

Keston Primary School and Nursery

COVID-19 School Re-opening FAQs



Why aren't all the children coming back?

The DfE have based this on the need to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus.

If one of my children is eligible to return can't their sibling come back too?

Sadly, the answer to this is 'no'. Siblings cannot attend unless they are in another of the selected year groups. This would raise the number of pupils attending the school.

Does my child have to attend?

No one with symptoms should attend for any reason. The Government's guidance for parents makes it clear that parents are strongly encouraged to send their child to school, if they are eligible to attend, unless self-isolating or shielding. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time; the schools will not be held to account for attendance levels.

I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is, should I send them back to school?

Children and young people who are considered [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the [social distancing guidance](#) and including those who are pregnant, can attend. DfE May 2020

How big will the classes be?

The DfE guidance states that class group size should not exceed 15 pupils; we aim to have one teacher and, where staffing allows, a TA with each group. **Where possible**, especially for Reception and Year 1, we will try to ensure children will be taught by their class teacher, or other familiar teacher or teaching assistant.

I am a key worker - can my child continue to come to school?

As a school, we have remained open since 23rd of March and have continued to provide for the children of key workers, during term time and throughout the Easter and May half term holidays. To the best of our ability this will continue from the 2nd June, until the end of the academic year. From the 2nd of June, once your child's year group is open keyworkers will need to decide if you wish your child to remain full time in the key worker group or Monday to Thursday in the class group. Once they have moved to their class group they cannot return to the keyworker group.

Please note:

We are very keen to continue to help key worker families however there will be a strict booking system for key worker children and we will need to check the guidance carefully. We simply do not have the staff to support unlimited numbers of key worker children as they also need to be in groups of 15 or less. Keyworker provision will begin at 8.30 am. There will be further information for current key worker families on Monday 1st June regarding booking.

What will Keston look like from the wider reopening in June?

Children will be allocated a class bubble and parents and children will be notified which bubble their child is in, along with which adults they will be with and which classroom they will be in, on return to school. We have removed some furniture from classrooms and desks are as far from each other as possible with only one child per desk. In the classrooms used for Reception children, resources will not be accessible for children to self-select, as they normally do and the usual free flow ethos of our EYFS department, will not be able to be followed. Soft furnishings including cushions and soft toys will be removed, there will be a reduced role play area with no dressing up, alongside the removal of any toys/resources which will be difficult to clean.

Each child will be provided with their own school stationery (pencil cases must not be brought to school) and exercise books. These will be kept in their space, on their desk. Children will stay in the same seat each day. Children can store lunchboxes under their tables and coats on the back of their chairs. No bags, toys, belongings or reading books from home can be brought to school. We will forward photographs and videos about the changes to the classroom layouts on return to school after half term on the 1st June.

When you arrive at school, please observe social distancing. We will use markers or cones to mark out zones for drop off and pick up. There will be adults around to guide you and the children until you become familiar with the procedures.

Please note the nursery gate will be locked as it is accessed through a narrow pathway that would make social distancing impossible.

How do I know the school is going to be clean?

Deep cleans have already taken place over the past 9 weeks and another deep clean of the whole school will take place during half-term before more pupils return. High-traffic areas such as toilets, handrails, keyboards and classroom surfaces will be cleaned at regular intervals throughout the day. Along with other extra sanitation products, we have purchased additional lidded bins for each classroom. Each classroom will have additional cleaning materials such as wipes should the adult feel a mid-session clean is necessary. Windows and doors will be opened each day. Where it is safe to do so doors will be propped open to reduce contact with door handles.

How will you ensure increased safety?

Personal hygiene

Staff give regular reminders on when and how to wash hands. Staff currently supervise and insist on handwashing at key points of the day and this will continue. Hand washing is non-negotiable when entering the classroom; before and after leaving the classroom; after using the toilet; before breaks; at the end of breaks; before lunchtime and at the end of the day. In every classroom there is a sink and hand sanitizing stations will be spread out throughout the school. If your child is sensitive to the soap, you may wish them to bring their own soap, moisturiser or hand sanitiser. Staff will remind children not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Children will be reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a bent elbow, or use a tissue, when coughing or sneezing. If children sneeze or cough, they must wash their hands and use wipes to clean any equipment before handling again. There are posters around the school to remind pupils of expectations also.

