



Love **Determination** **Responsibility** **Respect** **Kindness** **Friendship** **Honesty**

Information for parents on the full opening of school in September

Latest [guidance for full opening of schools](#) in September from Department for Education was re-issued on 7 August 2020. In this the government states that its plan is for all pupils in all year groups to return to school from the beginning of the coming autumn term. The children's first day back is on Wednesday 2 September and we are looking forward to welcoming all the children back into school then. The government also has specific [information for parents](#).

School remained open continuously between March and July this year, with the exception of the summer half term, and more than 70% of the children attended school for some time during this period. We put in place a number of protective measures then and these will be refined and extended as we open fully in September. You can read the school's full [risk assessment](#) which is reviewed by the Governing Body (our next meeting will be on 27 August) and outlines our practice across all the main functions of the school. We are closely following the government's advice, including direction from Public Health England. There is also a [simple social story](#) that you might like to share with your children. The government have also published a short [back to school leaflet](#).

Please read the following summary of how things will be organised in school from 2 September:

How will classes be organised?

Children will be grouped together in their normal year groups and use the normal classrooms for their year. Class sizes will be no more than 30 children and the majority of classes are smaller than this. The aim is for the class groups to be 'bubbles' which do not mix with each other during the normal school day. Most classes will be taught and supported by the same teacher throughout the day. (The main exception to this is Mrs Buchanan, who will teach Year 5 on Mondays and Tuesdays and Year 3 on Wednesdays.) Children will stay in their classroom or will be outside in separate designated areas of the grounds. Outdoor learning is encouraged as much as possible. Only children in KS2 need to move around inside school, to use their designated toilets. 2m markers have been placed in all school corridors to aid social distancing.

Drop off and pick up

Children in Pre-School, Year 1 and Year 5 should enter the school site through the car park gates (pedestrian or double gates). Other classes should use the field gate accessed via John Garne Way. This is a much wider entrance area than the normal playground gate.

The playground and footpaths are marked with lines and crosses that are 2m apart to help you judge social distancing. Please maintain a good distance between your family and other parents and their children. **Do not allow children to play on any of the outdoor play equipment.** When dropping off or picking up your child, only one adult should accompany them onto the school grounds.

In the morning you can enter the school grounds between 8:40 and 8:55, take your child straight to their class and drop them off at the specified external entrance. Adults must leave the school grounds immediately after drop off or pick up unless waiting in the car park to speak to the office staff. To help with social distancing at the end of the day, pick-up times will be staggered. Children in Years 2, 4 and 5 will finish school at 3:10pm and all other classes at 3:15pm. Pre-School starts and finishes school at different times. Each classroom has a designated external entrance: Reception – play area gate accessed from the field; Year 1 - playground gate accessed from the car park; Year 2 and 3 - continue to use external classroom doors;

Year 4 - external door by the Year 4 classroom; Year 5 – side entrance by SMASH room; Year 6 – external door by Year 6 classroom.

Travelling to school

Please walk, scoot or cycle if possible and remember other people using the pavement. Current guidance is to wear a face mask if you are coming to school on public transport. If you come by car, please don't drive into, or park in, the short road that leads to the field gates, this is dangerous when so many children will be using this as their main route into school.



Back to School Travel Guidance

1.



Walk, cycle or scoot to school where you can.

2.



If you are travelling by public transport allow more time. You must wear a face covering if you are aged over 11, unless you are exempt.

3.



If you are sharing a car, open the windows, wear a face covering unless you are exempt, and leave some seats free to social distance.

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

For further information visit
www.gov.uk/coronavirus

What do the classrooms look like?

All unnecessary furniture, clutter and soft furnishings have been removed from the classrooms. In the majority of classrooms, all tables face the same direction and children will be seated beside each other. They will keep the same chair and table place and movement around the classroom will be minimised. Tables and chairs will be set apart to help with social distancing as much as possible. Children will have their own stationery box, they should not bring their own pencil case into school. If teaching and play resources are shared between classes, these will be carefully cleaned before use by another class. Where possible, staff will keep socially distant from the children.

Hand washing, toilets and hygiene

Children will be asked to wash their hands as soon as they enter the school building and frequently throughout the day. We will remind the children how to wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds and it would be helpful if you could reinforce this at home. Please also remind your child to try to not touch their face. Each classroom has a catch it, bin it, kill it station with tissues and hand washing facilities and hand sanitiser.

All children's toilets are unisex, this allows us to minimise the cross-over of groups using the toilets. Years 1 and 2 will use the toilets directly next to their classrooms; Year 4 and Year 5 will use the KS2 girls' toilet and Year 3 and Year 6 will use the KS2 boys' toilet. Year 5 and 6 girls can also use the adult toilet by their classroom when necessary. Children's use of the toilets will be supervised to ensure that classes do not mix.

How will the children stay separate at playtimes?

The Reception class will share the outside area by their classroom with children from Pre-School, they will use the area at separate times. Year 1 have their own playground and will use this exclusively. Year 2 will have exclusive use of the playground area directly outside their classroom and the tunnel area. Break times for Years 3 to 6 will be split over 2 sessions, each class will be allocated a separate area of the playground, climbing frame, trim trail and field. These arrangements mean that classes will not mix during breaks. Each class will have their own labelled set of playground equipment (bats, balls, skipping ropes).

