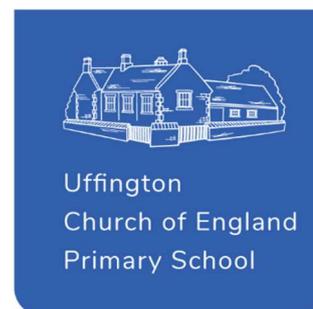


Education and Childcare during Coronavirus

Uffington Plan for the Reopening of Schools from March 2021 (Phase 3)



Information for Parents and Carers

The Uffington Plan is based upon government guidance to support schools as we prepare for all pupils to return to school on 8th March. Now that the prevalence of coronavirus has decreased, the government are clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools. It is felt that for the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus. School attendance will once again be mandatory from 8th March.

In summary, we are:

- Expecting all pupils to return to school in September
- Teaching a full, broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum
- Implementing control measures to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 as far as possible

INFECTION CONTROL

The government have made the following measures mandatory in all schools:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have symptoms, or who have someone in their household with symptoms, does not attend or visit the school
- Cleaning hands more thoroughly more often than usual
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard cleaning products including bleach

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Beginning and End of the Day

All schools have been asked to continue to minimise mixing by operating staggered start and finish times.

Class	Drop off	Collection
EYFS	0905	1500
KS1	0900	1505
Y3/4	0850	1515
Y5/6	0840	1525

Children should be delivered to and collected from the playground gate.*

Please do not arrive within ten minutes of the start of the school day and make every effort to be punctual as we do not want to mix children from different classes as they wait to be dropped off or collected. If you are running late, please telephone the school to let us know and use the office entrance.

PLEASE OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING ON THE FOOTPATH AND 'DROP AND GO' TO ALLOW FOR THE NEXT GROUP.

PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK ACCESS TO THE GATE AT ANY TIME TO ENABLE STAFF TO MONITOR ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AND TO ENSURE FREE MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THE SCHOOL SITE.

Class organisation

The virus spreads between people who are in close contact. We will continue to implement two measures to reduce the contact and mixing of people whilst still delivering a broad, balanced curriculum. Both measures help, and the balance between them depends upon the children's ability to distance, and the feasibility of keeping distinct groups separate:

- **Separating:** keeping the class groups separate in "bubbles"*
- **Distancing:** maintaining distance between individuals

**Siblings may be in separate bubbles*

For primary-age children, the emphasis is on separating groups. We do not expect children to socially-distance within their bubble but they will be discouraged from touching adults.

Children will primarily operate in their class group/room, with their designated class teacher, minimising close contact with other groups in the school. This is so that, if there is an outbreak, then we will have minimised the potential disruption and number of people who have been in close proximity and would potentially need to self-isolate.

Wherever possible, children will enter/exit the classroom from their external classroom doors, significantly reducing use of corridor and cloakroom areas. We will continue to minimise the mixing of children across class groups and will not bring the school together for

events such as collective worship. We will implement measures to limit mixing at lunchtime and classes will have separate playtimes.

Staff are permitted to work across more than one group; they will employ control measures such as handwashing and distancing to reduce the risk of infection.

All staff will wear face coverings in communal areas where social distance cannot be easily maintained.

All staff will conduct Lateral Flow Tests for the virus twice a week. Results are reported to the school and the national test results service.

Windows will be opened whenever possible to ensure good ventilation in classrooms.

Seating plans

From Year 1 upwards, tables and chairs will be set up so that no pupils are facing each other. Individual class teachers will decide where pupils will sit. Children will sit side by side, with two children per desk. Each pupil will have a set of resources within their desk space to limit movement around the class. Children in KS2 may bring their own pencil case if they wish.

Children will line up when coming into and leaving class, e.g. from break times, in the order of front row to back row to ease movement into classrooms and avoid children having to pass each other once seated.

Emotional Health and Well-being

We know that many children have struggled with the isolation of lockdown and that many are anxious about the return to school. All children will engage in the Five Ways to Well-being programme on a daily basis. Where children are really struggling with transition, they will be offered a programme of one to one or small group support.

Behaviour

The vast majority of Uffington pupils demonstrate excellent behaviour in school and most respond well to our system of rewards and sanctions. Expectations regarding behaviour will be clearly explained to the children on their return to school.

Curriculum

We will return to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum in all subjects with immediate effect. In the first instance, we will prioritise identifying gaps and focus on practising and developing key skills with daily practice in the skills of reading, writing and number. All children will have the opportunity to read, and be read to every day.

Homework for all classes will focus upon reading and spelling until the end of the spring term.

Government-funded 'Catch Up'

The school has been awarded 'catch up funding' and has arrangements in place for identified children to receive additional small group tuition from April.

Specialist intervention

The school has made plans for staff providing 1:1 support as follows:

- Staff wash hands before and after working with a pupil
- A space is identified for the intervention to take place, set up with chairs being a suitable distance apart
- All equipment needed for the child is set up in the space before the start of the session
- Staff go to the child's classroom, standing at the entrance to collect the pupil (not entering the classroom)
- The child follows the staff member (at a distance) to the identified area and returns to class following the intervention in the same way
- The intervention is provided at a distance
- After the child has returned to class, the member of staff cleans the desk area and washes any equipment which needs to be used by another pupil

Specific Curriculum Adjustments

Reading Books and Homework

We will continue to limit the amount of paper-based work we send home: we will use Google Classroom to set homework tasks, and use the on-line Bug Club scheme for reading wherever possible.