What arrangements will be in place if a child or adult is unwell/showing symptoms of fever/cough?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature their parents or carer will be contacted to collect them. If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. If the child needs direct personal care until they can return home, a fluid-resistant surgical face mask would be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If the child needs to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, where possible, they use a separate toilet

Does my child need to wear a uniform?

We would like all children to wear freshly laundered school uniform each day. If you are unable to provide this, please use your judgement. Children may wear a plain alternative that is similar to school uniform.

What will the arrangements for the start and end of the day be?

- **Start of the day**

Children and their parents are expected to try and maintain social distancing from those from other households while travelling to and from school. Government guidance states only one parent should bring or collect their children from school. If this is not possible, for example, you have younger or older children who have not returned to school yet and need to bring them with you as no other childcare is available, they must remain with you at all times, adhere to the 2 metre rule and keep to the zones. They MUST not play on the equipment or interact with others from different households.

There will be a staggered start to minimise children and parents congregating around the school. It is important that pupils try to arrive punctually. Parents collecting a child should aim to avoid arriving at school early or staying late.

Only children will be allowed to enter the school building and only through the allocated entry point for each class. Children should arrive at the time allocated.

Staff will be available to show the children where to go in the first few days.

- **End of the day**

Please come alone as far as possible, see above, and wait 2m apart from other people, at the time and the area outlined as above.

- **Staggered start and end times:**

- Key worker children – Arrival at 8.30 collection at 3.10pm
- Year 6 – Arrival at 8.45am collection at 3.15pm
- Year 1 – Arrival at 9.00 am collection at 3pm
- Reception – Arrival at 9.15am collection at 2.45pm

Please be on time to pick your child up as they cannot wait in the office.

How will parents be able to ask staff questions?

Parents are expected to phone and email the school office rather than visit. If your child is coming into school please avoid discussions with staff on pick up and drop off unless it is an urgent matter. Any visit to the school must be made via an appointment. Appointments will not be made at the start and end of the day to maximise social distancing.

Alternatively, you can contact your child's class teacher through the class email addresses in place. Teachers, as they will now be teaching in school, will endeavour check these emails on a Friday and respond directly. Any urgent messages should be directed via phone or email to the school office.

How will you ensure children social distance?

Children, and staff where possible, will only mix in a small, consistent group and that small groups or 'bubble' will stay away from other people and groups. Brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is considered a low risk however the school will ensure movement around the school is limited. Classrooms will be set out as already described above. Each year group will be taught separately with up to 15 children per group – a social 'bubble'.

Will my child be taught by their class teacher?

As bubbles will have only 15 children and some staff members are shielded, it is not possible for all children to be taught by their usual class teacher. Where possible, especially for Reception and Year 1, we will try to ensure children will be taught by their class teacher, or other familiar teacher or teaching assistant. The children will stay in the same group with the same staff. When groups move around the school, go to break or lunch, they will be accompanied by the same staff and each group will not mix with children from any other group. It is possible that a class teacher falls ill, in these circumstances, when children arrive at school, they will be told which new teacher they are working with for that week based on staffing levels.

How will you help children and staff adjust?

On return, teachers will explain routines and expectations. All staff will reassure children that they are safe, and we are there to keep them safe as well as teach them. We will focus on Personal, Social, Health Education and encourage open discussions around worries and feelings of being in school and away from families. We will structure the day – initially focusing on previous learning and retrieval in English and maths in the mornings whilst ensuring our children have physical activity during the day.

What will the school do if children do not follow social distancing or otherwise breach hygiene or safety guidance?

Expectations of behaviour and rules will be clearly explained to children, along with reminders and highlighting models of good hygiene and attitude. Children who, despite help and reminders, cannot follow safety guidance will be sent home.

How will we ensure safe access to fresh air outside of the classroom whilst ensuring pupils are a safe distance at break time?

We will have staggered break times and staggered PE sessions outside. The limited equipment that will be used by individuals will be thoroughly cleaned after use. Pupils will not share equipment. Children will be encouraged to play non-contact games.

All windows and doors will be opened each day. Where it is safe to do so, doors will be propped open to reduce contact with door handles.

How will my child be fed during the day?

At this time, we expect lunch to be in the form of packed lunches for everyone; lunches will be eaten in the classroom. The reception and year 1 classes (or Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in the key worker groups) will be able to access universal free school meals prepared by the school kitchen. Children in year 6 or the key worker groups (Years 3, 4 and 5) can either bring a packed lunch or access a school packed lunch if there is money in their parent pay account.

