

## COVID-19 School Full Re-Opening September FAQs

### Does my child have to attend?

No one with symptoms should attend for any reason. It is however, **compulsory** that **all** children attend school from September. As a school, we will resume our normal practice of recording and reporting on attendance and our normal policy on attendance will resume.

### How will my child be taught?

Pupils will be in their class of 30 children for break and lunchtimes; they will be kept separate from other bubbles throughout the school day including at break and lunchtimes as far as possible.

Your child will be taught by their Class Teacher and Learning Support Assistant. Other adults may be involved in your class' learning, such as Mr Rondeau and the PE coach, but this is allowed and minimum movement of adults and children is planned.

### Does my child need to wear a uniform?

Children will be expected to wear school uniform as usual. There is no requirement to wash this on a daily basis. When your child has P.E. they will be expected to come into school in PE kit and trainers or plimsolls. Whenever possible, PE will be outside so tracksuits (navy or black joggers) would be sensible. This means no PE bags will be in school. It will remove issues around children getting changed / lost property etc.

### What will the arrangements for the start and end of the day be?

Children and their parents are expected to try and maintain social distancing from those in other households while travelling to and from school. Government guidance states only one parent should bring or collect their children from school. If this is not possible, for example, you have younger children who are not yet at school and you need to bring them with you as no other childcare is available, they must remain with you at all times, adhere to the 2-metre rule, and not interact with others from different households.

There will be a staggered start and end times to minimise children and parents congregating around the school. It is important that everyone is punctual and tries to arrive as close to their allocated time as possible. Parents collecting a child should aim to avoid arriving at school early or staying late. Please also avoid standing at the school gates.

Only children will be allowed to enter the school building and only through the allocated entry point for each class or year group. Children should arrive at the time allocated.

Staff will be available to show the children where to go in the first few days.

	<b>Start Time:</b>	<b>Finish Time</b>
Nursery	8.45am	11.45am
Reception	8.55am	3.05pm
Year 1	9.05am	3.15pm
Year 2	8.50am	3.00pm
Year 3	9.10am	3.15pm
Year 4	9.00am	3.05pm
Year 5	8.50am	3.00pm
Year 6	8.45am	2.55pm

## **Other Information**

### **Where do we come into school?**

Everyone must enter by the main gates on Beecholme Avenue.

Year 5 and Year 3 will enter school through the usual entrance and Year 4 and Year 6 will enter their classes through their outside classroom doors.

### **What will the classrooms look like?**

Children will be taught in their correct classes and rooms but with the following measures in place for Years 1 -6:

- sitting side by side (where possible due to the configuration on tables)
- facing the front (where possible due to the configuration on tables)
- own pencils / rulers (provided by school)
- own named water bottle (provided from home)
- own tissues (provided from home)

### **What resources will my child have access too?**

In line with the guidance, class-based resources (books and games) can be shared between class bubble. Reading books will be allowed to be taken home. In Nursery and Reception children will be able to access resources independently as is normal practice in Early Years.

### **How will my child be fed during the day?**

Children will be able to bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner. Initially R-Year 4 will eat in the lunch hall and years 5 and 6 will eat in their classrooms with their lunchtime supervisors. Reception and all day Nursery children, when they begin full time, will eat socially distanced in the hall.

### **Will my child need to bring their own water bottle each day?**

The drinking fountains will be out of use. Every child should bring their own, named, bottle of water to be kept on their desk in the classroom. At the end of each day, water bottles must be taken home, washed and refilled before returning them to school the next day.

### **Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?**

No. During the first two weeks we have planned a whole school based project with the initial focus on Learning to Learn, Growth Mindset, personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. There will of course be Maths and English activities too.

This has been an incredible period of change which could have affected the children in many ways e.g changes in routine, loss of communication and some may have sadly even experienced the loss of a family member or friend.

### **Will the Wrap Around Care- 'Little Acorns' be open?**

Little Acorns will resume from September. It will need to be booked in advance. During these sessions we will try to maintain social distancing within year group bubbles, but this cannot be guaranteed. Please phone or email the School Office if you require wrap around care.

### **How do I know the school is going to be clean?**

Deep cleans have taken place over the last few months and will be completed again before the pupils return in September. High-traffic areas such as toilets, handrails and keyboards, classroom surfaces will be cleaned at regular intervals throughout the day. Along with extra sanitising products, we have purchased additional lidded bins for each classroom. Hand sanitisers have also been installed around the school. Each classroom will have additional cleaning materials such as wipes, should the adult feel a mid-session clean is necessary.

Windows and doors will be opened each day. Where it is safe to do so, doors will be propped open to reduce contact with door handles.

### **How will you ensure increased safety?**

Staff will give the children regular reminders on when and how to wash hands. Staff currently supervise and insist on handwashing at key points of the day and this will continue. Hand washing is non-negotiable when entering the classroom; before and after leaving the classroom; after using the toilet; before breaks; at the end of breaks; before lunchtime and at the end of day. There are sinks and hand sanitising stations will be spread out throughout the school. Staff will remind children not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Children will be reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a bent elbow, or use a tissue, when coughing or sneezing. If children sneeze or cough, they must wash their hands and use wipes to clean any equipment before handling again. There are posters around the school to remind pupils of expectations also.

