

Kings' Forest Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mr R Newman

Headteacher: Ms H Porter



September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school next week on the 3rd September following this period of blended learning. I fully understand that many of you may be feeling anxious about your children returning to school but please be assured we are doing all we can to keep everyone as safe and as happy as possible. Teachers have designed a whole school topic for term1 focusing on pupils' wellbeing and returning to full time schooling.

Please also be assured that South Gloucestershire still has a very low level of infection of Covid-19.

Attached to this letter is a leaflet produced by the Department of Education and Public Health England for your information. South Gloucestershire council has also produced a short video for parents: <https://youtu.be/BVyvMjxGQSA>

Below are the key safety factors that will be put in place ready for September. Please note that the actions taken are to mitigate risk, we cannot fully eliminate the risk of infection.

Key points:

- Children should attend school if well and no one within the family has Covid symptoms,
- There will be a staggered entry to and from school daily,
- Children will be in class bubbles of no more than 30 children and will not mix with other bubbles:
 - Bubbles will learn together in the same room
 - Bubbles will eat together in their classroom
 - Bubbles will play together in designated play zones,
- Increased handwashing and use of hand sanitiser throughout the day, sanitiser dispensers have been installed in all rooms, entrances to toilets and main doors,
- Increased cleaning across the day, especially high-contact areas,
- No whole school events will take place in the autumn term e.g. assemblies or performances,
- Parents and other adults not accessing the building or play areas of our site,

Classrooms and social distancing:

- For children in Years N, R, 1 and 2 there is no expectation that social distancing can be maintained. The mitigation comes from limiting the number of children each child comes into contact with; class bubbles. When using the outdoor learning areas where the risk of infection is reduced children may have contact with children within their year group bubble.
- For children in Years R, 1 and 2 classrooms will be set up to support learning through play. Children will be encouraged to play side-by-side and to keep an arm's length between them and their friends,
- For children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children will sit side-by-side facing the front of the class, we are looking to move back to groups of desks as soon as the guidance allows.

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Face coverings:

The Government guidance states that face coverings are not needed for primary school aged pupils and that schools should support pupils in removing masks upon entry to school. The advice highlighted in the media about face masks and coverings are for secondary aged students and then only those in local lockdown areas. Wearing masks for a whole school day would be very challenging for young children, they also have the potential to make social interactions more difficult and impact on speech and language development. Young children are also considered too young to manage mask/face covering wearing safely, masks/face coverings for young children often lead to increased face touching and also pose additional infection risks to others when taken off and on. The World Health Organisation also support the recommendation that children under 11 do not need to wear masks/ face coverings. Therefore, we are asking that children do not wear masks or face coverings in class, especially children in the infants (years N – 2). That said, I fully recognise that some older children and their parents may feel more confident wearing a mask and if wearing a face covering to school gives families the confidence to return to school then we will not stop them. Coverings must be plain without logos or slogans. Children will be responsible for their own mask management and teachers will not be able to ensure children keep their masks on. Any child intentionally misusing a mask or face covering or unable to self-manage their mask will be required to take it off.

Other key information

- Attendance is compulsory for all children; children must return to school,
- Absence should be reported daily following the usual process,
- Children should wear full uniform and have a PE kit in school.

Ms Porter and Miss Said have written to you all also with the fine detail.

Children have been away from school and formal learning for too long and a return to school really is best for all pupils' in the long term. We aim to do this in the safest and most positive way possible.

Thank you for your support.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.