



Southwold Primary School and EYC Re-opening Plan March 8th 2021

We are delighted that from next Monday (8th March) school will once re-open to all of our pupils.

As we did pre-lockdown, it is essential that we continue to work together to help minimise the spread of COVID-19 during the months ahead. It is therefore vitally important that everyone knows, understands and follows the additional safety measures we continue to have in place to reduce the risk of transmission and help keep everyone safe and well.

Although the same arrangements before Christmas remain in place, please can I ask that all parents/carers take the time to read this information carefully and make sure that all relevant information is passed on to other carers involved in dropping off or collecting children from school.

Attendance:

Although we understand that some of you will be anxious about your child returning to school, the government have made it clear that attendance is compulsory for all pupils from 8th March 2021.

If children will be absent from school, parents should contact the school office in advance by telephone to explain the reason for absence. As it is now statutory that pupils attend school, persistent absence may result in a penalty fine being issued.

However, no one with symptoms of Covid-19 should attend school for any reason

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into school if they have one or more COVID-19 symptoms, or if a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble) has symptoms or tests positive.

The main symptoms are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a 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)
- a 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

We are aware that you may have read recent articles identifying a range of other symptoms such as headache, sore throat and fatigue, especially in relation to newer strains of the virus.

However, current government guidance regarding Covid-19 symptoms remains as detailed above.

If a child develops symptoms while at school, they will be sent home. It is also important that parents inform school if their child develops symptoms whilst at home. If a positive result is confirmed, we will work closely together with Public Health, ensuring anyone who has been in close contact with the individual is asked to self-isolate for the required period.

Access to School:

Please note that we expect all parents (unless exempt) to wear a face covering whilst on the school site.

Social distance guidelines will remain in operation around the school building. Parents should remain 2 metres apart at all times and wait on the yellow lines painted on the pathways into school where relevant.

To ensure we reduce the number of people on the school site and in the interest of infection control, parents will not be permitted to enter the school building unless it is an emergency or without a pre-arranged appointment.

All communication with school for the time being should continue to be via phone or email. Parents will not be permitted to enter the school office. All office queries will be dealt with remotely by ringing or emailing Mrs Williams or Mrs Smith. We will continue to operate as a cash office so all dinner money should be paid in cash within an envelope, sent in with your child(ren) to be given to their teacher and the office will send home any change in a secured envelope.

Arrival and Collection (Please see table below for allocated class groups and entry and exit times):

Entry and exit will be through the main gate or through the gate at the top of the field.

Parents must arrive and leave the school premises at the set times. Parents must collect their own child, unless they are part of a specific support bubble with another person/family, and only one adult per family should drop off or collect their child from school.

Arrivals:

EYC will enter through the main school gate, following the one-way system and wait outside the EYC doors in the EYC garden at a social distance, to wait for your child to be called inside. Early Years children may enter between 8:50 and 9:00am.

Pupils in Years 1, 2 and 3, and families with older/younger siblings, will enter school via the top field gate, between 8:45 and 8:55am. They will not enter through the main school entrance. Pupils will wait on the playground markers until they are permitted inside, one at a time. Parents must keep socially distanced at all times (one parent per family).

Pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 should enter school, between 8:45 and 8:55am, on their own wherever possible, through the main gate.

Pupils in Years 4 and 5 must wait on the yellow lines outside the main playground gate to be admitted into their classroom one at a time

Year 6 should enter through the Year 6 gate (outside the Year 6 building) and wait on the allocated markers outside Year 6, ready to be admitted.

If entering through the main entrance pedestrian gate, exit is via the drive (following the arrows of the one-way system). All must keep to social distancing rules at all times.

Breakfast Club is fully re-open on Monday 8th March but please let school know if your child needs a place.

Exits:

Pupils in EYC will be dismissed from the classrooms at 3:05pm, or at 3:10pm if parents are collecting siblings from main school. If parents then need to collect pupils from Years 1, 2 or 3, they must walk through the EYC gate that leads into the main school playground to wait on the yellow markers. Otherwise, walk up the markers on the drive and out through the main entrance.

Nursery Hub children should be collected at 11:50am.

Children in Years 1 to 6 finish school at 3:15pm. In that way, parents can enter through the gate at the top field (or after collection from EYC via the playground gate) and walk down the path to wait on the playground markers at a social distance.

Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 will then be dismissed on to the playground and parents will exit school via the gate at the top of the field. If these parents are waiting for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6, they should wait outside the respective classrooms at a social distance then exit up the school drive.

Parents of pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 should wait on the yellow lines outside the allocated playground gates at a social distance until they are dismissed.

Years 5 and 6 can give school written permission for them to walk home by themselves.

Class Groups:

Children will continue to work in school in year group 'bubbles' of up to 30 pupils in a class room in Key Stage Two (KS2), with a Key Stage One (KS1) and Early Years Centre (EYC) bubble. They will remain in these groups throughout the day and socialise with the children in their group. Bubbles of pupils will not socially distance, except from their teachers. Teachers will teach from the front as a general rule.

Bubble groups will have allocated staff members, as well as an allocated midday supervisor.

Children will have access to their own resources and equipment, which will be provided by school. Where resources are shared, they will be cleaned between use.

Where possible, children should avoid pupils from other 'bubbles' outside of school (apart from siblings) until national restrictions are lifted further. School should also appreciate it if parents continue to encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing, at home.

Belongings:

Children should not bring any belongings from home, other than their coat, book bag, water bottle and packed lunch (if they have a packed lunch from home) in to school. Reading diaries should be kept in the child's book bag.

Uniform:

Children should come to school in correct school uniform at all times, including black shoes. School jumpers and book bags can be ordered via email and phone and money sent in with the children, who will be given the uniform items to bring home. However, once clothing items are purchased and sent home, they cannot be returned/refunded.

On the children's PE days, they will come to school in their PE kits ready and stay in these all day. This helps with separating children for changing too as there would be nowhere for them to go. If a child does not come in kit they will have to do the PE session in their uniform as they will not be allowed to use spare PE kit in school at the moment.

Please remember that PE uniform is a white T-shirt/airtex-type shirt and blue/black joggers/shorts/leggings, with a school jumper/cardigan and trainers. We do not expect to see any other colours and the children should look smart.

Safety Measures in place:

The school's Covid risk assessment has been updated and can be found on the school website.

Regular and thorough handwashing continues to be key to maintaining hygiene and reducing the risk of the transmission of the virus. This will happen regularly during the day-at relevant times. In addition to this, hand sanitiser is available in each learning space and key area of school.

School will be well ventilated, so on cold days it is advised that children wear layers of clothing to ensure they are warm enough.

There will be regular cleaning of the school and key areas of the school before, during the day and after school.

Accidents and Incidents in school:

School will continue with usual practice in relation to any accidents or incidents that occur in school e.g. cuts, grazes, bumped heads etc. As usual school will contact parents about any urgent medical need. If parents need to pick up a child, they will be advised about what to do at the point of contact to minimise any personal contact

Remote Learning:

If a child is unwell, we would not expect them to be undertaking schoolwork while absent. However, where a child is absent and they are perfectly healthy (for example, an individual is self-isolating while awaiting test results for a sibling) they will be supported to continue their learning from home.

Should a group or whole class/bubble of children be required to self-isolate for an extended period as a result of a positive test, our remote learning provision will return to how it is currently with their class teacher.

Finally, please do not worry if you feel that your child has fallen behind as a result of the school closures. Please don't feel, or make your children feel, anxious about needing to 'catch-up.' It is just so important that they come back wanting to engage and learn and we are sure they will love being back in school.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Kate Clifford
Headteacher

