

Please see below some of the questions that we have anticipated you may have about our September re-opening. We have already shared lots of information about Monday on our Dojo pages, however I thought that it would be useful to try and place all of the information here.

Please do take care and time to read this document. It contains lots of important information.

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

EVERYONE will be returning to school on Monday 7th September; we are SO EXCITED to have everyone back!

2. What measures have you put in place to help keep my child safe?

School has carried out a thorough risk assessment. This can be viewed on the COVID-19 page of our school website. Each classroom has been set out in accordance with government guidance and children will be sat side by side in rows. We have renamed our classes after British birds; this is because we are calling our classes 'nests' – and this will help us keep some groups of children apart. FULL INFORMATION about what your child's class will look like, along with information about how we have set up our school, is on our Dojo pages. PLEASE take time to look through both the CLASS and SCHOOL STORY pages.

3. What will my child need?

Children must wear their uniform when coming back to school. If you are having problems finding the money for a uniform, our FREE SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP may be able to help you – we have a good stock of used, clean uniforms in very good condition.

Children can bring a coat and bag with them – but please do not let them bring anything with them unless school has requested this.

Children may bring a bottle in with them. This should be filled with water. They can then bring this home with them each day in order for it to be washed and ready for use the next day – we no longer have water bottles for use in school.

Children do not need to bring in their own pencil case; every child will have their own equipment on their desk.

Children do not need to wear a face mask; this rule is currently only for High School pupils.

Packed lunch boxes can be brought to school; it is important however that these are taken home each day and washed thoroughly before being used again.

Children do not need to bring hand sanitiser with them; we have lots of this in stock.

4. Does my child have to attend?

School attendance is once again compulsory; we do expect to see everyone back – unless you have been instructed not to attend by a medical professional. Please do give me a call if you have any problems or if you are thinking of home-schooling your child. Please just phone school on 0161 921 2400 and ask for me.

5. Will school open at 9am and close at 3pm?

Because we do not want lots of people gathering at the same time, we will be staggering our start and end times for different classes. It is important that you know which class your child is in and what their start and finish times are:

School Hours	School Hours	School Hours	School Hours	School Hours
EYFS ZONE	ZONE ONE	ZONE TWO	ZONE THREE	ZONE FOUR
EYFS BUBBLES	BLUE BUBBLE	RED BUBBLE	YELLOW BUBBLE	GREEN BUBBLE
● Robins ● Sparrows ● Swans ● Herons	● Kestrels ● Woodpeckers ● Starlings	● Kingfishers ● Ospreys ● Barn Owls ● Ravens	● Housemartins ● Wrens ● Jackdaws	● Red Kites ● Eagles ● Falcons
8.45am - 2.45pm	9.15am - 3.15pm	9.00am - 3.00pm	9.00am - 3.00pm	9.15am - 3.15pm

Each of our new zones will also have its own entrance gate. All of this information will be on your child's class dojo page. Teachers will also be contacting everyone who they have not heard from on **FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER** to ensure you know exactly what to do next week. Our Zoned re-opening means that we can deal with smaller numbers at a time. Please also do not follow instructions given to you by another parent – these directions may not apply to you or your child.

7. Will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?

We will of course do our best to support distancing – and this is especially true with the adults in our school. School has purchased many signs and notices to help with this. However, it is important to note that DfE guidance states that there is no expectation that children in primary schools need to be socially distanced. Our nests and zones will keep groups of children apart. The way we have organised our corridors will ensure children do not mix with others and our staggered playtimes will prevent children in one nest playing with children from other nests. We will always encourage children to keep as far apart as possible at all times by 'making like a tree' (this means spreading out both of your arms as wide as possible and ensuring that no one is in your space) whilst moving around school and lining up etc. We also have ensured that staff fully understand the need for them to be distanced as much as possible from the children and each other; this week we have done even more training about this

We do also respectfully ask that you keep to the 2m rule if you need to speak to a member of staff.

8. Will there be a breakfast club?

Not to start with. We are however in the process of setting up an essential worker breakfast club which will start very soon. This club however will have very strict rules in place about what children can and cannot do and sadly children will not be allowed to mix and play with each other as this will compromise the integrity of the nests throughout our school. We will also only be able to offer this service to a handful of pupils whose parents have to be at work before 8am and we will need proof of this. Our normal breakfast will resume once the current restrictions are lifted.

9. What hygiene measures will be in place to prevent transmission?

We will:

- use the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#) to inform our school specific risk assessments.
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. All classrooms have sinks. All classrooms have been bought anti-bacterial liquid soap and hand sanitiser gels. Hand sanitiser will be available in areas without access to soap and water.
- Equipment to clean chairs and desks during the day have been purchased for each classroom area. There are cleaning stations spread throughout the school to help keep contact points such as door handles and light switches clean and safe.
- Zones have been allocated their own toilet blocks; this helps ensure that not too many people are using the same toilet facilities. These toilets will also be cleaned more often during the day.
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, more regularly than normal. We have adapted our usual cleaning hours to ensure that the school is clean and safe.
- ensure that bins have lids for tissues and that these are emptied during the day
- where possible, ensure spaces are well ventilated. We will have all internal doors and exterior windows open to allow free flow of air and to stop door handles being touched too much.

