



Oaklands Junior School

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers for Parents



Do I have to send my child in to school?

- No. You will not be fined by Wokingham Borough Council if you choose not to send your child to school at this time. It is currently parental choice.

When might this new system start, and how long does it last for?

- Potentially school will re-open to Y6 from the beginning of June if the Government informs us it's safe to do so.
- The government has previously wanted all primary children to be in for 'the last month' of this academic year. We are awaiting confirmation from the Government, and information on how this can be achieved within current guidelines.

What if I change my mind and want to send my child to school after June 1st?

- It has taken hours of planning and preparation to organise safer smaller groups of children that can be no larger than 15 with a member of the teaching team. These have been set up in such a way that we cannot just introduce other children back in at short notice without detailed planning.
- Therefore, if you are unsure and currently want to wait longer or you haven't said your child will return, you can apply for a place but we will not be able to plan for your child to return until much later in June.

What about the children of key workers? Has this changed?

- The key worker profession list remains the same as it did at the beginning of lockdown.
- Manufacturing and the building trade are still not counted in the list of key workers published in March, despite being encouraged to return to work recently.
- Key worker children across all year groups can attend school 5 days a week but should only attend on days when parent(s) are at work and there is no-one else at home who can safely look after the children.

My child is in Years 3, 4 or 5 and I am not a key worker. What happens?

- They must continue to stay at home. We will continue to provide home learning for these year groups via OWL, as well as any Y6 children not attending school.

My child is in Year 6. What happens?

- From the beginning of June, we will begin to open our doors to children in Year 6, so long as the government still feel it is safe to do so.

What if I have children in several year groups?

- It is only the children in Y6 that we would be able to offer a space to currently. If you have any other children in Y3, Y4 or Y5, then they must still remain at home as the government have stipulated. There has been no detail from the government as to which year group will be next and when this will happen.

Do you have enough staff to facilitate having key worker children and Year 6 in school?

- Yes, but only just. The children will be taught by our experienced teachers and teaching teams, which may not necessarily be the children's usual teaching team.

What about breakfast club, after school club and extra-curricular clubs?

- The aim - as far as possible - is to ensure that children are not mixing and that they are kept in their groups so the risk of spread of infection is minimized.
- Therefore, breakfast club and after school club will not be available to any children this term.
- Extra-curricular clubs will not be available this term either.

Will parents be able to drop off /pick up and enter the school site?

- With the scientific advice from Government indicating that adults are more susceptible to passing on COVID-19 to another adult, for the time being, we really must limit the risks to you and our staff by limiting parent/carer presence on our school grounds. I appreciate your support in doing this.
- Drop off and pick up: It would be wise for only 1 parent/carer to drop off/collect their child from the Butler Road entrance each day. A member of staff will be inside the pedestrian gate (at a safe distance) to welcome children each day and again at the end of the day as they leave school.
- Wherever possible, younger or older siblings not in school should not join parents/carers for drop off or pick up to minimize risks.
- Please do not linger outside of the school grounds once your child is in school. Please pick up or drop off and then leave the school grounds.
- Morning drop-off and collection times will have to be staggered in 15 minute intervals to prevent large groups forming. More information is contained in the letter sent to Y6 parents/ carers.
- It is very important that children are on time for their drop off period and that parents are there to collect at the allotted collection time unless the children will be walking themselves safely home. If it is the latter, children must go straight home and socially distance from other children/adults the whole way to and from school – please encourage your child to stay safe.
- If your child is going to be late for their staggered start time, parents must contact the office by telephone to let them know. Office staff will then inform your child's teacher. Your child will still have to enter the school through their assigned entrance, alone and make their way to Reception.
- As is normal, please do not expect to drive on to site at any point in the school day.
- If you need to speak to someone in school about your child, please phone, email or send in a note with your child, as no parent/carer will be allowed access to the school grounds/building.

So, what will school look like? How will it function?

- It will be very different to how school looked in early March. We will have increased signage and markings inside and around school, reminding everyone of social distancing
- The children will be in a group of up to 15 children, with at least 1 adult.
- The group your child is in will not be mixing with any other group. Adults will also not be mixing in other groups.
- A member of the teaching team will take the same group of children, in the same classroom and same outdoor space for the duration of each week.
- Up to 15 children from the same year group will be in a group but they will not necessarily be with all of their friends. Key worker children will be in mixed-age groups that will also stay the same as has already been happening
- Once your child has been allocated a group, they cannot move to another group and no requests for change will be accommodated for reasons of safety
- We cannot ensure that your child will return to their old class or their old teacher but they will have a member of our Oaklands' team teaching them.
- The classrooms will be set up very differently, in rows facing the whiteboard with larger spaces in between (furniture being removed) and your child will be expected to sit at the same table alone in their time in the classroom
- Children will be told that they must not share stationery/equipment that they use in the day with another child. Any resources, such as i-pads will be wiped daily, following use.

