

Head Teacher
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Priory Junior School
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Return to school plan Monday 8th March

24th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continued support and patience at such a difficult time for us all. The government has indicated that it is their plan that all year groups will return full-time to school from Monday 8th March. **Therefore, on Monday 8th March we will be expecting all pupils to return to school, unless there is an exceptional reason why they shouldn't.** This exceptional reason will have been discussed and agreed with the head teacher and will only apply, if at all, to a very small number of children who have been advised to shield by their GP or consultant.

Arrangements for the return

The school has undertaken a thorough review of our risk assessment process to ensure that suitable measures remain in place to minimise coronavirus risks, we are happy to discuss these with you further if you wish. Although we want school to run as normally as possible for our children, there will obviously be a number of protective measures in place to minimise risks and this will mean parts of the school day and curriculum have been adjusted to protect all our staff and families, as they have been since the full return in September. We do understand that some of the measures may complicate your normal routine and will not allow as much face to face contact with the team but we have to put the health and safety of everyone first.

Continuation of the year group bubbles

The children and staff will be operating in year group bubbles. This means that the staff and children in that year group will work and play in isolation from the other year groups to minimise the interactions the children have in the school. Some staff can move between bubbles to deliver parts of the curriculum, specialist support and provide cover, if needed, but this will be kept to a minimum and at a social distance. The majority of the time children will only be interacting with their year group and year group staff team.

Beginning and end of the day

To minimise the mixing of year groups and to minimise the amount of families at the entrances at any one-time **Years 3 and 4 will continue to come into and leave school through the 2nd Avenue entrance, (the entrance near the field.) Years 5 and 6 will continue to come into and leave school through the 3rd Avenue entrance, (the entrance near All Hallows.)** We will also be slightly staggering the start and finish times to avoid crowding at the gates. We understand that you may have children in

different year groups and at other schools too so please contact Mrs Brown if you have an issue with this.

Children will be met at the entrance by a staff member in their year group bubble and then they will go straight into their classroom, after washing their hands. This will be supervised by another member of their staff bubble team. At the end of the day, a staff member from the year group bubble will bring the children out to the gate to you.

Unfortunately, parents will not be able to come in through the gates into school. You can grab a quick word with the staff member at the gate but the main way to communicate with us will be through the text system and phone. You will need to continue to make appointments if you need to come into school for any reason and this can be arranged through the office.

Start and finish times

	Start time	Finish Time	Gate
Year 3	Arrive between 8.50-9.00 only	Leave at 3.05	2 nd Avenue
Year 4	Arrive between 9.00-9.10 only	Leave at 3.15	2 nd Avenue
Year 5	Arrive between 9.00-9.10 only	Leave at 3.15	3 rd Avenue
Year 6	Arrive between 8.50-9.00 only	Leave at 3.05	3 rd Avenue

During the day

Children will be taught in their classroom by their class teacher, supported by their teaching assistant, as usual. At breaks and lunches, they will only mix in their year groups and have a midday supervisor dedicated to their bubble only. We will not be gathering together as a school for assemblies or other whole school events currently. If we begin to run after school clubs again they will be run in year groups.

Questions you may have

I know this may be a worrying time as we return to school after another national lockdown and you will no doubt have questions. I have added below some answers to frequently asked questions from parents of children so I hope you may find the answer below.

I am really looking to seeing our children and families return and hope that we do not have to face any further school closures. I am confident that we have followed the Government guidance carefully and put in place the measures we need to minimise the coronavirus risk. We will continue to keep up to date with the latest Government guidance and update you on any necessary changes to this plan.

As always please contact me with any questions – I know our incredible staff team will continue to work in the best interests of our Priory community.

I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 8th March.

Warm wishes

Alison Brown
Head Teacher

Frequently asked questions

Will protective measures will be in place in school to minimise the risk of coronavirus?

