



Edgewood Primary School

Building skills and values for life

School arrangements for 8th March 2021

I am delighted that, in line with the Department for Education's latest guidance, we will be able to welcome all pupils back to school on 8th March 2021.

In line with the guidance for all primary schools, we will once again be operating each class as its own, separate bubble within school.

Most of the other measures will revert to those we were using in the Autumn Term.

To help your child prepare for this return to school it would be incredibly helpful if you can go through this letter with them to remind them of all the important measures in place to keep them safe.

Handwashing and hygiene

The first and most important of these is regular and thorough handwashing and good hygiene practices.

Children **must** wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water when they enter their classroom and **every time** they leave or return to their classroom.

Please continue to practise this with your child over the next week so it continues to be second nature to them. This will also help contribute to keeping you and your family safe.



Staggered start, breaks, lunch and end of the day.

The government guidance is clear that schools should use staggered starts and ends of the day and staggered break and lunch times to prevent different bubbles mixing within school.

We understand how inconvenient this is for families, especially those with children in more than one year group, but I am afraid it is what we must do to keep everyone safe and reduce the chance of a single outbreak closing large parts of our school.

After our survey in December showed that the majority of parents did not wish for the staggered times to be changed, we will be sticking with the gates and times that we were using in the Autumn Term.

This is a key part of reducing the chance of a Coronavirus outbreak linked to school. The evidence has continued to mount that the biggest risk to school operations is adult-to-adult transmission as children seem to have a stronger immune response which reduces the chance of serious illness.

This makes it vitally important that all adults strictly social distance at all times. We have organised the start and ends of each day to minimise this and ask that you all wait at least 2m apart from anyone who is not in your household at all times.

In EYFS, a **single adult** can enter through the Nursery Gate with their child at the time below. Please do not arrive early to reduce the chance of breaching social distancing. As quickly as possible please drop your child at the class door and then leave by the nursery gate. Please ensure you strictly keep a 2m distance from all other adults at all times.

| Class | Gate | Start AM | End AM | Lunch | Start PM | End PM |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Rainbow (Nursery) | Nursery Gate | 9:00-9:05am | 11:55-12:05pm | 12:00-12:30pm | 12:30-12:35pm | 3:25-3:30pm |

| Class | Gate | Starting time | Lunchtime | Ending time |
|-------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Red | Nursery Gate | 8:30-8:35am | 12:00-12:40pm | 2:40-2:45pm |
| Green | Nursery Gate | 8:45-8:50am | 12:00-12:40pm | 2:55-3:00pm |

For all other classes, please can **one adult** bring their child to the following gates at the following times.

| Class | Gate | Starting time | Lunchtime | Ending time |
|----------|--|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Blue | By the hall, nearest Leisure Centre Entrance | 8:40-8:50am | 11:30-12:10pm | 2:50-3:00pm |
| Orange | By the Pond, nearest to Key Stage One | 8:40-8:50am | 11:30-12:10pm | 2:50-3:00pm |
| Yellow | By the grass area, near to the MUGA | 8:40-8:50am | 11:30-12:10pm | 2:50-3:00pm |
| Rosa | By the hall, nearest Leisure Centre Entrance | 9:00-9:10pm | 12:10-12:50pm | 3:10-3:20pm |
| Amarillo | By the Pond, nearest to Key Stage One | 9:00-9:10pm | 12:10-12:50pm | 3:10-3:20pm |
| Verde | By the grass area, near to the MUGA | 9:00-9:10pm | 12:10-12:50pm | 3:10-3:20pm |
| Azul | By the hall, nearest Leisure Centre Entrance | 9:20-9:30pm | 12:50-1:30pm | 3:30-3:40pm |
| Morado | By the Pond, nearest to Key Stage One | 9:20-9:30pm | 12:50-1:30pm | 3:30-3:40pm |
| Rojo | By the grass area, near to the MUGA | 9:20-9:30pm | 12:50-1:30pm | 3:30-3:40pm |

Adults should remain at least 2m apart at all times. Please bear in mind that school may still be asked to wholly or partially close by Public Health England if there is a local outbreak amongst adults (as well as children) to reduce adult-to-adult transmission in the community. It is in all our interests to keep transmission rates as low as we possibly can.

Once again let me stress that we continue to understand the staggered start and end times have caused massive inconveniences to many of you but, with our site and school size it is the safest solution to the current problems. YMCA will be operating their 'short stay' option again so that you can drop off siblings with a later start time when you drop off your first child and collect all your children when you collect your last child. After speaking to YMCA, school will be subsidising this provision so it will only cost each family £1 per day for all siblings in your family.

Please note that if you need them to stay even a short time after the last children are collected you may need to pay for the full childcare service from YMCA.

Different areas within school

Areas in school and on the playground will be used to ensure that children do not mix beyond their class bubble. This will include lunchtimes where children from each bubble will be eating on different tables separate from other bubbles.

No parents within school or on the playground

Other than the parents of Nursery and Reception children as detailed above, no parent will be admitted on to the school site at any time.

In all other classes children **must** be dropped off at gates and parents **must** remain outside the gates.

If your child is upset school staff will verbally comfort them but we cannot physically intervene as we would have done in the past.

Parents not being on the school site includes the school reception entrance. Wherever possible please contact school via email or by phone, not in person. If you have to drop something off we will provide drop boxes outside for this.

We expect all adults to maintain 2m social distancing at all times when dropping children off, collecting them or speaking to school staff.

