September 2021 Opening Overview 

# Symptomatic Families and Staff

Pupils and staff who are showing symptoms: a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, need to remain at home and seek a PCR test result before returning to school.

In addition, we would ask parents to be particularly mindful of sore throats, headaches and a general head cold as these are the most common symptoms associated at the start of developing the Delta variant.

When reporting any absence due to illness, please can you specify your child’s symptoms as any absence will need to be chased in case there is potential COVID-19 symptoms.

The rules relating to contact with other both in your home and in general have changed with far less self-isolation required. This most up to date guidance can be found here ‘[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance)’ but should this not be clear, please contact the school for advice.

If a pupil develops these symptoms in school, they will be supervised in an isolated space until they can be collected and then families should follow the above guidance.

The school aims to continue to inform parents of any cases with their class.

**Ventilation**

Staff will be asked to keep a minimum of 50% of doors and windows open to ensure that ventilation levels are high. Therefore, pupils should bring school jumpers and coats accordingly as the school will be generally colder than normal. The balance between cold and ventilation will be continously assessed as we enter further into winter.

**Social Distancing Pupils**

Whilst there will no longer be bubbles, the school will look to try and keep pupils in class groups or phase groups (e.g. Year 1 and 2) through the school day as doing so has no impact upon their education. Children will also be kept in table groups and line orders as much as possible e.g. when sitting down at lunch. This is because if a pupil contracts COVID-19, Track and Trace may still ask for information as to whom they have had close contact with which will be made easier by these consistent groupings. Any changes to these group will need to take place over a weekend.

Playtimes will be the only period where children will mix more freely without teacher direction other than perhaps hugging, wrestling etc. Whilst the classes will no longer be separated on the playground, we will still initially split the play areas in two e.g. Year 1s on one side and Year 2s on the other – this should allow the majority of friends to play freely whilst still maintaining some distancing and giving the younger a better idea of who they may have had close contact with, should they need to be asked.

Bubbles will be temporarily reintroduced however should the school have more than one case per class.

**Social Distancing Staff**

In the main, staff will be asked to remain in their phases; however, HLTAs who cover multiple classes will be allowed to teach across two classrooms within a school day again and there will be some mixing a TAs in the dinner halls and extended care.

Staff will be asked to try and maintain a 1m distance from pupils and each other so long as this does not interfere with their role. In situations where staff are giving close learning support, we would ask recommend that a mask is worn whenever they are working within a 1m distance for more than a minute.

Staff will also be asked to wear masks when moving around poorly ventilated areas/busy areas such as the office, photocopier area. The staffroom will be reopened but will be limited to 6 people at a time. Initially, staff will be asked to each lunch in a phase area, an empty area of the school or outside.

**Social Distancing Parents**

The school will be open to parents again before and after school for drop off and collection as we have generally missed the informal conversations about your children that these enable.

However, we will try to reduce the possibility of crowding through some additional supervision before and after school that will hopefully minimise the number of those needing to enter and making this a more comfortable experience for all.

# Entry/Exit

There will be no more temperature checks at the school gate as it is clear that this symptom did not present in our children until later in any illness - this should make entry far quicker. We would however, like still have some informal staggering and give set gates to prevent pinch points around the school.

Whilst parents can now enter the school gates where needed, we aim to try and encourage our older pupils to enter without a parent, continuing to be dropped at the gate. Therefore, in short:

Year 2-6 can enter the school gates at 8:40 without a parent or enter a little later with a parent if needed.

This should enable some parents to just drop and go which will also aid with parking around the school. We will however, ask that Reception and Year 1 parents enter with their children due to their age.