The use of the other outside areas will be timetabled to be shared between all the class groups, through the rest of the day, the aim being for the children to be learning outside as much as possible, but for each group to remain separate.

What will the curriculum look like?

We will return to the full curriculum for each class in September. Over the lockdown period, the teachers thoroughly reviewed the curriculum and we have made changes a number curriculum areas. New curriculum overviews will be published when we start back. In the first two weeks of the new school year, teachers will assess where each child is in English and maths. This is so that we know what gaps in learning we need to fill in whole class teaching and where to target support for individual children. We will also focus on providing the social and emotional support children may need in adapting back to school life. The classrooms are looking rather bare, but we want the children's experience of being back at school to be as enriching and enjoyable as possible. We will use ClassDojo and Tapestry (Reception) to keep you up to date with what the children are learning and some of their achievements.

What if Oxford has to lock down again?

We will follow the most up to date guidance from local and central government. Our aim would be to keep as many children in school as advice allows and provide good on-line learning for those at home. We now have the capability to use Google Classroom, which should allow us more options than ClassDojo did, including better teacher interactivity. So that we can help those of you with very limited computing

resources at home, if you haven't done so, please complete the on line survey we sent out in June <https://forms.gle/cigYCGTxsVZGobMcA>.

What should the children bring into school?

As little as possible. Every day they will need:

- reading scheme book and reading record, if they are following the reading scheme
- a named water bottle, which is taken home for cleaning and refilling every night
- suitable outdoor clothing and/or sun protection

They should also bring in completed homework and library books for changing. Some children, including all Reception children, will also keep a change of clothes in school.

Children **do not** need a pencil case or a PE kit and should not bring in any toys, games or cards etc.

Should children wear school uniform?

Children must come to school in school uniform tops – shirts, dresses, jumpers, cardigans and hoodies – but should wear comfortable bottoms: shorts, leggings or casual trousers. They should wear shoes suitable for outdoor activities – eg trainers. All clothing must be named. Children should have outdoor clothing and protection suitable for the weather, which they can also use for sitting on the ground outside. **Children will not be getting changed for PE so the clothing they wear to school should be PE ready.** Children who would normally have a change of clothes in school should bring these in in a named bag. Children should not bring a separate PE kit. Sun protection, a hat and sun cream, may be useful, where children will be outside for a lot of the day.

Can the children take reading books home?

Please return any reading scheme and library books that you currently have at home. Children will be bringing home new reading and library books. When the books are returned to school, they must be placed in the quarantine book box in each classroom. Books will be quarantined for 5 days. We have revamped the school's reading scheme, so look out for new books coming home. The Library room will be closed to classes until further notice, but Mrs Pope, our Librarian, will be mobile, visiting each class during the course of the week.

Drinking Water

The water fountains will be closed.

Children should bring a named drinking bottle filled with water to school. This must be taken home, cleaned, refilled and brought back to school each day.

Lunches

The School Lunch Company, our catering service, is providing school lunches as normal, including universal free school meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Children will eat their school and packed lunches in the classrooms. The menu will be shared with you so that children can choose what they would like to eat. If your circumstances have changed since March, your children may be eligible for free school meals, please check the information under the [school meals](#) section of the website and speak to Judith in the office.

Cleaning

During the summer holidays the school is being thoroughly cleaned and we will continue with an enhanced cleaning routine during and at the end of the school day. Staff in classrooms will clean tables, sinks and

toilets during the day and our cleaning contractor and caretaker will thoroughly clean each classroom after school, including light switches, door handles and other frequently touched areas.

Can parents come into school?

Parents will not be allowed in the school building until further notice. If you wish to speak to the office, please wait outside the main entrance, observing social distancing, until the office staff are available to speak to you. You can deliver a quick message to the class teacher at drop off or pick up. Please use email to contact the school if at all possible. We will use ParentMail and Class Dojo to keep you up to date with what is going on in school. Mrs Owen and class teachers have continued to have meetings with parents since March, these have either been virtual or in person but socially distanced.

Assemblies, collective worship and performances

The whole school will not be gathering together in the Hall for assemblies. Instead we will hold virtual assemblies throughout the week, including a Zoom sharing assembly on Fridays. Unfortunately, it is not practical to invite parents to join us live during sharing assemblies, but classes will continue to create class assemblies each term, which we will film and share with you. We will do the same for Harvest and Christmas celebrations and the Nativity, if necessary. For us to be able to do this, you need to sign the revised **PARENTAL CONSENT FORM for use of photographic images** for each of your children, which can be found at: <https://forms.gle/Km336zLRhnAdVbDy8>.

Will after school clubs be running?

No after school activity clubs will take place until further notice. We are going to start SMASH after school care again, as we realise that a number of families rely on this so that they can work. SMASH will take social distancing very seriously, as children from different class bubbles may be attending. We may also be piloting a breakfast club.

What if a member of our family has coronavirus symptoms?

If your child or any member of your family shows coronavirus symptoms, **do not** come into school. Follow the [latest government isolation guidance](#), get tested and engage with [test and trace](#).

If anyone displays symptoms during the school day, they will be sent home and we will follow the latest [advice from Public Health England](#) about what procedures to follow in the event of a confirmed case of coronavirus in the school.

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact the office and we will answer your questions: office.3216@st-michaels-oxf.oxon.sch.uk

