

# Galleywood Infant School



## Re-Opening Questions and Answers

Thank you for your questions. I have tried to give clear and honest answers, which I hope are helpful. I will update this document if I receive further questions from parents, and if any DfE advice changes.

### **1. If I decide not to send my child back on June 1<sup>st</sup>, can I change my mind after a few weeks?**

Yes, you can. We have worked hard to make school as safe as it can possibly be, following the guidance closely, listening to scientific advice and investing time and money to make sure classroom learning will be stimulating and playtimes will be fun.

We know some families think 1<sup>st</sup> June is too soon and would prefer to wait.

We would like children to have a settled and calm time in their small groups and it takes time for staff to set up the space and equipment for each additional child. To avoid the turbulence of new children starting each week we are asking that you opt for your child to start on either **15<sup>th</sup> June or 29<sup>th</sup> June.**

### **2. How many days/ times will the children be expected in?**

We have been asked to re-open schools to support early learning and enable children to engage with their friends. We cannot do this effectively if children attend sporadically or on a part time basis. The guidance advises against part days and also says schools should not operate a rota system, for example week on/ week off. We have put a great deal of thought into a way to accommodate all our FS and Yr1 children in small groups for 4 days each week, allowing one day for deeper cleaning and for planning.

### **3. How will the groups of 15 be chosen?**

#### **Will my child be in a “bubble” with his/her friends?**

Each class has been divided into two groups allocating the children A,B,A,B. We then looked at the groups and moved a few children to ensure that every child is with several friends. We know that after more than two months of lockdown, children are missing the social aspects of school the most.

### **4. Will you tell us the groups/ teachers my child will be with?**

Every group will have an adult the children know well from their class team. It is difficult to say now exactly which children will be in school as some parents remain undecided and others may change their mind. All children will have the same learning experiences as others in Foundation Stage or Yr1 regardless of their “bubble” as the teaching and play will be planned and prepared in detail.

### **5. You only have 6 classrooms, how can you create 8 learning spaces?**

There are “bubbles” of children in each classroom, one in the demountable and one in the library. At this stage we are not using the school hall as a teaching space, but this may become necessary.

We have taken lots of photographs inside and outside school and have shared these as a PDF, so that you can talk with your child about which aspects of school will feel different for a while.

### **6. If we don't send our child in will we still get work to do?**

#### **Will the work sent home be the same as the work being completed in the classroom?**

#### **Can you confirm that we will still have a weekly catch up with his/her teacher?**

Teachers will provide parents with an outline of what they will be teaching in the classroom each week. We will signpost you to the White Rose maths units and provide pictorial resources to support English, but as all our teachers and TAs will be working fulltime from 1<sup>st</sup> June there will be less time to give to home learning

packs. Yr2 children have not been offered school places and will continue to receive home learning packs as before.

Phone calls will continue for children we are not seeing in school but may be made by support staff or members of the admin team as teachers will be in classrooms and preparing learning every day.

Of course, teachers will do their best to respond to emails and will always call you back if you leave a message with the school office.

#### **7. Will teachers be provided with PPE?**

The DfE guidance states that it is not necessary for staff to wear masks, gloves and aprons unless they are carrying out activities that would usually require the use of PPE or if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus whilst in the setting and needs supervision until they can return home. We have gloves and aprons in school as routine equipment and now have some masks in the event that a child becomes unwell and requires isolation with a staff member until they can be collected.

#### **8. What will happen if a child or adult becomes ill and could have Coronavirus?**

Children and staff cannot attend school if they, or a person they live with, have symptoms of Covid-19.

Staff and pupils in all settings are eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their households. A negative test will enable children to get back to childcare or education, and their parents to get back to work. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect their classmates and staff in their setting. (See latest guidance at the end of this document.)

If a child or adult becomes ill during the school day with symptoms of Covid-19 we will phone parents of children in that bubble so that you can collect children immediately if you wish to do so. We will also notify parents when we receive results from a test, positive or negative.

#### **9. With the majority of equipment and toys off limits, what can the children use to stimulate Foundation Stage learning?**

**Is play still a big part of Foundation Stage learning, or will all activities take place at tables?**

Our large outdoor play equipment cannot be used because it is not possible to clean it between groups of children. However, careful consideration, planning and extra cleaning will make it possible to offer most activities to children. Mrs Foster and Miss Bosley have attended online training provided by Early Excellence and by Juniper Education Services about setting up safe Early Years learning environments indoors and outside. Resources such as playdough and plasticine cannot be shared, but will be provided in individual containers. Hard plastic toys such as bricks, railway, marble run, etc can be washed after use. Close supervision will enable us to remind children how to choose/ share equipment and extra hand washing will quickly become a routine. The Foundation Stage cohort have been split into 4 “bubbles” and our equipment/ resources have been allocated to ensure all children continue to access to high quality indoor and outdoor play from their classroom.