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| Year 5/6 | Enter the front two gates (Sign and Bike Shed) from 8:40 – we would assume all pupils can enter independently in this phase.Enter the classroom to begin their learning. All Year 5/6 should be in class be 8:50 – starting school 5 minutes earlier than pre-pandemic - to allow us to release the children at 3:10 from the same gate and still provide a full day. |
| Year 3/4 | Enter the junior playground through the Tesco gate at 8:40 without a parent and be supervised before entering at 8:45.Parents who wish to walk their child to their class can do so at 8:45 but we would ask you to then exit through the front gate near to bike shed in order to create a one-way system and allow other parents to enter behind them. All Year 3/4 pupils should be in class be 8:50 – starting school 5 minutes earlier than pre-pandemic - to allow us to release the children at 3:10 from the same gate and still provide a full day.  With your permission, we intend to allow Year 4s to meet a parent/carer on the grassy area should you prefer - please discuss a spot where you will stand each day with your child so that they know where to look. A senior member of staff will be outside each day to ensure that all pupils are collected.  For Year 3 (certainly initially) and for those who would prefer their child stay inside the school gate, the pupils will be lined up on the playground and released to parents from here. Again, we would ask that parents then exit the school through the bike shed gate, to create a one-way system around the school.  Should you wish to speak with the teacher please do so after school and wait until the end of the line to ensure that pupils are sent home swiftly. |
| Year 1/2 | Year 2 can enter the junior playground at 8:40 without a parent through the Tesco gate. They will be supervised by staff until 8:50 at which point they will be taken to their class.Year 1s and Year 2s (with a parent) can enter at 8:50 and use a one-way system around to drop their child to the classroom. All children should be in their classrooms by 9:00 at which point the gates will be closed. When picking up your child, we would ask that all parents enter at 3:15 and use the same one-way system to collect. With those in Pine, we would ask you to enter through the front gate (nearest the school sign) at 8:50 and wait on the small area in front of the school office.  We would also ask that you enter this same gate at 3:15 and use the same one-way system to collect your child from the class teacher.  Should you wish to speak with the teacher please wait until the end of the line to ensure that pupils are sent home swiftly. |
| Reception | We would ask all families to drop their children using the main driveway. The EYFS staff will open these gates at 8:50 for entry and again at 3:05. |

# Parental Access to the School Office

The school office will remain closed to parents unless you make an appointment in advance by phone or email. It will be manned from for the normal hours of 8:00 to 4:15 however, and if needed a member of the office staff can come out to you at the school gate.

# School Uniform

This will return to normal – please see the uniform policy.

The school relaxed its rules around clothing during the lockdown due to the challenges around shopping for new footwear etc.; however, the school will be returning strictly to the items contained within the policy and we would appreciate your support on this.

**School Snack**

The school also relaxed its supervision of school snacks. Our main focus will initially be on those eaten during morning break. These need to be fruit, cheese, crackers or a yogurt snack for those in KS2 and a piece of fruit in Key Stage 1 and Reception (this is supplied by school but children can bring their own also)

Everything else, we will assume is meant to be included in their lunch and children will be asked to return this to their lunchbox to eat later. At this point, the school will not be focusing too much on lunches brought from home with the exception of chocolate bars (rather than chocolate biscuits) and sweets which the children will be asked to put back and eat at home.

# Extended Care

This will run from the first day back with pupils initially grouped into four areas of the room by year group/phase rather than class to ensure that your child does not end up on a table by themselves.

* We would continue to ask you to drop your child to the main reception entrance similar to this year but without the need for temperature checks. We will open the school gates at 7:45am.
* Pupils can only attend if they are on the register which is printed at 3:00pm the previous day as we have to plan seating to ensure there is sufficient separation. Any bookings made after this time may not be able to attend as there are a finite number of places to ensure we have the correct ratios.
* When collecting from after-school club, please use the telecom on the main gate up until 4:15pm and then contact the Extended Care Team by phone (the number is on the gate) and your child will be brought to the Tesco gate.

# After-School Clubs

At present, we are looking to provide after-school clubs with a focus on those that can be completed outside or in phase groups.

The club limit will be raised to 20 pupils where possible with pupils grouped in phases/year groups as much as possible. Children who need to change into sports clothing will be asked to do so in their classrooms wherever possible.

Parents are asked to wait on the junior playground for the club leaders to release their children to them.