Homework for the period running up to Easter will focus purely on Reading and Spellings.

Educational visits

We will make use of outdoor spaces in the local area to support delivery of the curriculum. However, we will not be undertaking visits requiring transport for the time being.

Music

We have been advised that there is an additional risk of infection in environments where singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments or shouting are taking place. This applies even if individuals are at a distance. Teachers will be mindful of the risks associated with activities of this kind as they plan lessons and ensure that rooms are well ventilated.

Face-to-face Woodwind lessons will resume from 12th March; these will be delivered in a well-ventilated space and a Perspex screen will be separate the tutor and pupil.

Physical activity in schools

Pupils will be kept in class groups and all equipment thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups. Contact sports will be avoided. Outdoor sports will be prioritised wherever possible. This is particularly important in a sports setting because of the way in which people breathe during exercise. It is unlikely that swimming lessons will take place this term even though indoor pools may reopen on 12th April. Children in KS2 will not travel to the Bluecoat School for PE lessons.

Children will be encouraged to be active during break times. Each bubble will have its own set of play equipment.

Additional Guidance

Attendance expectations

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8th March. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

If you have any queries or questions regarding attendance, please contact the school office: enquiries@uffingtonprimary.co.uk

Persons displaying symptoms of COVID-19

The virus still presents a real threat and it is vital that anyone displaying any of the recognised symptoms does not attend school and seeks a test without delay. Return to school will not be permitted until a test has taken place and a negative result confirmed. We will not permit anyone to return to school without having sight of the confirmation that the result is negative beforehand.

All staff are using rapid Lateral Flow Tests twice a week to ensure that they are not carrying the virus into school.

School Uniform

All children will be expected to wear school uniform from 8th March. The children will be asked to continue to come into school wearing their PE kit on certain days, as access to space for changing is very limited. **The children will need a pair of clean shoes to wear indoors on these days. Trainers should be in school every day.**

Please be mindful that the ventilation of classrooms may make the rooms cooler than usual; **please make sure that your child has a sweatshirt / cardigan in school at all times**

Please note that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. We will of course take a mindful and considerate approach in relation to parents who may be experiencing financial pressures at this time.

The government do not expect children or staff to wear face coverings in school. Children arriving wearing a face covering will be given clear instructions regarding safe removal and disposal / storage.

Storage space in school is very limited: **please do not send children into school with backpacks.**

Lunchtimes

In order for us to minimise mixing of children from different bubbles, the lunch break for each class will last 45 minutes giving time to eat and play. There will be two sittings at lunch each day with thorough cleaning taking place in between. Hot school meals will be available from 8th March.

Wrap-around Care

Reach for the Stars will be open for before and after school care from 8th March. The setting will follow the Uffington Plan to minimise the risk of infection but it should be noted that the government guidance permits children from different bubbles to mix in out of school care. School and RFTS staff will work together to make sure that children are in the right place at the right time. Parents and carers will be able to drop and collect children from RFTS in the usual way.

Extra-curricular Clubs

No extra-curricular clubs will operate for the time-being although woodwind lessons with the peripatetic teacher will take place.

Travel to School

At the present time, children from different households should not travel to school in the same car although the school taxi is exempt from this. We would really encourage you to walk or cycle to school wherever possible.

If you have children in different classes, where there might be a short wait between drop off and collection times, please think carefully about parking: do not park in coned areas, close to junctions, on verges or in the church car park which is used by staff.

We request that one adult only drops off / collects your children to reduce the number of adults waiting at the gate

ACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19

Managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst the school community

We will take swift action when we become aware that someone who has attended school has tested positively for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if it becomes aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) has attended the school as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

We will work with the local health protection team who will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home, including, potentially, a teacher whose child is in an infected bubble. We will provide further information to those affected in this eventuality. If someone in a class or group, which has been asked to self-isolate, develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period, they should follow the Government guidance as below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

School Closure in the Event of Confirmed Cases, Local Outbreak or Local or National Lockdown

In the event of children being sent home to self-isolate or because the school is required to close, we will continue to provide education to pupils. Lessons will be provided via Google Classroom and other learning platforms including Active Learn, Education City and the Oak National Academy. The class teacher will monitor the level of engagement in learning and offer support so that children do not fall behind. This work will not be optional; we will expect pupils working at home to complete all work set, supported appropriately by both school and home.

When teaching pupils remotely, we will:

- set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a range of subjects according to their age and ability
- offer a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject
- provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher in the school or through high quality curriculum resources and/or videos
- gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks and set a clear expectation on how regularly teachers will check work
- enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, when necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding
- plan a programme of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers

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The Uffington Plan was written based upon government guidance* and will be reviewed on a monthly basis. A full copy of the plan and risk assessment may be found on the school website: www.uffingtonprimary.co.uk

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>