

RE: UK COVID-19 Government guidance update

Dear Parent/Carer,

Organisation

We have been working tirelessly to try and meet the Government's requests. There has been an almost endless list of steps and guidance to consider. Some of the considerations recommended by the Government include:

- organising small class groups
- organising classrooms to maintain space between seats and desks
- deciding which lessons or activities will be delivered and reducing movement around the classroom
- Staggered break times (including lunch)
- organising pick-up protocols that minimise adult to adult contact.

This is in addition to:

- Considering how equipment play is used ensuring it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously
- removing soft furnishings, soft toys and equipment which are hard to clean.

What does this mean for my child?

When your child returns to school it will be very different to the school they left. The Government guidance suggests (in the first instance) to:

- Keep groups together where possible – this means children will remain in the same small groups each and every day and will not necessarily work with previous classmates.
- Ensure that the same teacher(s) are assigned to each group – this means your child may have a different key worker for the duration of the half term on their return to school.
- Ensure that wherever possible children and young people use the same classroom or area of a setting throughout the day– this means your child will not access the whole nursery space.
- Use outside space – this means children should be prepared for outdoor learning in all weathers.
- Reduce the use of shared resources – this means there will be less access to a range of resources.
- Adjust transport arrangements where necessary – this means there may be different start and finish times for different groups.

When the guidance is fully implemented, many of the routines, aesthetics and relationships our children have come to know and love will be very different. We hope you will take the time to prepare your own child for this. One thing that will certainly not change is the love, care and nurture they will receive from each and every member of staff.

Health, safety and well-being

On a return to school, our first priority will be to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our children and staff. This will be a huge effort for all concerned as the guidance states:

‘We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.’

As a school we will endeavour at all times to maintain social distancing guidelines, but there is no doubt this will be impossible for the children and we need to balance these government guidelines and advice with the needs of the children; ensuring that the environment remains a suitable one for young children, not an impoverished and sterile one, both in relation to children feeling settled and safe, and having a suitably rich and varied learning environment.

We await further guidance from the teaching unions and Local Authority with regard to managing safety issues in the early years settings. So far guidance suggests by keeping children and staff in the same small groups and by using the same space, we are creating 'bubbles', which will help to reduce the risk of spreading any infection across the whole school. However, this does not address the fact that children can spread Covid 19, despite, in most cases, having a mild reaction to the virus or being asymptomatic.

Measures being put in place at Somerset to keep children safe

If anyone from your household is showing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), then they must stay at home for at least 7 days, and **all** other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. For anyone else in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period. Full advice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Please inform the school immediately if your child **or** household are showing symptoms. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

We recognise by having children outdoors in the natural environment, we will help reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. Therefore the school will be outdoor learning only. The outdoor space will be separated into two areas and children will attend for either a part-time morning or afternoon session. In between the morning and afternoon sessions the areas and resources will be cleaned using antibacterial spray and steaming. As far as possible, cleaning will continue throughout the session, using antibacterial spray.

Children will be accompanied to the toilet one at a time by an adult who will ensure the area is then cleaned with antibacterial spray.

We have contacted all parents of children currently on roll. When we open, 26 children will attend. We will have no more than 8 children in a session. If over the course of the summer term more parents wish their children to attend, the offer of a morning or afternoon session will have to be adjusted and reduced, in order to accommodate these additional children. You will need to give notice of **two weeks**, if you decide you would like your child to attend during the summer term.

Drop off and pick up will change to a one-way system, which will be clearly signed, along with 2 meter markings on the floor, to help maintain social distancing. Parents and carers should not gather outside the school.

Children should be accompanied to school by one adult. Siblings should not accompany the adult unless absolutely necessary.

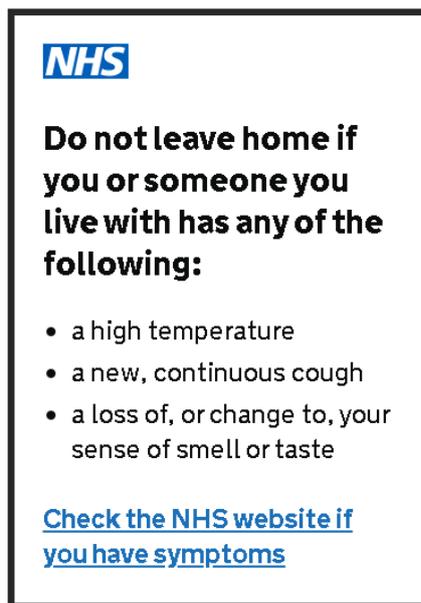
Parents and Carers will not be permitted on site. Communication is best done by email or phone.

Teachers will be wearing protective equipment and as far as possible maintaining a social distance, therefore not available for physical intervention and support except in the case of an accident or emergency.

We hope your child is looking forward to returning to school. Please let us know if you think your child will struggle to separate from you on drop off.

Finally, it is important to understand that the government will only make the final decision on whether to press ahead with the reopening of schools when it reviews the latest science on May 28, and that if the evidence does not support this decision at that time, it will be delayed,

Thank you for continuing to support our school community at this difficult time. All queries regarding the guidance should be emailed to admin@somerset.wandsworth.sch



Dear

If the government decide to go ahead with the reopening of schools, when it reviews the latest science on May 28, we will be pleased to offer you:

Part-time morning sessions 9:00 - 11:30 (2 ½ hrs)

[Finishing at 11:30 will allow adequate time for cleaning.](#)

Part-time afternoon sessions 12:30 – 3:00 (2 ½ hours)

[Finishing at 3:00 will allow adequate time for cleaning.](#)

Starting on Tuesday 2nd June 2020

We have contacted all parents of children currently on roll. When we open, 26 children will attend. We will have no more than 8 children in a session.

If over the course of the summer term more parents wish their children to attend, your offer of **morning / afternoon (delete as)** sessions will have to be adjusted and reduced, in order to accommodate these additional children. We will aim to give you one week notice of any changes to your offer.

Please ensure your child is suitably dressed for the weather and sun cream is applied before they arrive at school. As far as possible, children should be dressed in clothes they can manage by themselves, e.g. Velcro shoe fastenings and slip on clothes. Please avoid sending unnecessary additional items such as bags and coats, if not needed. Toys from home should not be brought to school.

We hope your child is looking forward to returning to school. Parents and Carers will not be able to enter the site to settle children, and staff will have limited physical contact with children, so please let us know if you think your child will struggle to separate from you on drop off.

All queries regarding the offer should be emailed to admin@somerset.wandsworth.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Louisa Halls