# Swimming and School Competitions

At present, the school intends to return a normal school provision for swimming lessons at St. James Pool (Year 4 in autumn, Year 5 in spring and Year 3 in the summer).

In addition, we would look to return to inter-school competitions wherever sufficient risk assessments are in place to ensure a degree of social distancing is in place.

# Learning

The school will look to return to a full curriculum. Last year, Music, Computing and Design Technology have been reduced due to the sharing of resources that these have involved; however, these will return in full but with 48-hour gaps between the use of any items or rooms.

Pupils will be kept in consistent groups and seat for the majority of the time unless this greatly impacts with the education provided.

The school will return to marking all work in line with school policy and resources will be more freely shared within each table or group.

Homework will begin from the second week of term with home reading books sent weekly. The children will also return to using the school library, visiting on a fortnightly basis to ensure a 48-hour gap between classes and year groups.

# Intervention and One-to-one Support

Support within the class will return to a more normal basis with the exception of staff wearing masks at times. Where needed pupils can be taken out of class and taught using a perspex screen, particularly where children may come from two different classes for an intervention group and more space is needed.

For those with specific needs and designated learning assistants, a bespoke approach will be agreed to enable closer contact within the class based upon the specified needs of the child’s EHCP; however, this should generally resemble that provision give pre-pandemic.

# Remote Learning

Despite the changes in government guidance, we are expecting significant absence through infections and general illness for both staff and pupils. In situations where, either may be well but still need to self-isolated, the school would return to the use of live links over TEAMs to ensure that pupils where taught their core learning each morning. A reminder of logins and accounts will be send out within the first few weeks with additional guidance for those in Reception and Year 1.

**Lunch Times and Break**

It is our intention to move the majority of the pupils back to the dinner halls.

Year 1 and 2 will eat in the infant hall and the canopy area where the weather allows; Year 3-6 will use the main hall in two sittings. The children will be sat within line order at specific tables with a 2m gap left between each class.

The playgrounds and fields will continue to be split into two to enable year groups to play together. This should enable friends from different classes to play with each other but also enable children to better identify those who they have interacted with should they need to for Track and Trace. Pupils will continue to have access to play equipment, most likely by year group and the climbing equipment will be used but split by year groups.

**Toilets**

**I**n Key Stage 1 and Reception, the children will continue to use a class toilet, whilst in Key Stage 2, this will begin to return to a girl’s and boy’s toilet.

There will also be some sharing of toilets during lunchtimes to enable the younger children to have easier access of the playground. Key Stage 2 are likely to continue to use phase-based toilets.

In all cases, the children will be asked to clean hands before and after use.

**Handwashing and Hygiene**

Pupils and staff will use hand sanitizer upon initial entry. They will continue to use hand sanatizer before break and lunch, and wash their hand using soap and water before returning back into the class.

External handwashing stations will remain in place to ensure that this can be an efficient process. This will be completed in classes during heavy rain.

Should your child require a specialist soap/sanitizer, please contact the school office.

# Assemblies

Initially the weather will hopefully allow outside whole school assemblies.

It is our hope to return to two-three assemblies per week but having these in phases, rather than whole school to ensure sufficient spacing.

**Cleaning**

The school will return to a normal daily clean unless there is a shared use of space should as the school hall; where seats and tables will be cleaned in between.

In addition, key touch points such as door handles, gates etc. will be cleaned additionally within the school day by the office and each class with look to wipe down its own touch points.

Toilets and classes will no longer be cleaned during the school day as these are require handwashing immediately after use.

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff will only be wearing masks where they need to work within a 1m distance of a child or they are within poorly ventilated/busy areas such as the office hallway.

Visitors to the school building, including parents, will initially be asked to wear masks.

**Changes to provision**

The approaches outlined below are based upon the current assessment of risk and an attempt to begin to ‘learn to live’ with the COVID-19 virus; however, the school’s risk assessment will be reviewed continuously throughout the year and undoubtedly, there will need to be adjustments in line with the local context. It is possible that localised lockdowns and class closures may be required by PHE at some point in the year. These adjustments are outlined with the school’s Outbreak Management Plan.