#### **10. Can my child be with his/ her teacher?**

We need to organise children into groups of no more than 15, so there will be 4 Foundation Stage bubbles and 4 Yr1 bubbles. We are fortunate that we have teaching assistants in every classroom every day and they know the children well, often leading the group during PPA sessions or when teachers need to attend a training course or meeting. As explained in earlier communication we have planned the return to school so that every child will either be with their class teacher, or in their familiar classroom with an adult who knows them well.

### 11. How will the staggered drop off and pick up times be organised?

To try and prevent any bottlenecks at gates and doorways we have staggered the timings as follows:

Please note- these times have been adjusted slightly and apply from **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

	Drop off	Pick up	Classrooms (use outside classroom door)
Foxes	8:45-9am	2:30-2:45pm	Foxes classroom, Rabbits classroom
Badgers	8:45-9am	2:30-2:45pm	Badgers classroom or Squirrels Classroom
Hedgehogs	9-9:15am	2:45-3pm	Hedgehogs classroom or Demountable
Owls	9-9:15am	2:45-3pm	Owls classroom or library (drop off/ collect via outside door by Owls classroom)

Please do your best to try to adhere to these times and not arrive early as another group will be waiting. We will send a map showing the one-way route to drop off/ collect children, with parents entering the school site using the single gate (nearest the school driveway) and exiting via the double gates (nearest to the Co-op). Staff marshals and signage will be in place until everyone is familiar with the new system.

If you have two children coming into school at different times you will be able to drop them both at the earlier time.

### 12. Do children wear school uniform?

Yes, children will be expected to wear school uniform. We realise that children may have outgrown some of their uniform including their shoes and that you have not had opportunities to buy new items.

We are flexible about this and simply ask that:

- Children wear at least part-uniform
- Children wear shoes that they can do up easily, ideally with Velcro fastening
- Children have a hoodie or cardigan of any colour that is easy to remove when they are hot- we cannot easily help children get tight jumpers off.
- Children will not need a PE kit, but will have outdoor exercise every day. Please ensure they are wearing clothing that is comfortable to allow this.
- Children and staff should only wear clothing that can be machine washed.

### 13. What will children need to bring to school?

Children will just need to bring a packed lunch if appropriate, a water bottle and a sunhat (both named please)

Please do not allow your child to bring any toys into school from home. We understand that these sometimes offer comfort and security but they can also spread infection between children and between locations.

### 14. You have asked for only one person from each family on site but I have an older/younger child. Is that ok?

Yes, we are asking that only one adult comes onto our site for each child. We understand that lots of siblings have not yet returned to school and will need to accompany parents at drop off/ collection times.

### 15. What will happen if my child needs first aid- will this bring another adult into the “bubble”?

Most first aid will be administered in the classroom, where a log will be completed of any actions taken. Anything more serious requiring a phone call home, a larger graze or nose bleed for example, will be treated in the school office by the admin team.

We have allocated a member of staff to each bubble to cover the lunch period in order to assist the children with their school meal or packed lunch, and to supervise outdoor play whilst the other adults have a short break. This adult will not be part of other bubbles.

**16. Will this be reassessed or will this arrangement be the same until the summer holidays?**

We receive updates daily at present, in the morning from Essex and in the afternoon from the Department for Education. We will keep parents informed of any changes as soon as we are notified. We have tried to make a plan which will enable children and staff to work safely, which can extend until July if appropriate, and can be adapted if guidance changes.

**We have also been asked questions linked to the following FAQs on the DfE website. For complete clarity I have reproduced the information in the latest Government guidance documents:**

**Will contact tracing be in place in educational and childcare settings?**

The government is developing a new national test and trace programme. This will bring together an app, expanded web and phone-based contact tracing, and swab testing for those with potential coronavirus symptoms. This programme will play an important role in helping to minimise the spread of coronavirus in the future. It will also include more traditional methods of contact tracing if a child, young person or parent tests positive. The government is recruiting 18,000 contact tracers to support contact tracing and will recruit more if needed. They will play an important part in tracing the contacts of those with coronavirus, including children.

**What happens if someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting?**

If anyone in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. (At Galleywood this will be our computer room)

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

**What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?**

See updated document in School Re-opening tab.