

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are children required to come to school in their P.E kit on P.E days?

In light of recently produced government advice on the use of indoor facilities, children should come to school in their P.E kit on P.E days. Details of kit required can be found at <https://www.shobnallprimaryschool.co.uk/school-prospectus>. Please bear in mind that P.E will be taught outside where possible, so warm clothing is essential. You can find out which day/s your child has P.E on their class page on the school website.

Does my child have to wear a face mask? Do I have to wear a face mask when dropping off and collecting my child?

The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in all schools. Schools that teach children in years 7 and above and which are not under specific local restriction measures will have the discretion to require face coverings for pupils, staff and visitors in areas outside the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances. Primary school children will not need to wear a face covering.

In particular, schools that teach years 7 and above may decide to recommend the wearing of face coverings for pupils, staff or visitors in communal areas outside the classroom where the layout of the schools makes it difficult to maintain social distancing when staff and pupils are moving around the premises, for example, corridors.

In primary schools where social distancing is not possible in areas outside of classrooms between members of staff or visitors, for example in staffrooms, headteachers will have the discretion to decide whether to ask staff or visitors to wear, or agree to them wearing face coverings in these circumstances.

Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided.

Why has the school decided to stagger start and end times by asking children to arrive in alphabetical order? How does this minimise contact between different year group bubbles?

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill. There is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. However, there will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community.

The measures set out in the guidance provide a framework for school leaders to put in place proportionate protective measures for children and staff, which also ensure that all pupils receive a high quality education that enables them to thrive and progress. In welcoming all children back this autumn, schools will be asked to minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day as part of implementing the system of controls outlined to reduce the risk of transmission. If schools follow the guidance set out here and maximise control measures, they can be confident they are managing risk effectively.

There cannot be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach where the system of controls describes every scenario. School leaders are best placed to understand the needs of their schools and communities and to make informed judgments about how to balance delivering a broad and balanced curriculum with the measures needed to manage risk.

Timings are staggered to minimise the contact with other *households* and to *avoid large groups congregating at the school gates*. We have made the decision to stagger arrival and departure times alphabetically by surname to minimise the risk of this happening as those parents who have children in more than one class would be congregating as they waited for their allotted times if they have children in multiple year groups. Also, for many households school closures have also affected their ability to work. As the economy begins to recover, we need to remove this barrier so parents and carers can return to work. Parents are able to make arrangements with their employers if their children can be dropped off and collected at the same time. Having half a class arrive at a time also enables teachers to ensure thorough handwashing takes place upon arrival and departure.

We have two metre markers in place to help support parents with social distancing and a one way system to avoid adults passing one another outside the school gates.

Staff will be present each day at the gates to direct children to their classrooms and help avoid children from different class bubbles mixing.

We ask that these timings are strictly adhered to and children are dropped off and collected by only *one* parent. We also ask that parents enter and leave the school grounds promptly to avoid congregating.

My child has been shielding and the government state that younger children are less likely to become ill from coronavirus. What measures will be in place in school to reduce the risk of transmission?

The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. We know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families. Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. We have implemented a huge range of protective measures to protect our staff, parents and children. These include:

- A cleaning schedule that ensures cleaning is generally enhanced and includes: more frequent cleaning of rooms and shared areas that are used by different groups, frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal, toilets being cleaned regularly and pupils being encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet.
- Use of the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important, so we ensure that we have enough tissues and bins available in the school to support pupils and staff to follow this routine.
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. We ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future.
- Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). We will be keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining the distance between individuals.
- Adjustments have been made to classrooms to ensure distance can be maintained between adults and that desks are forward facing to ensure children are not sat face-to-face.

Please view the pictures below to see how some of our protective measures will look:



Desks in all classrooms are forward facing and teachers will be positioned at the front to support social distancing between themselves and others.



Appropriate signage and markers are displayed in school to help support pupils and staff with social distancing.



Multiple handwashing stations have been installed throughout the school to encourage regular and frequent handwashing.



Does my child have to attend school?

From this point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

However, in only the most extreme cases, children will be allowed to remain at home. These cases are:

- *a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)*
- *shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.*
- *if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent.*
- *some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment).*

Therefore, please understand that attendance remains mandatory and the school will be required to complete a daily return to the Department for Education regarding our attendance figures. This is a new requirement and something which we must do. Therefore, please be patient with the office team should they be required to make phone calls home to ascertain the reasons behind non-attendance.

What if my child shows symptoms of coronavirus or someone in my household does?

If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 (fever, persistent cough, loss of sense of smell or taste) they must stay home, book a test and inform school of the results. If the test is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days and the other members of their household must self-isolate for 14 days.

If anyone else in your household has symptoms of Covid-19 they must also stay home, keep their children home from school, book a test and inform the school of the results. If the results are positive, then the whole household must self-isolate for 14 days.

Children who show symptoms of Covid-19 during the school day will be taken to a designated room with a member of staff to observe them and parents called to collect them. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date with the school office.



If a pupil or staff member tests positive, the rest of their bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. See:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> for a simple guide to self-isolation if a member of your family has symptoms or you have been identified as at risk through track and trace.



"Happy children, inspired learners"

Shobnall Primary School, Shobnall Road,
Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, UK, DE14 2BB
Telephone: **01283 247410** Email: **office@shobnall.staffs.sch.uk**

