



Edgewood Primary School

Building skills and values for life

School arrangements for September 2021

I know that the lifting of restrictions this week will have been a welcome event for some of you and a worrying development for many others. School, as always, has to follow the latest guidance from the Department for Education, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Health and Safety Executive alongside trying to ensure school is as safe as possible for your children in these extraordinary times and we minimise disruption to parents and the wider members of our community as much as possible.

In line with the Department for Education's latest instructions, we will be dropping most of our current measures in school in September.

However, with cases rising and predicted to exceed 100,000 new cases a day during the summer we must plan to be able to reinstate some or all of these measures if instructed by Public Health England or the DfE. This means while next year will be much closer to normal, it will not be a return to everything being as it was pre-pandemic.

What will be changing in September

Bubbles

Bubbles will end at the end of this term allowing pupils to mix for interventions, phonics and other group sessions within school, at playtimes and lunches. Staff will also be able to freely work across classes meaning we will not be allocating a set TA with each class but using them more flexibly across the school once again.

However, the DfE have instructed that we must plan to be able to easily reinstate bubbles should they be needed locally.

Toilets

With all children back, they will return to using their previous toilets for the key stage which will mean more than one year group or class using each toilet. We will be cleaning these during the day but we will be asking children wherever possible to make sure they go to the toilet at times such as break and lunch so we can schedule cleaning around this and reduce the disruption to learning caused by frequent, often unneeded trips to the toilet. Please continue to help us by getting your child into habits such as using the toilet before they need to when leaving the house over the summer to help us with this.

It is still vitally important that all children are fully toilet trained. If your child isn't currently toilet trained please use the summer holidays to ensure they are ready for school in September with this important life skill.

Change to staggered start, breaks, lunch and end of the day.

One of the biggest disruptions from working with bubbles has been the disruption to the timings of the school day. We understood this was going to have a very negative impact on families but it has been a key part in ensuring we have not had one single case spread beyond a bubble for the last 12 months.

Staggered starts as they were caused a lot of disruption but they also reduced the anxiety of many pupils who hated the hustle and bustle of all the school arriving at the same time and found the crowds of adults on the school playground very intimidating.

However, there is no way we now need to spread these times out so much and we do not need to have gaps in between. By doing this we will eliminate or massively reduce the amount of time anyone needs to wait around school waiting to drop off.

Should we need to restart bubbles it would be a massive change to families from the timings and processes we had previously. We would also struggle to undertake the handwashing that we have been instructed to continue without slightly staggering the start, end, break and lunch times in the day.

By having the start times below we will maximise the advantages of a stagger without causing unnecessary disruption.

As we won't have bubbles preventing mixing between classes, parents who have siblings in two classes in the same year group, being dropped off at the same time, will be able to drop them all at one gate. Please talk to your children's teachers in September to organise this and so they can send the other pupils to their classes.

If you have children being dropped off at different times please walk them around to their different gates, if needed.

Class	Gate	Start AM	End AM	Start PM	End PM
Rainbow (Nursery)	Nursery Gate	9:00-9:05am	11:55-12:05pm	12:30-12:35pm	3:25-3:30pm
Class	Gate	Starting time		Ending time	
Red and Green	Nursery Gate	8:50-8:55am		3:20-3:25pm	

For all other classes, please bring your child to the following gates at the following times.

Class	Gate	Starting time	Ending time
Blue	By the hall, nearest Leisure Centre Entrance	8:45-8:50am	3:15-3:20pm
Orange	By the Pond, nearest to Key Stage One	8:45-8:50am	3:15-3:20pm
Yellow	By the grass area, near to the MUGA	8:45-8:50am	3:15-3:20pm
Rosa	By the hall, nearest Leisure Centre Entrance	8:50-8:55am	3:20-3:25pm
Amarillo	By the Pond, nearest to Key Stage One	8:50-8:55am	3:20-3:25pm
Verde	By the grass area, near to the MUGA	8:50-8:55am	3:20-3:25pm
Azul	By the hall, nearest Leisure Centre Entrance	8:55-9:00am	3:25-3:30pm
Morado	By the Pond, nearest to Key Stage One	8:55-9:00am	3:25-3:30pm
Rojo	By the grass area, near to the MUGA	8:55-9:00am	3:25-3:30pm

These timings will allow us to reintroduce bubbles, should we be instructed to, with the minimum of change by simply moving the timings 5 minutes apart so minimising the amount of waiting around.

One of the biggest changes to our timetable is that lunchtime will return to 60 minutes. But we are retaining the three sittings in the hall by reducing time between sittings. Children will be able to mix between different classes in the playground at lunch times.

Please note we are not starting morning toast and other items during morning break initially. If you would like to send your child with a healthy snack for the morning break please do but please no chocolate bars, sweets or crisps.

What is staying for September

Handwashing and hygiene

Regular and thorough handwashing and good hygiene practices remain one of the most effective ways to keep your child and your family safe.

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 summer so it continues to be second nature to them and this will also help contribute to keeping you and your family safe.

