



Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Lipson Vale Primary School  
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Dear parents/carers,

### Returning to school this term

When we sent you a version of this letter right at the start of this term, before we knew that there was to be another lockdown, infection rates were high and there was, understandably, a lot of concern and confusion as to what the next few weeks would look like. We are so pleased (and no doubt most of you are too!) that we have got to the point where we are certain that we can welcome the whole school back safely. Although the local and national picture is much more positive than in January, **we cannot stress enough that we are all still in a national lockdown and therefore will be returning under strict government guidelines.** Much of our school practice will be the same as in the Autumn Term but we will be updating our Risk Assessment (available on the school website) to reflect any changes.

In our continued efforts to ensure the school remains a safe place for our pupils and their families, please take a few minutes to remind yourselves, and your children of the points below.

**Attendance at school is not only encouraged but also expected from 8<sup>th</sup> March** and the government have made it clear that schools should, once again, be robust in their approach to school attendance. We are sure that most children and families will be happy to return to school, however, we also recognise that this might be a tricky time for a few children. If you have concerns or worries about issues which may impact on your child's attendance, please email into school to discuss them as soon as possible. Likewise, as school starts, if you have any ongoing issues that you feel might adversely affect attendance please contact us so that we can support your child in getting back into school.

### Organisation

Children will continue to work within their class 'bubble' and will only mix at any other times with children within their own year group e.g. at break times. The majority of classes will continue to eat lunches in their classroom. Any before or after school clubs being held will continue to be within year group bubbles. Information to follow on these.

### Coming to school and leaving at the end of the day

Firstly, a reminder about the staggered start and end times to the school day. These remain as they were in the autumn term (see table below).

- One member of the family should drop off and collect their child(ren).

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- **Please only come to school at your designated drop off/collection time** to reduce family members waiting around the school.
- **Families must socially distance from others** whilst waiting to come onto school site.
- Family members must wear a face covering whilst on school site (unless medically exempt).
- Please keep to your given drop off and collection times and routes. If you are late, please wait and come onto site (via the main gate) when it is quieter.
- If you are dropping off/collecting **more than one child** please speak to us about a single drop off/collection point to reduce you entering the site multiple times.

Year	Drop off time	Where?	Collection time	Where?
Year F	9.00am – 9.10am	Staff car park, at the top of the drive way off Old Laira Road	3.05pm	Staff car park, at the top of the drive way off Old Laira Road
Year 1	8.45am – 8.55am	KS1 playground	3.15pm	KS1 playground
Year 2	8.55am – 9.05am	KS1 playground	3.25pm	KS1 playground
Year 3	8.45am – 8.55am	Staff car park, at the top of the drive way off Old Laira Road	3.20pm	KS1 playground
Year 4	8.45am – 8.55am	Pupils are handed to a member of staff at the main gate.	3.20pm	KS2 playground (outside Year 4 classrooms)
Year 5	8.30am – 8.40am	Pupils are handed to a member of staff at the main gate.	3.10pm	KS2 playground (outside Year 5 classrooms) or walk home
Year 6	8.30am – 8.40am	Pupils are handed to a member of staff at the main gate.	3.10pm	Covered waiting area by the ramp.

### Communication

- Please continue to avoid using the school reception area where at all possible. However, do stay in touch with us about your child, we still want to hear, just differently. Email and phone us if you need to speak to us. Remember to **order (and pay for, where appropriate) your lunches online by midnight the night before. We are starting at Week 1 on the menu.**
- If you need to speak to a member of staff urgently, please telephone the office and explain your circumstances; we can take messages or call you back when we are able.

### Keeping Healthy and Safe

- It is really important that you continue the practice of staying at home if any member of your family is presenting with Covid-19 symptoms.
- The 3 main symptoms remain as **high temperature, new and continuous cough, loss of taste or smell.**
- If you or a member of your family has symptoms, the symptomatic individual needs to get tested and the rest of the family goes into self-isolation.

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- If negative, the whole family can stop isolating and return to school/work
- If positive, the whole family must continue self-isolating for 10 days.
- **Where a family needs to self-isolate the child/ren will revert to remote learning and will access daily lessons via Google Classroom or Tapestry.** This will be put in place by the day after you inform us of a positive test result.
- If a child **exhibits symptoms of Covid 19 in school** they will be removed from the classroom and kept separately and cared for until you can come and collect them. Please ensure we have **up to date contact details** and please ensure that you or someone on the contact list are **contactable at all times** during the school day. A test should be carried out as soon as possible and the results notified to school, who will seek advice from PHE as necessary. Parents will be kept informed in line with advice from PHE and in keeping with the rules of GDPR.
- Everyone in school will continue to wash their hands very regularly and to use hand sanitiser in between.

### Face Coverings:

There is NO requirement or expectation for primary aged children to wear a face covering in school although staff are now required to wear these more frequently than in the autumn term in communal areas and in situations where they are in close proximity to others. If you choose to require your child to wear a face covering to school, they must wash their hands when they arrive on site, remove the mask and then wash their hands again before entering the classroom. Disposable masks should be put into a lidded bin, whereas reusable masks should be placed into a plastic bag until the end of the day. **Reusable face coverings should be changed daily.**

### Uniform

We continue to expect children to look smart. Your child should now be wearing full, correct uniform (as in our policy) which includes school shoes, not trainers. Please ensure that they have a coat with them at all times for outside wear and, as classrooms are being kept well ventilated, a school jumper is highly recommended plus, if you wish, a white t shirt under the school shirt if your child tends to feel the cold! If your child has outgrown part of their uniform in the last 6 weeks, just let us know about it and when you think you will be able to get sorted. We understand that getting hold of uniform during the lockdown might be challenging and we may be able help you with this. All children need to have a full PE kit in school the whole week.

We look forward to welcoming all of our wonderful pupils back on Monday.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Lewis-Cole  
Headteacher

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