



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

Returning to full-time school:
Questions and answers for parents & carers

September 2020
Year 5



We sent you a booklet about how our school operates, and we hope you found that useful. When we put the information together, we did not know exactly what the Department for Education wanted from schools in the new school year.

The week after we posted the documents to you, the government finally published the guidelines it set out for schools for reopening in September! Sorry – we were unsure when they were going to do this. Therefore, there are going to be some changes to ‘Walkwood as usual’ and we shall return to much of the normal ways of working at a safe time in the future.

Therefore, we offer the following to keep you up to date.

1. Do I have to send my child into school?

Yes. The government has made it clear that they would like all children to return to school. However, you must ensure that anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or has someone in their household who does, does not attend school. The symptoms are a high temperature (37.8°C and above), a new, continuous cough, and the loss or change to the sense of smell or taste.

Pupils must not attend school if they have tested positive in the last 7 days.

2. Are you keeping the first two days of the school year just for Year 5?

As we did not have two transition days in July, we think this is the next best thing. Therefore, we still plan to have only Year 5 in school for Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September.

3. Will the tutor groups be the ones that you told me about?

The government guidelines state that pupils from different year groups should not mix. As we would normally have tutor groups made up of pupils from each of the years 5 to 8, that cannot happen for the time being. Pupils will register in their teaching groups.

Pupils will still be in their colleges. The College Leaders and Pastoral Managers will look after specific year groups for the time being. When circumstances allow, we shall return to the college system.

Mr Cockram will look after Year 5, supported by Mrs Phelan and Miss Ellis.

4. How are the teaching groups put together?

We always do our best to place pupils appropriately using the information that the first schools or primary schools give us. Movement between groups is not possible as this would compromise the safety criteria given for school reopening. Indeed, safety and the focus on learning are important features of the return to school. Pupils will be able to be with friends at break and lunch.

5. How will my child find out about the teaching class?

We usually do this on the first transition day. As that did not happen, we shall reveal the classes on the first day of term..

6. How will my child's class be taught?

Desks will be in rows facing the front of the room. Desks will be cleaned at the end of each session. Classrooms will be fully cleaned at the end of each day. All bags and belongings will be kept in the classroom by pupils' desk as we will not be using lockers.

There will be the usual five sessions of teaching in a day, with break in the morning, as well as for lunch. Movement around school will be kept to a minimum. Movement within each classroom will be minimised too.

Pupils will have teacher-led lessons and the books they will use shall mostly stay at their desks. Teachers will mark key pieces of work. Feedback will be as a whole group guided by the teacher from the front of the classroom. Verbal feedback to pupils will be part of lessons, as will guided self-marking. There will be no homework set for the time being – pupils will have plenty of home learning for a number of months.

Pupils need to bring their own equipment/pencil case which they can store on their desk.

7. As the year groups cannot mix, what happens about assemblies?

To reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus, we shall have assemblies with year groups, but only when necessary and certainly for short periods.

8. Will my child be expected to wear school uniform?

We believe that formality will help us quickly establish new routines and expectations. From September, all pupils must be in full and [correct uniform](#). We expect 100% support from parents in this respect. If the weather has the possibility of being problematic, we ask that pupils bring a coat. We shall look for them to be outside at break and lunch times if at all possible.

9. Is it true that a pupil's uniform must be washed every day?

No. The Department for Education has said:

Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

10. Does my child need to bring any PE kit?

Not for this term. We shall have PE on the timetable, but it will be shorter. We cannot practically use the changing rooms at this stage.

11. Will the normal start and end times still apply?

There will be staggered starts and ends to the school day for different year groups of pupils. Year 5 will begin with registration at 8.50am, with the gates opening 10 minutes before.

Time	Year 5 / Year 7
08.50 – 09.10	Registration
09.10 – 10.05	Lesson 1
10.05 – 10.20	Break
10.20 – 11.15	Lesson 2
11.15 – 12.10	Lesson 3
12.10 – 12.55	Lunch
12.55 – 13.50	Lesson 4
13.50 – 14.45	Lesson 5

We know you will want to make sure that your youngster is ok as they start with us, but this could mean that there will be more parents and carers than usual. To keep all safe, we shall open the playground to allow you to say goodbye in the morning, but we urge you to keep this brief. Please prepare your child to know that you will depart quickly. We shall handle things from there.



Pupils in Year 5 will leave lesson five a few minutes before Year 7 in order to stagger the number of pupils leaving the school at the same time. If you are collecting children at day's end, you must do so from the area just inside the playground so social distancing is maintained.