What can my child bring to school?

- Children may only bring a small bag with their coat, trainers, sunhat, snack, lunchbox, water bottle & a pencil case with everything we will need to write and draw
- Please ensure that your child brings their home learning book, which they will bring home with them after their days in school to continue home learning tasks
- Children will not be using cloakrooms; their bags will go under their desks where they sit for ease of access

How do you ensure social distancing happens?

- The truth is that we can only do our best, and reinforce 2m distancing with guides on the pathway, playground, corridors and through instructions/reminders and being there with the children.
- For the vast majority of the day we will do our best to be as far apart as possible but the realistic picture is that this isn't going to be possible at all times.
- The children will not be mixing in other groups and each group will be self-contained and separated by zones at breaktime and lunchtime with the supervision of an adult
- We will of course be talking to all children about social distancing, explaining to them about their group and measures in place to keep them safe within that group.
- We won't be able to have whole school assemblies or similar events.
- Wherever possible, the staff will keep a social distance. If a child becomes ill, of course we will support and help as we do normally in a kind, caring community – this is where social distancing will not work.

How will classrooms be kept clean during the school day?

- Cleaning throughout the day will take place both in classrooms and throughout the school multiple times a day. Both teaching teams and our cleaners will be cleaning the school throughout and thoroughly.
- During the day, we use the anti-bacterial wipes in each classroom for surfaces and equipment used.

- Our contract cleaners will continue to thoroughly clean the school with greater emphasis on the areas that have been used, at the end of each day once children and staff have left.
- Hand washing regimes for all children and staff will continue as previously on arrival and any changes of activities, leaving class or returning
- The children will have their own set toilets that their group are allowed to access to reduce transmission between groups.
- Children will not all go to the toilet at the same time; at any point, only 1 boy and 1 girl will be allowed to the toilet at any one time and once they return to class, other children can be sent

What will break time and lunch time look like for my child?

- Break times in the playground will be staggered so that children have as little chance of mixing as possible.
- Children will be unable to play with the rest of their year group in a normal break time.
- Children will still be able to bring in a snack which will stay in their bag under the table until breaktime. Please ensure that this is only a piece of fruit or vegetable snack; no cereal bars
- Lunch will have to be eaten within each group's classroom, not in the main hall.
- There will be no hot meals, only a choice of sandwiches provided by Cucina if ordered
- Packed lunches can be brought in from home. Our 'no nuts' policy still applies which also includes Nutella

What will the teaching/curriculum be like?

- Our Y6 teachers will be planning the tasks as they do for home learning and it is envisaged that whilst in school, your child will be completing the tasks set for the days that they are in school; this means that on days not in school, home learning can still continue at home with the tasks set for days not in school
- In addition, there will be other activities that they can safely access. Social distancing requirements make normal teaching very difficult! We will however work hard as a staff team to make the most of the situation and will plan the curriculum as creatively as we can within the constraints we have before us.
- We will not be able to plan lessons like we did prior to closing. Group/team work, experiments/investigations, practical tasks, whole class/group activities will have to be adapted so that they can be done individually as much as possible.
- Our curriculum will have to be narrowed in the short term until social distancing measures are eased further.
- The children will have limited access to our normal range of resources and equipment due to possible cross contamination and social distancing measures that need to be in place to keep us all safe.
- The adults will be teaching more from the front of the class with less movement around the classroom.
- We will be teaching outside as much as possible. We are hoping for continued good weather!
- Teachers will be using verbal feedback to children during lessons, written marking will not happen at this time.
- We will be ensuring that we are providing our children in school plenty of opportunity to share their feelings/experiences from lockdown and provide sessions that are supportive of children's mental health and wellbeing through PSHE sessions or P4C sessions.
- We will focus on the positive outcomes from lockdown and how life may change for the better in the future.

What if a child or adult displays symptoms of Covid-19?

- If children become unwell with known symptoms, they will be removed from class and parents phoned immediately to collect as soon as possible. The unwell child will be taken to a gazebo, set up on the grass area near the pedestrian gate. An adult will remain close by until collection. Please ensure that this is as soon as possible and within 20 mins.
- Surgical PPE masks will be worn by staff caring for the child if 2m cannot be maintained
- All areas that child has accessed will be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible, and all other children in the group will wash their hands thoroughly.
- If staff members fall ill with symptoms, they will go home immediately.
- If your child, you or anyone in your household develops Covid-19 symptoms, you **MUST** inform the school and self-isolate for the benefit of others.
- Please do not send your child into school if they are in **any way** unwell.

What if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19?

