

School Reopening: Frequently Asked Questions



How will the groups be organised?

We will organise the children into 'bubbles'. The government have said bubbles can be up to 15 children with one member of staff. We have decided our bubbles will be smaller, dependant on numbers returning in each group, and will have two members of staff to enable the integrity of the bubbles while ensuring staff have breaks etc. We will contact all parents who indicated they would be sending their child back to school after half term, to confirm that they still wish to take up this place. We will then let them know specific arrangements.

Why can't you guarantee my child will have their friends in their bubble? Why will some children be with their teacher but others won't?

Not all of the children in the eligible year groups are choosing to return to school. Each bubble will have two members of staff with them and we want to keep each bubble as small as possible. To maintain the integrity of each bubble, staff can only be in one bubble. They are not allowed to move between bubbles. All staff members will remain with their bubble and will not mix with any other bubbles. We have also needed to group all key worker children, including those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to ensure that these children can be provided with full time childcare, should their parents require it (please see next question).

Why are you closing on a Wednesday afternoon to all children, apart from Key Worker children?

Teachers still need to have planning, preparation and assessment time (a protected right by law) and other teachers are now not allowed to cover for them in their bubbles. Teachers will be preparing for the bubbles they are teaching in school, as well as planning for the children at home and communicating with parents more through emails and phone calls.

If you are a key worker, your child will be able to remain in school on a Wednesday afternoon. They will be supervised by a teaching assistant while watching a film. All key worker children have been grouped together with others in their year group to enable this to happen, regardless of their normal class teacher.

Why do the children in the bubble have to stay the same? Why can't they mix with other bubbles?

Although the risk of an outbreak is low there is still a risk. If a child or adult in one bubble caught the virus then all children and adults in that bubble would have to isolate. If we mixed the bubbles in anyway then all the bubbles would have to isolate, potentially closing the whole school.

What about my child? They are in a year group not invited back at present.

The school will continue to provide home learning for all children not attending school. Staff will continue to monitor the year group emails throughout the day, although this may not be your child's class teacher, as they could now be teaching a bubble group.

How will you stop parents congregating at the school gate, classroom door etc?

There will be a one-way system in operation around the school site. All parents and children will enter the school site via the foot gate near the main entrance on Station Road. They will then walk through the Key Stage 2 playground and around passed the MUGA through the Key Stage 1 playground and out the gate further down Station Road.

All parents must stay at least 2m apart from each other and not linger when dropping off their child. There will be markings to support this. Parents will not be allowed to talk to teachers on the door as usual because of social distancing requirements. The start times and end times will also be staggered for each year group. There will be more information about this after half term.

Year Six will be encouraged to walk or cycle to school by themselves, assuming you can ensure that they do not meet up with friends on the way. If not, then we ask you to bring them to a place near the school and watch them come in. Year 6 will enter the school building via the Year 5/6 entrance as they did previously.

Reception parents will be asked to drop off their child at the green gate rather than come into the reception outside area.

If I can't talk to the bubble group staff on a morning or at pick up when can I communicate with them?

The bubble group staff will contact you via email and telephone if needed. You can email your child's year group email as normal, and this will be passed on.

How can you social distance with young children? Surely it is impossible?

Tables and chairs will be spread out 2m apart and each child will have equipment that is their own for their time in school. Children in reception and year 1 will still have some busy learning time, although only one child will be able to play at each activity at a time. Anything that is shared e.g. construction equipment in Reception, will be limited to what can be cleaned easily, and will be put aside for cleaning after each child has used it.

Children will continue washing their hands frequently throughout the day, as they were before schools closed.

However, despite our very best efforts and putting these measure in place, we cannot guarantee all children will appropriately social distance at all times.

We are currently preparing a photobook explaining the changes for all year groups, so that you can share these with your child before they return to school. These will be sent after half term.

What if my child is upset coming in at drop off? Will the teacher be able to support me in getting them into school?

All our staff are kind and caring and will do all they can to ensure the children are happy and settled in school during this time. Staff will be able to use words to reassure and encourage your child, but due to social distancing measures, they will not be able to physically intervene or take your child by the hand. If your child becomes distressed at drop off, we ask that you take them home.

My child is in Year Six, what will happen with regards to transition arrangements to Comberton?

Staff from Comberton are preparing resources that can be shared with all children towards the end of the term. To ensure equality of access, transition information and resources will be shared with all children in exactly the same way, regardless of whether they are in school or learning from home. We will continue to liaise with Comberton Village College and CVC staff are looking at how they can make transition work under the new guidelines. We will continue to liaise with you and us as we go forward.

We hope to have the opportunity to invite all children back for their party once restrictions have been lifted.

Can I drop things off at the office?

The office will be closed. The telephone will be manned during school hours only, but we request that you email the office unless the matter is urgent.

All visitors to the site will be restricted. The only people allowed on site will be staff and people who have to carry out emergency repairs/health and safety requirements etc. They will not mix with the children.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

We will be relaxing our uniform requirements for the rest of this term. However, we expect children to come to school in suitable clothing (e.g. shorts and a t-shirt that covers their shoulders). They should also wear appropriate enclosed shoes.

What can they bring to school?

They must only bring their packed lunch (in a disposable bag), a water bottle and a coat. If it is a sunny day then please ensure they have sun cream on that will last all day and that they bring hat. Please do not send them in with anything else including pencil cases, book bags or PE kits. Government guidance has stated that nothing should be passed from school to home.

My child is in Y2/3/4/5 and has been accessing Key Worker provision up until this point. Will there be any changes to their provision?

The wider opening of the school necessities that these children also be included in bubbles. These bubbles will have consistent members of staff and will be in a set classroom from the 8th June. We will confirm these changes in arrangements after half term. Children will also be limited in what they can bring to school with them (please see previous question).

What about if I decide not to send my child back to school and they are in one of the invited back year groups?

You will not be fined if you choose not to send your child back to school and your child will still be able to access their year groups home learning. Your child will not lose their school place.