Any children in late will need to go to the school main entrance where they can be dropped off. Please keep this to an absolute minimum as it will massively increase the chance of children from different bubbles mixing and increase the risk to everyone in our building and all our families.

Uniform

We will be asking pupils to wear uniform when we reopen but we will be relaxing some areas of our uniform policy for two important reasons.

1. Evidence has mounted with this new variant that aerosol transmission is much more prevalent than first thought. This means we need to further ventilate our classrooms. This means that on cold days the classrooms will be colder than ideal, even with the heating turned up fully.

Please ensure your child comes with an additional layer that can be worn over their school shirt and jumper and/or an additional layer underneath.

2. We want to ensure that children go out to play for all three of their playtimes whenever possible.

This means we will be using the field each day, even though it is still muddy.

Therefore, we will not be requiring children to wear school uniform on their bottom half. In other words they can wear different trousers that will be warmer and you do not mind getting muddy. If you don't mind their uniform dress / trousers getting muddy they can of course continue to wear them.

We also ask that children are sent in with a pair of shoes for the field that can stay in school, such as wellington boots, old trainers or boots. These will only be worn on the field. Your child will need to be able to put these shoes on and take them off themselves.

Please also ensure they wear a warm, waterproof coat each day.

By doing this we can continue to make maximum use of outdoor spaces while still keeping bubbles apart and ensure children are outside as much as possible.

Assemblies, productions and after school clubs.

With the current guidance we will still be unable to have whole school assemblies or any gatherings of more than one bubble where they might be within 2m of another bubble. We continue to hold virtual assemblies in the interim.

There will be no before or after school clubs except for YMCA childcare.

Changes to the curriculum to help children catch up on lost learning will mean much more time devoted to handwriting, spellings, grammar, number bonds, times tables and reading.

How can I help my child prepare for their return to school?

School is still going to feel very different to the period before the pandemic and will be organised in a similar to way as it was in December. Please take some time to understand the changes outlined in this letter and ask them to talk to you about what it was like before Christmas to refresh their memories. The materials we added to the school website last summer are still there if you wish to use them again <http://www.edgewoodprimaryschool.co.uk/page/helping-your-child-over-summer>.

The most important thing academically is to read to or with your child as often as possible now and for the rest of their time in Primary school. If they have started to read by themselves then please also ensure you listen to them read regularly as well. Build sharing a book in some way each day into your routines and it will have a massive difference to their academic achievement if you don't already do it.

Cleaning and toilets

We will continue with the rearranged cleaning arrangements that were so effective in the Autumn Term so that we will have cleaning happening to touch points, toilets and high-use areas throughout the day. This alongside reducing the amount of movement of children and frequent and thorough handwashing will be key in keeping everyone safe at school.

Children will continue to use slightly different toilets from normal times within school. This is to reduce the numbers of children using each set of toilets and minimise the chances of any 1 infected child spreading the virus to multiple bubbles.

It will be vitally important that all children are fully toilet trained so that staff do not have to put themselves at additional risk unnecessarily. If your child isn't currently toilet trained please continue to work really hard to get this in place as soon as possible to keep your child and the staff as safe as possible, as well as ensuring they have mastered this important life skill.

Before and after school provision

YMCA will be operating before and after school as they were in the autumn. The online booking system should be open. Provision will be closely matched to the places booked so, once the booking window opens, please ensure you book online via www.nottsymca.com/childcare to make sure your child will have a place.

For virus control reasons we would ask that you use any childcare providers as little as possible and also ensure that they have robust control measures in place so that we do not end up having to close bubbles through contamination from other sources.

Asymptomatic testing

School staff will continue to take Lateral Flow Device tests twice weekly as we are currently doing. These tests are not accurate enough to say that someone does not have the virus but will help in picking up a percentage of asymptomatic positive people.

If a member of staff tests positive their bubble will close, even if they have not had symptoms.

There is currently no plan from the DfE or PHE to test primary age pupils.

Face coverings

All adults in school and every adult dropping off or collecting children from school **MUST** wear a face covering when around school or in any circumstance where they cannot maintain at least 2m distance from someone.

Staff in school will also be continuing to wear masks when not in classrooms or private offices.

If you wish to send your child into school with a face covering please only do so if they are able to safely and hygienically put the mask on and off as needed and they should not wear the mask in the classroom.

What if anyone in my family has symptoms?

Anyone who has symptoms must follow the government's guidance immediately. Children must not be sent to school and you should arrange a test as soon as possible.

School will no longer need to shut bubbles on suspected cases but you and your family should still isolate in line with government guidance until you have a negative test result or are told otherwise by a health professional.

What will happen if there is a positive case at school?

If there is a positive case, school will continue to work with the DfE helpline and Public Health England as required.

Please note a positive case does not automatically mean the bubble or whole school will close – we will follow the guidance from the health experts. If they direct us to, we will close as required. Please note your child cannot attend other provision while we have closed a bubble as they may be infected.

As part of your child returning to school, we expect that you follow public health advice at all times to keep everyone in our community safe. It is also expected that everyone associated with school **actively engages with Test and Trace** if required to help keep everyone at school safe.

This is a condition of you sending your child to our school.

If you are instructed to isolate, your child must not leave the home or attend school until you are told it is safe to do so.

I look forward to seeing everyone back on **Monday, 8th March 2021**.

Take care,



Ed Seeley,

Headteacher