

Parent Question and Answers – Georgian Gardens

Answers to questions you may have about school reopening.

How can I ensure the safety of my child at school? We are putting in place lots of new and updated procedures to help keep children and staff safe when at school, these include staggered drop off and pick up times, limited contact with children/adults outside their bubble (year group) and organising classrooms to enable social distancing wherever possible. In addition, we will be encouraging good hygiene and frequent handwashing.

Please make sure we have up to date contact details for you!

My child is in a group that were previously considered extremely vulnerable – can they return to school?

Provisions are now being made for all children to return to school. If your child was in the extremely vulnerable group then you will have been contacted by the school. If you feel that you should have been contacted please let us know so that individual risk assessments can be arranged.

My child lives in a house with someone that was previously considered extremely vulnerable – can they return to school? Yes your child can return to school in September.

What can I do to help my child stay safe? Remind them of the importance of washing their hands properly and regularly as well as showing them how to use tissues (or sneeze/cough into their elbow if they don't have a tissue). Talk to them about listening to their teacher during the day and giving space to their friends. There are some good resources on <https://e-bug.eu/> to help with this

What if my child is ill during the day? Existing guidance applies to children who are poorly e.g. 48 hours off school if a child has a suspected stomach bug. Our First Aider's at school will assess and look after your child. If your child becomes ill during the day we will contact you as we would normally – whether that is to ask if we can administer Calpol or ask you to collect them.

An isolation area has been set up in school to care for any pupil showing signs of Covid-19 away from all other pupils. If your child is showing signs of Covid-19 we will ask you to collect them as soon as possible and advise you that you will need to book a test for your child. Testing is now available for all children over the age of 5. Your child and all other members of your household must self-isolate for 14 days. This includes siblings not being able to attend school. Test results are returned very quickly and once a clear result has been obtained your child/ren may return.

A family member is self-isolating, can my child come into school? No, if any member of your household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus then the whole family must self-isolate for 14 days.

What if there is a case of Covid-19 within the school? All children and staff in the affected bubble will be asked to stay away from school for 14 days. The area will be closed off and deep cleaned. In all instances we follow guidance from Public Health England. It is likely that if two cases were detected within one school the school would be closed and an onsite testing facility set up at the school.

What about general hygiene measures? Good hygiene and frequent handwashing will be enforced throughout the day. Each bubble will have antibacterial cleaners, tissues, hand gel in addition to their normal cleaning equipment and classrooms will be cleaned during the day. The contents of classrooms have been cleared to ensure that they are as easy to clean as possible, in addition items that are difficult to clean such as soft furnishings and some toys have been removed. The toys and items that are still in the classroom will be disinfected at the end of each day or kept to one side for a period of time to minimise the risk of infection.

What are the current signs and symptoms of Covid-19?

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Does my child need to bring their own hand sanitiser? No, we have the necessary handwashing facilities and procedures in place.

Can my child wear a facemask? No. Current guidelines are that no face coverings should be worn in school. Government advice states that disposable masks should be removed on arrival. Any homemade, non-disposable face coverings that staff or children are wearing when they arrive at school must be removed by the wearer and placed in a plastic bag that the wearer has brought with them in order to take it home. The wearer must then clean their hands. It is stated that face covering should not be worn in school as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

What happens if I am late and miss the scheduled drop off time for my child's zone and bubble?

You need to ensure that you keep good timing for drop off and pick up – your child will miss out on key learning if they are not here at the appropriate times. You may not be allowed immediate access the school if you arrive at a busy time that is not your allocated time slot. It is possible that you will be requested to wait until all other pupils have entered the building.

Will the children be kept 2m apart? (Answer from Gov.uk¹)

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out above:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that if early years settings, schools and colleges do this, and crucially if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.

Will my child be able to play with his/her friends at break and lunchtime? Children will be able to enjoy break and lunchtimes with other children in their bubble (everyone in their year group), we will be encouraging social distancing throughout and will be outside as much as we can. Children will not be able to mix with children outside their bubbles (year group).

Does my child need to bring in to school all the work they have completed at home during the closure? No this is not necessary, we have been in touch with you during the closure and enjoyed seeing work on Seesaw and Tapestry!

If my child forgets something is it ok for me to come to the school during the day and hand it into reception?

Please call us first as we may be able to resolve the issue without you coming into school. We are keeping visitors to the school to a minimum.

Lunches – special dietary requirements. We hope to provide the full hot meal service for people in receipt of free school meals and those who wish to order, including catering for special diets. We will keep you updated if this changes.

Will the children have a chance to say goodbye to their old teacher & hello to their new one?

We know that this is a really difficult time for pupils and want to support their emotional well-being as best we can. After a lot of deliberation we have decided that coming back to a new teacher is a chance for a fresh and exciting start. The children's new teachers will be adding a video clip over the coming weeks on See Saw to welcome them to their year. If social distancing and guidelines permit, we will also be arranging for this year's teachers to have a visit with their old class in their new setting in the first couple of weeks back to celebrate their new start with them. (We want to focus on the positives rather than what has been missed out on or what has been left behind).

Will lessons be the same as before? No, we have created our own 'Recovery Curriculum' in the first few weeks we will be concentrating on settling children into a new routine and possibly new classroom. Our focus will be on their wellbeing. We will be introducing some aspects of more formal learning when the children are settled.

Will the school provide work if my family are isolating?

We are currently working on contingency plans to enable pupils to continue accessing learning at home if they are required to self-isolate.

How will we ensure others pupils are given the chance to 'catch up'?

The first half of the autumn term will be split into sections to ensure that we go back over key learning that has been missed:

First 2 days – Getting to know you days with class teacher – building new and re-establishing old relationships

First 2 weeks – themed skills development in the mornings (focussed on handwriting, spelling, reading and mental maths with some 'fun games based' assessment activities to allow teachers to make further plans to support targeted learning for pupils.

Weeks 3 – 7 teaching block focussed on the key learning points from core subjects in the previous year group. By going back over this and ensuring pupils are secure we will be ready to move onto the current years curriculum after the half term. (Pupils who are already secure in these will be challenged to apply learning in new broader contexts)

During week 7 – teachers will profile all pupils using our Thrive tool, which checks on emotional well-being and development. Again, this will help to identify pupils who may need additional support throughout the year in these non-academic areas.

Half term

Return to start of the new academic year expectations and curriculum – teachers will work to cover the full curriculum during the remaining 5 half terms.

Ongoing Additional support

We are likely to have groups and individuals who will need additional tutoring and catch up after this initial reintroduction. This will be where we will focus spending money for catch up that has been announced from Government.