For the first week, year 6 will need to bring in a packed lunch from home. Please ensure that normal packed lunch guidelines are adhered to and food can be easily accessed by the children themselves, as staff will not be able to support with the opening of packages.

Will my child need to bring their own water bottle each day?

The drinking fountains will be out of use. Every child should bring their own, named, bottle of water to be kept on their desk in the classroom. At the end of each day, water bottles must be taken home, washed and refilled before returning them to school the next day.

Will staff be wearing PPE?

The Government guidelines state, 'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others'. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

Can my child wear a mask during the school day?

As above, government guidance states staff and children do not need to wear PPE, including the use of masks or face coverings. It also goes on to state:

- Used PPE and any disposable face coverings that staff, children, young people or other learners arrive wearing should be placed in a refuse bag and can be disposed of as normal domestic waste unless the wearer has symptoms of coronavirus, in line with the [guidance on cleaning for non-healthcare settings](#).
- Any homemade non-disposable face coverings that staff or children, young people or other learners are wearing when they arrive at their setting must be removed by the wearer and placed into a plastic bag that the wearer has brought with them in order to take it home. The wearer must then clean their hands.

My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different. We will help you to prepare for this by putting pictures on our website to show what you and your child can expect.

Sharing social stories can be really helpful for young children and help to express the situation in a clear factual way, reducing emotional responses.

It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending.

Social Stories

[Social Story older children.pdf](#)

[Social Story for younger children.pdf](#)

How do I explain social distancing to my child?

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make the children feel safe.

For younger children, you and your child can find out how the Gruffalo handles social distancing here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/april/the-gruffalo-stick-man-and-the-smartest-giant-in-town-lend-a-paw-a-stick-and-a-hand-to-help-with-the-coronavirus-effort/>.

There are some great stories and simple explanations to help:

[Time to Come In, Bear: A Children's Story About Social Distancing](#)

Written by Kim St. Lawrence Read by Ryan St. Lawrence

https://youtu.be/DA_SsZFYw0w

[How to Explain Social Distancing to Kids](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=2HTA3ql6uWY&feature=emb_title

For very young children who may not understand the concept of viruses and germs, this video from Sesame Street's Grover is a great way to show them the “good” and “bad” of being far away and too close up to someone.

<https://youtu.be/xOrt8WMwVEo>

Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?

No. The initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children’s wellbeing. They have all gone through an incredible period of change and experienced loss on a number of different levels. All have had changes in routine, loss of communication etc and some may have sadly even experienced the loss of a family member or friends. This shouldn’t be ignored.

We plan to complete a Time Capsule Project which all children can contribute to commemorate this historic period of time. We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed. Learning in school will follow the same curriculum approach that Keston has always provided.

Will the breakfast club and after school club be open?

We are unable to offer breakfast and after school club, as children need to remain in their bubbles to mitigate cross contamination.

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

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England’s local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

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

No, but we may use a non-invasive thermometer if we suspect a child of having symptoms.

Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

No. Until the situation is deemed to be safe, we would prefer to minimise additional adults coming in and out of school. (Thank you to all those who have offered help.)

Will extra-curricular clubs run (football club, dance club etc)?

No. These bring too many children into contact and mix the school groupings.

Will the school office be open?

Yes, but parents are expected to phone and email rather than visit. Any visit to the school must be made via an appointment. Appointments will not be made at the start and end of the day to maximise social distancing. When visiting the School Office for an appointment, parents and visitors are to use the sanitiser and should remain within the marked out box in the reception area. The reception area can only accommodate one person at a time. If someone is already in the main office, parents should wait outside where it is clearly marked.

There will not be any face-to-face meetings with teachers but telephone appointments will be able to be made.

Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children who do not return to school?

We will continue to set home learning activities, during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. For those year groups in school, home learning activities may be reduced compared to the provision over the last 9 weeks, as teachers will also be planning for in school lessons for those year groups.

It may be that we establish a small remote learning team, to deal with queries and provide support to those that remain at home, who can be on call as required. When we have a better idea as to the number of pupils and staff in school versus at home, we can put this in place.

Thank you for reading all of this information we hope it answers many of your questions.

Keston Leadership Team