We will ensure that all adults and children:

- frequently wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing. Children will be monitored to ensure that this is done throughout the day.
- are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose. Signs around school will confirm this.
- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently

We will consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition.

School staff also have a 'Safer Working' document to help remind them of daily routines and expectations.

10. Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?

Government advice on the Scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. With this in mind, we will try our best to use as much of our outdoor space as possible. However, outside of this, we will keep children within their own classroom during the day. They will be able to go to the hall for their lunch (we have made plans to carry out several sittings over the lunch period, with time built in to have tables and seats cleaned before the next group arrives) and for PE for some children. The zones we have created means that children will not be able to walk around the school like they used to – however the bubbles we ran before the Summer break were very successful and we found that children felt very safe knowing where they were and were not allowed to go. They also were able to pick up and follow our COVID-19 safety rules much quicker this way.

IF THE WEATHER FORECAST PREDICTS A SUNNY DAY, WE DO REQUEST THAT PARENTS AND CARERS PUT SUNCREAM ON THEIR CHILD BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL AS WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO THIS.

11. How will lunch time work?

The school will run a staggered lunch time. Children having a school dinner will not sit in the hall at the same time to eat their lunch like they used to. Instead they will eat their dinner in the hall with

the other children in their 'zone'. Once these children have eaten their lunch, the hall will be cleared, tables and seats cleaned and the next 'zone' invited in. Children in EYFS will be eating their lunch in their own classrooms.

12. What measures will school be employing to help prevent transmission?

At Primrose Hill, we will:

- give children a designated classroom (which we are referring to as their nest) and Zone for entrances, exits, lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
 - regularly clean the setting.
 - not allow children to bring in their own resources - such as pencil cases – in from home.
 - use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes as identified in our Risk assessments, when it is necessary to do so.
 - confine resources to rooms to minimise sharing and when sharing is essential (eg laptops and ipads), clean resources THOROUGHLY before transference.
 - organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently, keeping children in their zones.
 - be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them by using our new medical rooms and ask parents to collect them
 - remove and/or restrict access to unnecessary items in classrooms.
 - remove and/or restrict access to some soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean.
 - not share PE equipment; all bubbles will have their own equipment in a box if it is needed.
 - Ensure that items are left for at least 48hrs (or 72hrs if plastic) before being used again by another zone or nest (eg returned reading books)
 - Staff who are not part of a nest will be required to keep 2m away from those in the room. Markings on the classroom floor have been added to help enforce this.
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13. My child is very worried about coming back to school; I am also worried about their mental health due to the pressures of the Curriculum.

We all understand this. This is perfectly natural. This is why we have been putting lots of things on our Dojo pages; please do show these things to your child. We have looked at changing our old timetables to reflect this. There will be more breaks. Lessons will be shorter. We will try and do more fun things and not just focus on English and Maths. Our children will get a good variety of subjects taught to them whilst at the same time trying to help each child catch up on what they have missed since the start of lockdown. We will also be carrying on with our 'Cool and Calm' moments throughout the day. We also now have a new Mental Health lead in school to help monitor the impact of this work. Our SENCo, Mrs Franks, and Mrs Doolan lead will also continue to ensure that all children's needs are met.

There is a lovely book about coming back to school which you can download for free here <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Back-to-school-September.pdf>
This might be good to read and share with your child.

An approach called SOCIAL STORIES may also help children. This is when you talk about what might happen and how they feel. Please look at the documents below if you want to know more about this:

- [Social Story older children.pdf](#) (please press CTRL and CLICK if any of these links do not work)
 - [Social Story for younger children.pdf](#)
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14. Can I bring my child in to school and help them settle in to their new class?

Sadly, No, not at the moment. We must insist that only one parent or carer should accompany a child to school to minimise risk of too many people arriving at once. Older pupils may still come to school unattended as long as they can adhere to any rules regarding distancing. Parents will not be invited to enter the building – instead you will be asked to wait outside. Although schools have no power under the law to enforce social distancing with parents other than to make this request, we do hope that everyone will follow the rules and not make it awkward for any of us. **Please be patient.**

Latecomers will need to use the buzzer at the pedestrian gate. Your child will then be collected and taken to their class by a staff member.

To also help reduce the number of people in school, our front office will be **CLOSED TO ALL VISITORS between 8.45am and 9.30am.** We are asking everyone to telephone us instead at these times. We will also book appointments with you if we need to see you in person. We will adhere to the 2m social distancing rules in these instances. Please also use the hand sanitiser at the front of the office and wear a face covering when you first enter the building.

Finally, please remember that we no longer accept cash payments for things like school dinners or school uniform. This can now be paid for via the App; this will mean that fewer people will need to come to our office to do this.

15. Will the school have assemblies and special events like parent assemblies?

No, not at present. We will review this as the half term progresses (we are considering holding 'virtual assemblies' if the situation goes on for much longer).

16. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

Children under the age of 11 do not need to wear a face covering. We are not encouraging the use of face masks for children in our school. Some teachers or staff may wear some form of PPE depending on their role or what they are doing at the time (eg changing a child who has soiled themselves or working with a child on some therapy or intervention). Please do contact me directly on 0161 921 2400 if you need to talk to me about this.

17. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

Yes and No. Until the situation improves, we would prefer to *minimise* additional adults coming in and out of school. Our office will be CLOSED to all visitors between 8.45am and 9.30am. In order to provide a full service, a small handful of visitors will be allowed in (eg people to do work to help children who may have speech problems etc), however we have a new visitor policy in place which they must adhere to and which will help ensure that the plans we have in place are not compromised in any way.

18. Will you continue to provide online home learning activities or printed packs for children who do not return to school?

We are hoping that ALL children will return to school on Monday 7th September. We are really looking forward to having them back; we have missed them so much – this means that there will not be a need to re-commence with our home-learning provision

If, due an outbreak of COVID-19 a class has to be closed for a period of time we will provide learning for these children to do at home. Children who have been told to stay at home by a doctor due to a serious medical condition will also be provided with work.

19. My child is unwell; what should I do?

Keep them at home. Monitor their health. If they have any of the classic COVID-19 symptoms, please arrange for them to have a COVID-19 test. We can help with this if you are stuck.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

A new continuous cough

A high temperature (fever)

A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

A combination of 2 or more of the symptoms below may also give reason to consider going for a COVID-19 test:

Vomiting/nausea/off their food, diarrhoea, sleeping more than usual, complaining of not feeling themselves, listless/restless/agitated, shortness of breath, feeling cold, headache, severe body aches, sore throat/congested or runny nose - anything that is not feeling themselves.

For now, and as a matter of precaution, ALL CHILDREN AND STAFF WHO ARE STARTING TO FEEL UNWELL WITH ANY OF THE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS ABOVE WILL BE ASKED TO GO HOME. You must be able to collect your child. Whilst a child is awaiting collection, they will be taken to a room where they can be on their own and with appropriate adult supervision. We have also identified a bathroom they can use which will not be shared by anyone else until this space has been properly cleaned.

If a child has a high temperature (we have purchased a non-contact thermometer) and shows COVID-19 symptoms, extra precautions will be taken. The room to be used only house 2 desks – hence we should easily be able to enforce the 2m social distancing rule. When there is further cause for concern, PPE will be considered; however we will only do this if all other options are exhausted as the use of PPE is quite complex.

Once the child has gone home, cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. We will use the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#) for these purposes.

20. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

Our Risk Assessment has been written to help reduce the risk of this happening. We really hope that we do not get any confirmed COVID-19 cases in school; however, we are prepared in case this does happen. IF SOMEONE AT SCHOOL TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, WE WILL FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE SET OUT BELOW:

If someone tests positive:

- Children and staff in the nest of the positive case must isolate for 14 days. Siblings and household members of the positive test person must also self isolate
- Contacts of contacts do not have to isolate. And contacts do not need to be sent for testing.
- If a contact develops symptoms, they will be asked to go for a COVID-19 test
- Any confirmed cases will be immediately reported by a member of our school's SLT to the Health Protection Team

PLEASE DO NOT GET TOO CONCERNED OVER THE DETAIL HERE; WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IF THIS HAPPENS. We really hope that it does not and that our robust planning will work.

All you need to do is ensure that your child is FIT AND WELL before they come to school. If they show signs of any illness, KEEP THEM AT HOME. If they show COVID-19 symptoms – GET THEM TESTED. Each day staff will be asked to sign a form to say that they are fit and healthy and have no signs of the coronavirus. Again, this is to help keep everyone safe.

21. Will the school take my child's temperature every day?

No, but we may use a non-invasive thermometer which points to the forehead if we suspect a child of having symptoms. Whilst they are in our dedicated medical room.

22. How can I speak to the class teacher if we are not allowed into school?

You can contact your child's class teacher by using messages on class dojo. If you are unable to do this, you can phone, or email the office who will then pass the message on.

23. Why are different schools doing different things to reopen?

Each school is different. What we have planned is what we think is right for OUR SCHOOL and for OUR PUPILS and for OUR STAFF. We do work with other schools in our area, however ultimately it is down to each school to decide how best to move forward. We are confident with the plans we have made and know that other schools have also used some of our ideas in their own preparations.

24. What if I have further questions or worries?

Please just CONTACT ME. I will try my best to answer any of your queries. If I am not available, another member of our Senior Leadership team will talk to you. **DO NOT WORRY IN SILENCE.** We are all in this together.

And remember; I care for all of our children very much. I am not being flippant about this situation. Myself and my amazing staff will do everything we can to keep your child safe – **please help us by supporting the rules and systems we are putting in place.**

Despite the new rules and routines, we will also do our very best to ensure that your child enjoys returning to Primrose Hill.

**FINALLY, KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON OUR DOJO PAGE FOR ALL OF THE LATEST INFORMATION.
We will also add brief notices to our Facebook and Twitter sites.**