- Staff will maintain a social distance from children in the school setting, wherever possible.
- We are staggering the start and finish times for children arriving and leaving and using different entrances to limit the amount of people at the drop off and pick up points.
- Markings will be used on the floors around school to measure out safe distances.
- We will be setting out desks in rows facing forward as suggested in the Government guidance and teachers will teach from a social distance.
- Adults will not be able to come in through the gates into the playground, there will be a member of staff to meet the children at the gate. If you have a message for us please e-mail the office, text in or pass it on to the person at the gate.
- We will keep resources within each bubble for just that bubble to use- any shared resources will be cleaned before another bubble uses them.
- Additional Covid 19 cleaning procedures will be in place following Government and local authority guidance and carried out more frequently in the school day.
- The curriculum will be assessed to ensure all activities can safely take place within Government guidelines.
- Visitors to the school will be more limited and if meetings and activities can take place virtually they will.
- A dedicated place in school will isolate any children with symptoms until they are collected
- We will be working closely with the test and trace programme to keep control of any infections and keep a close eye on the local picture.
- Our risk assessments will be reviewed regularly and amended as necessary.
- Children will be taught robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- There will be dedicated handwashing times throughout the day and handwashing supplies have been ordered so we have plenty of supplies in school.

What is a bubble and what happens in the bubble?

A bubble consists of a group of staff and children who work together as a unit and spend all parts of the school day together.

Will the bubbles be able to work and play together?

The year group bubbles will operate in isolation from each other – the idea is that bubbles do not mix to minimise the amount of people we have contact between.

Will my child be able to bring any of their own things into school?

School will be providing a clear plastic bag of stationery for each child to use if they need it. If they want to bring their own pencil case that is fine but it will have to stay in school. Reading books will be sent home but will be quarantined between pupils. Please limit the things your child brings to the essentials such as hats, snacks, lunch box etc. Resources may be shared in the bubbles but only where absolutely necessary – wider school resources will be cleaned between uses so different bubbles can use them. **As we will not be able to have children sharing the water fountains please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school each day.**

Will the school be providing a meal or snack?

If your child is entitled to a free school dinner this will be provided, you are welcome to pay for a dinner if you wish – just order this is the usual way – we will not be providing a break snack at this time but hope to restart this once things settle. Likewise, we will not be offering breakfast initially until we have established a new routine in school.

What happens at lunchtime?

We will stagger lunchtime so year groups are eating and playing at different times but they will still have an hour's break. We will keep the same lunchtime staff with the same year group bubble as much as we can.

What facilities do you have to support handwashing and good hygiene practices.

Each bubble has its own sink area with plenty of soap and disposable towels for drying and we have sink areas on both corridors. Handwashing times have been built into the timetable. There are also hand gels in each room and around the school building and all staff are carrying their own hand gel. There are posters displayed around school to promote effective hand washing.

Does my child need to wear a mask in school?

Your child may need to wear a mask to travel to school. Current guidance suggests that they are not recommended to be worn in school and masks worn to school must be put safely in their bag or disposed of on arrival. This guidance is subject to change and we will notify you of any change to this.

How will you ensure the effective cleaning of the school?

The school has secured extra cleaning hours to ensure the rooms being used are cleaned thoroughly following Government guidance. There will be an increase of cleaning during the school day at 'pressure points' such as toilets, sinks and door handles and other regularly touched areas.

What happens if a child displays symptoms whilst at school?

We have created an isolation room for them to use until collected. You will be contacted immediately. Should a child or member of staff in the bubble have a confirmed case of Covid 19 everyone in the bubble will be notified and may be required to isolate for two weeks. The procedure is detailed in the government guidance. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=4dfe1546-6616-44d8-9dbf-70189fd00213&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

What happens if a member of family has symptoms?

Do not send your child to school – notify us and book a test and work with the test and trace service. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

Will my child need to wear uniform?

Yes, pupils will need to wear full school uniform. It is suggested in guidance that children come on their P.E day or a day they are taking part in an active after school club in P.E kit. This should be standard Priory P.E kit. We will notify you of your child's P.E day when school returns. This includes ensuring jewelry is not worn except for a stud earring and no make-up, nail varnish or gel nails should be worn. **Extreme hairstyles and colours are not permitted.**

Will I be penalised for not sending my child back to school?

The expectation is that all children will return to school on Monday 8th March. If you choose not to send your child we will start to implement our usual attendance procedures and work with you to improve your child's attendance. If there is an exceptional reason for your child's non-attendance then there will be no penalty for that.

What learning be taking place in school?

We will spend time re-adjusting children to being back at school again and focus on building relationships and revisiting expectations in terms of work and behaviour. We will also work hard to help children to catch up with work they have missed where appropriate. We will be running all aspects of the curriculum but in some areas such as music and P.E there will be some restrictions to the types of activities or equipment we can use.