12. I have a pupil in another year group which has a different time. Can both pupils leave at the same time?

Years 5 and 7 will have the times shown here. The other year groups have times that work 50 minutes earlier. We acknowledge that this may present challenges, but pupils from Year 5 are not permitted to leave earlier with you or a sibling from Year 6 or Year 8.

13. What will happen regarding the cleaning of hands?

Sanitising will happen at the start and end of the day, as well as before and after eating. Sanitising can also occur at appropriate intervals within the day. Naturally, pupils will be able to wash their hands after they have been to the toilet. (The toilets will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.)

14. What will happen regarding breaks and lunchtimes?

Year 5 will use the front playground at break time, and they will have the area to themselves. They will not be able to use our equipment (such as the table tennis) or play contact games.

Lunchtimes will be staggered, although Year 5 will be the only year group to have lunch in the hall or dining hall at the time – it will be a separate sitting from Year 7. Years 5 and 7 will alternate to be first into lunch, with Year 5 doing so for each timetable week 1. It makes matters easier, when the Year 5 are in for the first two days, they will be the only pupils having lunch so it will not matter if they take a bit longer. After that, we shall need to keep to time so the year groups do not mix.

15. Is school catering available?

Break time tuck will not be available. Pupils will need to bring their own snack which they will store in their classroom.

School meals will be available at lunchtime. Pupils will line up and will be distanced by 1m when queuing and this will be marked on the floor areas. The menu that we sent to you will operate. Please remember to load your child's ParentPay account so they can get lunch.

Pupils with packed lunch will keep that with their belongings in the classroom and bring it up to the hall to eat.

16. Does my child need to bring in their equipment?

Yes, they will need to have all the pens/pencils/colouring pencils/rulers/rubber/pencil sharpener that they need. A glue stick would also be appreciated, as would a jotting book or pad.

Your child is allowed to take their library book home to read.



17. What does my child do with their bags?

We recommend that children bring as little as possible, other than stationery, a bottle of water and their lunch. They will need to keep their bags at their desk. At break and lunch, bags will remain at each pupil's desk.

18. What about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

The government have stated that "Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended".

If a pupil arrives at school with a face covering, the following information from the government applies. Pupils must not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing them. They must wash their hands immediately on arrival, dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

There are lidded bins in the toilets. The plastic bag must be supplied by you.

19. Will the library be used so my child can get a reading book?

Yes. The books have covers on which will have been wiped before being put on the shelves.

20. What happens if my child becomes ill?

Our duty first aider will contact you. If your child is showing symptoms of Covid-19, it is essential that you come to school immediately, and we shall let you know what you need to do next.

If your child has suspected symptoms of the coronavirus, we shall contact you insist that you collect your child straight away. The pupil will be kept in the first aid room, but will be separate from others.

It is then expected that you will book a test for the youngster and let us know the result as soon as possible.

21. What should I do if I suspect my child has coronavirus symptoms?

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

22. Remind me of the coronavirus symptoms, please.

The symptoms are:

- a high temperature (37.8°C and above);
- a new, continuous cough;
- loss or change to the sense of smell or taste.

You should:

- [book a test](#) if they are displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.



- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

Your child always has to be – **c o r o n a - conscious** :



We will help with this in school. It will need reminders (we all forget). The Fruits of Faith of **friendliness, tolerance and honour** are demonstrated by being corona-conscious.

Children who do not demonstrate the corona-consciousness for deliberate reasons, including joking about the virus, using it to taunt someone, or behaving in ways that could put others at risk (for example, coughing or sneezing at someone are pretending to do so), will be challenged and stringent sanctions may be applied.



23. What happens if there is another lockdown?

We have prepared home learning materials for pupils in case a local lockdown is imposed. The arrangements will be slightly different from what we have given to pupils in the first stages of lockdown because we have worked out what has worked for middle school pupils and what could be improved upon.

24. How do I pass on any information about my child, as I would usually do to the tutor?

The best way is by email. We shall establish year group emails at the start of the new school year and publish these within The Insider.

25. What has the government published about the return to school in September?

The Department for Education issues daily updates to schools. Our Principal, Rev. Leach, checks what we are doing against the latest information from government.

Information for parents has been made available, and is available [here](#).

26. Will you continue to keep parents up to date?

Of course. We try very hard to get information to you promptly but not send out lots and lots of emails or texts. We shall use The Insider (our weekly newsletter) as well, for please check that each week when it restarts in September.

Stay safe
Be well

**"When educating the minds of our youth,
we must not forget to educate their hearts."**

Dalai Lama