- The child or staff member must self-isolate for 7 days and their household for 14 days.
- **If there is a positive result in a group, the rest of the group will be sent home for 14 days to self-isolate.** Households do not need to self-isolate unless the person/child begins to show symptoms.
- The classroom and all areas used by the group will be closed for 72 hours for thorough cleaning

What if a member of my household is 'clinically extremely vulnerable' or 'clinically vulnerable' and shielding?

- If you live with anyone who fits into these categories then where possible, you and your child should remain at home. We really, really don't want to put anyone at unnecessary risk. This is also why we are asking our clinically extremely vulnerable staff to stay at home.

Can my child wear face coverings and gloves?

- The debate about PPE carries on. Government guidance originally asked schools to buy PPE equipment from their own suppliers which is something we have never done. At that particular time we joined with Edgbarrow in placing an order. However, the latest advice from the DfE is that face coverings are not needed by children or staff.
- Staff are allowed to wear a mask/face covering and this is perfectly ok to keep themselves safe. It is not a requirement but a personal choice. They may wear one from our supply or they may provide their own, which may also be a home-made face covering – all equally acceptable.
- If you feel you want your child to wear a face covering in school then this is also allowed but this must be yours and your child's choice and supplied by you. Your child must also be responsible for wearing it. It is not a requirement but a personal choice.
- Staff will wear an apron, gloves and a surgical mask if dealing with bodily fluids. They will also wear it if a child displays symptoms of Covid-19.

Will my child need to wear uniform?

- Uniform is required as it has been with key workers/vulnerable children. However, when hoodies arrive, it is ok for children to wear these, if they would like to, as is always the case in Y6 as part of their uniform

- Please wash clothing worn at school each day as soon as they arrive home and ensure they wash their hands thoroughly.
- We ask that all children wear fresh clothes to school each day to limit the spread of infection

What about dealing with accidents/first aid?

- Children will be children and there will be bumps and scrapes. We will aim for social distancing as much as possible but will care for your child as we would normally do.
- Each class will have their own first aid kit so that minor incidents can be dealt with within the classroom.
- In more serious cases e.g. nose bleeds that won't stop, a serious bump etc a designated first aider will support. These staff will wear PPE if dealing with bodily fluids, including gloves, apron and a surgical mask.
- If your child has medication in school, this will be kept in the classroom in which they are working, as has always been our policy.

What about the behaviour policy, I have heard that this needs to change too?

- In light of the need for children to behave differently when they return to school, and follow any new systems we have put in place to support that, the Government has advised us to amend our behaviour policy temporarily.

Our children must:

- follow any altered routines for arrival or departure
- follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing
- follow instructions on who pupils can socialise with at school (only children in their group)
- move around the school as per specific instructions (social distancing and stepping aside to give way)
- tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus or feel unwell
- follow amended expectations about breaks/play and lunch times, including where children may or may not play
- follow rules on the use of toilets

What about offering school in the mornings for some children, and afternoon for others? Could they do half a day each?

- No, as this would increase daily traffic into the school on a daily basis and mean that adults were leading two groups a week and not one, further increasing the risk of transmission to multiple children and their families.

What about the home learning for the children not in school?

- Our weekly Home Learning on OWL will continue to be produced for children at home from all year groups.
- However, as the majority of staff will be in school working with children, our capacity to respond to our families through home learning support will necessarily be delayed.

What about safeguarding?

- As always, safeguarding our children is paramount and we are remaining vigilant to all safeguarding and child protection matters during these unprecedented times.
- We will ensure that children have safe spaces to talk about their experiences during the lockdown. We will ensure that all children have access to trusted adults who will listen to them and are ready and trained to respond to them effectively.
- We have an addendum to our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and this can be found on our website
- A trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be on site at all times during the school day to support staff with any concerns.

What happens if my child's teacher becomes ill and is off school?

- We have ensured that the groups back in school are assigned a Teacher/TA, with no interchanging of staff to prevent cross-contamination, whilst social distancing is in force.
- It would therefore be necessary to notify parents that the group can **not** continue until staff return.
- Once the group's assigned Teacher/TA is well enough to return to school, parents would be notified of the date for return.
- Home learning would continue via OWL throughout this time.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of Covid 19, once Y6 return?

- Parents will be notified, along with Public Health England (PHE) that there has been a confirmed case with advice of PHE followed.
- All in contact with that child/adult in the last 48 hours will need to follow the government's advice on self-isolating for 7 days, with other members of the household staying home for 14 days.
- The areas in school used by the group (classroom/toilets) will be closed for 7-14 days, until the area can be thoroughly cleaned with disinfectant and can then be re-opened.
- Parents would be kept informed of the date for return.
- Home learning would continue via OWL throughout this time.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of Covid 19, once the whole school returns?

- Parents will be notified, along with Public Health England (PHE) that there has been a confirmed case with advice of PHE followed.
- In this instance, the whole school would be closed for a deep clean which would mean closure for 14 days.
- Home learning would continue via OWL throughout this time.