Remote education provision for pupils isolating

The school will continue to make provision through SeeSaw and, where possible, Teams for children or groups of children isolating. Please note we will not supply work for children off due to illness or most other reasons – if your child is well enough to complete work they should be in school to do so.

Increased ventilation

We will continue to keep our school as well ventilated as possible when the building is occupied as this is a key weapon in defeating an airborne disease like Coronavirus.

As we move towards the autumn and winter this will mean there are times when classrooms are colder and we will allow children to wear additional layers when needed. We will communicate any adaptations to the uniform policy if they are needed.

Enhanced Cleaning

We will continue to adjust our cleaning hours so that we will continue to have cleaning happening to touch points, toilets and high-use areas during the day. This alongside frequent and thorough handwashing will be key in keeping everyone safe at school from Coronavirus and other viruses that may start to increase as people mix more in the community.

School PE kit on PE days and School Uniform

All children will continue to wear their school PE kit on the days they are due to have PE. Please note we will be clamping down on children not attending on those days in school PE kit.

The P.E. kit for all students consists of:

- Plain Black shorts or Joggers
- Plain red t-shirt
- Dark trainers (or plimsolls) (Not brightly coloured trainers)
- Children may also wear their red school jumper on cold days.

Children are still required to full and correct school uniform. Again all staff will be enforcing this uniform and we will be contacting parents of pupils sent in incorrect uniform to come and remedy any issues.

The uniform for all students should be selected from the following:

- White shirt, blouse or polo shirt
- Grey or black trousers
- Grey or black skirt or pinafore

- Red jumper/sweatshirt or cardigan
- Red and white summer dress
- Black shoes (NOT trainers)

Polo shirts and sweaters with the school logo are available to purchase from Hucknall Sports on the High Street. However, any white shirt and red jumper are absolutely fine to wear.

The full school uniform policy is on our website should you have any queries, [Uniform Policy.pdf](#) (edgewoodprimaryschool.co.uk)

Before and after school provision

Our new provider, The Lime Trees, will be operating before and after school in September. Online booking for September should already be open. Provision will be closely matched to the places booked so, once the booking window opens, please ensure you book online via [The Lime Trees CIC | Childcare Nottingham](#) and click on the button labelled 'BOOK HERE' to make sure your child will have a place.

With the staggered starts now being back to almost our normal soft start in the morning, the mini-club will not be running in September. If we need to change timings we will look at safely providing a service like this again to help parents.

If you think you may need the odd day's childcare, please ensure you register in advance as, without all your details they cannot take your child in an emergency.

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.

No parents within school or on the playground

With the very high rates of Coronavirus in the community predicted to continue into the autumn, we will be keeping the practice of parents, except those of Nursery and Reception children as detailed above, not being on the school site at any time. In all other classes, children will continue to be dropped off at gates and parents will remain outside the gates.

This will stop the large crowd of parents that we used to get on the playground before school for dropping off and picking up which would be a perfect way to spread the virus across our school community.

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 please use the letterbox outside or speak to the office staff through the intercom.

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.

Public Health Actions

What if anyone in my family has symptoms?

Anyone who has symptoms must continue to follow the government's guidance immediately. Children must not be sent to school and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. A lateral flow test is not a replacement for a PCR test and will not show that your child does not have coronavirus.

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

If there is a positive case, Test and Trace will contact individual positive cases to perform tracking of close contacts. Please don't forget the potential contacts your child will have had in school when speaking with Test and Trace and if you don't know who they will be please give them the school's details so they can speak to us.

As part of your child attending 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 remains a condition of you sending your child to our school.***

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

Face coverings

While face coverings are no longer required by law, businesses and organisations can choose whether to request them or not. To protect children, staff and other adults in our community we would ask anyone over 11 who comes onto the school site (within the fence line or inside the school building) to continue wearing face masks to help reduce the chance of infecting others. We will keep this under review this in line with infection levels and government advice and, like most major businesses, will hopefully drop this completely as it ceases to be needed.

To keep you, and your fellow parents safer, we would encourage everyone to wear a face covering in any busy or crowded space, as the latest government guidance continues to say. Around school, this would match the environment experienced while dropping off and collecting your child(ren) from the gates and on the paths around school. While it will be an individual's choice in these areas, we would strongly encourage you to continue to wear a face covering here.

If you do not wish to wear a face mask we would ask you to stay off the school site (indoors and inside the fence outdoors) at all times please. We retain the right to withdraw your limited licence to be on school grounds should you refuse to adhere to this and to ask for evidence of any medical exemption to wearing a face mask before admitting you into school or onto the school site.

Help us by helping each other to keep cases low

While the government may have chosen to drop the requirement for many measures, cases in our community are still high and are rising rapidly. Many people are still not fully vaccinated and, obviously, children are not vaccinated at all.

It is in all our interests to keep transmission rates as low as we possibly can or there may well be considerable disruption to your child's education again next year which we would all like to avoid if possible.

Take care,



Ed Seeley,
Headteacher