Gate Only
Year 2	9.10am Top Gate Only	9.15am	3.15pm	3.10pm Top Gate Only

Please –

- Access the school grounds at the time and gate specified above. This is to specifically limit the number of traffic, approaching and accessing the site at any one time.
- The school day is staggered to support social distancing but lunchtimes have been shortened to ensure the children still access their usual hours of the directed school day.
- We politely request that you wear a face covering, unless exempt, whilst on site due to the restrictions some areas of our site have.
- Do not approach the classroom doors. If you need to pass on a lengthier message or would like to speak to the class teacher, then please call the office or speak to the office staff using the window next to the noticeboard.

To minimise adults on site

- Where possible children should be accompanied by just one adult
- Spend as little time as you can on the school site, this will ensure year group traffic continuingly flows
- Arrive on time to reduce gathering before timings
- If you have children in more than one year group, parents may wait with their children on the school field, away from the path, strictly following social distancing from other parents and children.
- Parents are asked to drop off and leave, rather than remain on school grounds.

Puffin & Chough Class

We are aware that the area around these classes is restrictive in terms of space. If you could be patient at drop off and pick up times, ensuring everyone has space to socially distance please.

Thank you

School Uniform

We would like children to wear school uniform, however we completely understand that at this time, accessing items such as new school shoes can be difficult as the shops are not open. In terms of footwear we would ask that where you cannot source new school shoes, that any shoes worn are appropriate for the school environment (i.e. full shoe and practical etc).

In terms of other uniform; leggings and joggers are an appropriate replacement where school trousers or skirts no longer fit, as plain as possible please.

This will be a short term arrangement until the shops become more accessible after which full school uniform will be expected.

Belongings

A reminder that no child should be bringing anything into school in line with our usual policy. This is because things get lost and damaged which causes distress as well as distractions.

Attendance

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- Parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- The ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

Taken from DFE – Schools Coronavirus (Covid 19) operational guidance Feb 2021

We ask that you:

- Notify school by email or phone before 8.30am if your child will be late or is unwell
- Arrive on time
- Keep us updated

In line with our attendance policy, we will:

- Follow up the same day any non-communicated absences
- Address any regular late attendance
- Follow up any irregular attendance

Our main control measure as an Infant school, is our bubbles and limited mixing of those bubbles, therefore it is paramount you are on time for drop off and collection. If you are late, you **MUST** bring your child to the office and not enter the grounds at the time of any other bubbles. Please do not knock on classroom doors, as these will be shut promptly at the school start time and the days teaching will begin. Adults will not unlock the doors once they have been shut.

If you anticipate any issues with returning as planned on the 8th March, please get in touch beforehand to discuss with either myself or Miss Lewis.

Lunch & Break times

Lunchtimes and breaktimes will continue to be staggered to ensure all year groups maintain their bubbles.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be available to Infant School children only. The children in attendance are grouped to try and minimise mixing however, due to staffing, this will not be in their school day bubbles.

All parents should use the school money app to book and pay for places.

Any attendance is payable (unless your child qualifies for pupil premium funding).

Curriculum

We will revisit our school routines and rules once everyone returns. We will be teaching a full curriculum alongside focusing on social and emotional aspects of learning.

All children will be baselined on their return, and our curriculum will be delivered in full, ensuring that each child's needs are met with additional support and scaffolding as appropriate. We feel it is very important not to make judgments on how this period of time may have impacted on our children. Assessment of the children when they return will be our starting point.

PE & Music

PE lessons will primarily take place outside or in smaller groups inside to limit contact. No contact sports can be taught or played at the moment.

Music will be taught however singing is currently only allowed outside or in small groups where large areas can be accessed.

Contingency plans

We have plans in place in case we need to have a partial/full closure again or due to bubble isolations.

Lateral Flow tests (LFT)

Staff have been completing LFT since the 25th January. We self-administer them twice weekly, with results being reported to both school and the government.

There was further guidance from the Government issued on Sunday 29th Feb regarding tests being available to household, childcare and support bubbles of school age children and staff.

Further information about accessing tests, can be found via the link below

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)

Response to any infection

We need to ensure that actions are taken quickly if we have any suspected case or confirmed cases within our school environment.

This means;

- We may ask you to collect your child if they are displaying symptoms. You then need to organise a test as soon as possible for them.
- We ask you to let us know if your child or anyone within your bubble has symptoms. You will all need to isolate in line with government guidance, take a test and await the results before coming out of isolation
- We may need to isolate a bubble in school following a confirmed case. This will be communicated to you as soon as possible with information sent to the confirmed case household, children within the bubble as well as a letter to our school community.
- Anyone with symptoms must remain at home and self-isolate for 10 days if they test positive. Anyone in their household also needs to self-isolate for 10 days (including siblings).

We are expected to report all suspected and confirmed cases to the Local authority. Please be prepared to confirm some basic information regarding dates and symptoms when you call to notify us.

Government advice can be found below

[Symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus-symptoms/)

Carpark

Just a reminder that the carpark will only be accessible to blue badge holders or parents/carers of children with mobility challenges, as per our previous arrangements. Please respect these arrangements to ensure the safety of our children and families.

We are extremely looking forward to having everyone back and rebuilding some normality for our children, families and staff. It is quite natural to feel anxious on Monday, remember lots of people feel the same way. We will support your children, so please try not to worry. If we have any children who are upset on entry please be reassured they will get the attention they need to soothe and support them. If anyone continues to be upset we will call to discuss with you. If you hear nothing, all is well.

From previous reopening I have to say that the moment of separation can be very tricky for children and parents alike, however once in a comfortable, recognisable, safe space and the familiarity of that, most, if not all, children do settle very quickly.

Yours sincerely



Leisa Farrar, Headteacher