### **What arrangements will be in place if a child or adult is unwell/showing symptoms of fever/cough?**

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature their parents or carer will be contacted to collect them. If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision, if required. If the child needs direct personal care until they can return home, a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If the child needs to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, where possible, they use a separate toilet.

### **How will parents be able to ask staff questions?**

Parents are expected to phone and email the school office rather than visit. There will not be any face-to-face meetings with teachers but telephone appointments will be able to be made. Teachers, as they will now be teaching in school, will endeavour to respond with 48 hours. Any urgent messages should be directed via phone or email to the school office at [office@beecholme.merton.sch.uk](mailto:office@beecholme.merton.sch.uk)

### **How will you ensure children social distance?**

Children, and staff where possible, will only mix in a small, consistent class groups and that class group will stay away from other people and groups. Brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is considered low risk however; the school will ensure movement around the school is limited. Classrooms will set out as already described above. Each class group will be taught separately, as normal, by their Class Teacher and Learning Support Assistant.

### **What will the school do if children do not follow social distancing or otherwise breach hygiene or safety guidance?**

The Behaviour Policy and the COVID-19 Annex is on the school website. Expectations of behaviour and rules will be clearly explained to children, along with reminders and highlighting models of good hygiene and attitude. Parents of children who, despite help and reminders, cannot follow safety guidance will be notified and may be asked to take their children home.

### **How will we ensure safe access to fresh air outside of the classroom whilst ensuring pupils are a safe distance at break time?**

We will have staggered break times, lunchtimes and staggered PE sessions outside. The play equipment will be used on a rota basis over the course of a week and where necessary will be cleaned between use. Children will also be asked to wash their hands before using it and again when they come off. Children will be encouraged to play non-contact games.

All windows and doors will be opened each day. Where it is safe to do so, doors will be propped open to reduce contact with door handles.

### **Will staff be wearing PPE?**

The Government guidelines state, 'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others'. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way

- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

### **Can my child wear a mask during the school day?**

As above, government guidance states staff and children do not need to wear PPE, including the use of masks or face coverings. It also goes on to state:

- Used PPE and any disposable face coverings that staff, children, young people or other learners arrive wearing should be placed in a refuse bag and can be disposed of as normal domestic waste unless the wearer has symptoms of coronavirus, in line with the [guidance on cleaning for non-healthcare settings](#).
- Any homemade non-disposable face coverings that staff or children, young people or other learners are wearing when they arrive at their setting must be removed by the wearer and placed into a plastic bag that the wearer has brought with them in order to take it home. The wearer must then clean their hands.

### **My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?**

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different. We will help you to prepare for this by putting pictures on our website to show what you and your child can expect.

Sharing social stories can be really helpful for young children and help to express the situation in a clear factual way, reducing emotional responses.

It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending.

Social Stories

[Social Story older children.pdf](#)

[Social Story for younger children.pdf](#)

### **How do I explain social distancing to my child?**

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make the children feel safe.

For younger children, you and your child can find out how the Gruffalo handles social distancing here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/april/the-gruffalo-stick-man-and-the-smartest-giant-in-town-lend-a-paw-a-stick-and-a-hand-to-help-with-the-coronavirus-effort/>.

There are some great stories and simple explanations to help:

[Time to Come In, Bear: A Children's Story about Social Distancing](#)

Written by Kim St. Lawrence Read by Ryan St. Lawrence

[https://youtu.be/DA\\_SsZFYw0w](https://youtu.be/DA_SsZFYw0w)

[How to Explain Social Distancing to Kids](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=2HTA3ql6uWY&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=2HTA3ql6uWY&feature=emb_title)

For very young children who may not understand the concept of viruses and germs, this video from Sesame Street's Grover is a great way to show them the "good" and "bad" of being far away and too close up to someone.

<https://youtu.be/xOrt8WMwVEo>

### **What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?**

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff

and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

### **Will the school take my child's temperature every day?**

No, but we may use a non-invasive thermometer if we suspect a child of having a temperature.

### **Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?**

Not until the situation is deemed to be safe, we would prefer to minimise additional adults coming in and out of school.

### **Will the school office be open?**

Yes, but parents are expected to phone and email rather than visit. Any visit to the school must be made via an appointment. Appointments will not be made at the start and end of the day to maximise social distancing. When visiting the School Office for an appointment, parents and visitors are to use the sanitiser and should remain within the marked box in the reception area. The reception area can only accommodate one person at a time. If someone is already in the main office, parents should wait outside where it is clearly marked.

### **Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children whose bubble needs to close for a period of time?**

Yes, should we need to close any bubble for a period of isolation time, we will provide home learning activities for the children. More details will follow in September.

### **Will there be parent consultation evenings?**

There will be parent consultation in the autumn term so you can discuss your child's progress with their teachers. At the moment, we do not have any dates for these and we cannot say how these will happen. As soon as we know we will inform you.

Thank you for reading all of this information we hope it answers many of your questions.

The Beecholme Leadership Team