



Frequently asked questions

It is important that all government guidance is adhered to ensure you and your children are as safe as they can be. We appreciate that this may cause some logistical challenges for some families. It is important that school is consistent to avoid any confusion and ensure maximum safety. Exceptions to procedures therefore cannot be made in any circumstances.

Please accept our apologies for the difficulties arrangements may cause, as you can imagine it is not an easy task to keep bubbles safe with 420 pupils on the school premises. It is paramount to minimise any opportunity for COVID-19 to be brought into or spread at school in order to remain open to all pupils. It is also important that you have confidence that the school is doing everything possible to reduce risk and keep your family safe.

Below is a list of frequently asked questions to add further detail to the return to school advice. Apologies for not responding to individual questions; hopefully the responses will benefit everybody.

Thank you so much for your support. Once again, please accept my apologies if timings are proving challenging for you. We are looking forward to seeing your children again next week.

Will there still be a crossing patrol service?

We are expecting the school crossing patrol to operate as usual

Will it be safe for my child to cross at Browning Road?

School staff will supervise crossing at the Browning Road entrance for upper school children. This will be at the beginning and the end of the day. Browning Road will be coned off to ensure there is no vehicle access. Children will therefore be able to cross with the crossing patrol if approaching from the south, walk up the pavement and cross again at Browning Road with school staff supervision. Please remind your child to walk on pavements only, especially in Mill Road where there is only a pavement on one side.

Will the St James Avenue entrance be open?

Initially the St James Avenue entrance will be closed. This is to ensure pupils do not wander onto the premises and mix bubbles or enter the school building without sanitising their hands. The Twitten and Browning Road entrances will be manned by staff to ensure pupils enter safely. Access will be reviewed once processes are embedded.

I have children in upper and lower school and their start times are really close. Can my older child start school when my youngest child starts?

There is a 5 minute gap between all year group bubbles and a ten minute time window at each entrance/exit before the next bubble arrives. It is therefore possible to make all times. It may be appropriate for your older child to make their way up to Browning Road entrance independently. Staff will be available to help them cross the road. Therefore it will be unnecessary to leave older siblings with younger. Children with siblings will be dismissed first from class to allow as much time between bubbles.

There is a large gap between the start times for my children. Can I drop them both together at the earlier time?

Your children must arrive at the time stated to ensure bubbles are maintained. Although inconvenient, you will have to return home or find a safe place to wait off the school premises until the next start time.

Can my child come in their sibling's entrance and then walk through the school premises to their own entrance?

Children may enter school with their sibling to drop off only. They will not be allowed to go through the school premises to their own entrance point as children from the upper school will be using the outside routes to enter their classrooms. Allowing other pupils to wander through the school therefore risks bubbles mixing. Siblings should leave the premises with you using the one way routes indicated.

Will pupils be supervised when leaving school?

Staff in Years 4-6 will take their classes to the upper playground to supervise dismissal. Pupils in Year R to 2 must still be collected by an adult. As previously, Year 3 pupils will be dismissed independently from their classroom to meet parents or walk home.

How will I know when it is my turn to collect my child from a lower school classroom whilst distanced on the playground?

In Reception to Year 2, staff will hold up an A4 card with your child's name on when they are ready to dismiss them. At this point you will be able to come forward to collect your child and exit down the Twitten path.

What do I do if my child goes with a childminder who collects from a number of different year groups?

Unfortunately, the school must keep to government guidelines and therefore all rules apply to childminders as well as parents. They will need to make their own arrangements if they are meeting multiple children. This is the same as families who have multiple children to collect.

Can my child wait at school if their sibling finishes later?

Your child will need to go home at the allocated time. There is no provision to keep children longer than their school day. Each year group has the equivalent amount of learning time. Playtimes have been reduced in some cases to ensure learning time is not lost.

Can my child be collected by another parent with a child in the same bubble?

Children may go home with another child (and their parent) from the same bubble. Please inform the school of this arrangement by email/Study Bugs.

Can my child be collected by another relative/grandparent?

Your child may be collected by another relative. Please ensure your child knows who is meeting them and notify the school of any changes. It is important that anyone collecting your child is clear of guidelines and expectations and knows where to enter and leave the school.

Are children in Years 3 to 6 allowed to enter and leave the school grounds independently?

Children in Year 3 and above (Key Stage 2) are allowed to come into and leave school independently. They do not need have an adult to accompany them.

Am I expected to wear a face covering to drop off or collect my child?

Adults are not expected to wear a face covering to collect children from school as the process takes place outside. You are however welcome to wear a face covering if you feel more comfortable. If you have a prearranged appointment in school we would ask that a face covering is worn on the premises.

Can my child wear a face covering at school?

Although government advice for schools suggests face coverings should only be worn by pupils over the age of twelve (secondary schools) we would support any parent/pupil who would feel safer at school in a mask. If you intend for your child to wear a face covering, please read the government guidance on how to wear a face mask safely with your child: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own> If at any time we are concerned that the use of a face mask is actually increasing your child's risk of infection (e.g. they keep touching it, keep taking it on and off) we will notify you and ask that you re-educate them on how to wear it safely before wearing it at school again.

My child walks home alone – can they bring a mobile phone to school?

Mobile phones should only be brought to school if your child walks home independently. Phones are brought to school at their own risk. Phones must be turned off before entering the school premises and placed in a box on the teacher's desk. These boxes will be stored in the school reception office until home time. Phones must be named.

Is there additional time that key worker children can be in school if they finish earlier or start later?

The school are unable to offer any additional supervision. Children will need to attend at their allocated times. All children have access to the same amount of learning time each day.

Is there any after school care?

Sadly the Coronavirus has made Incrediclub unviable. Therefore it will no longer be operating. The Woodland Wilds forest school club are intending to operate after school as they are based outdoors and have space for

distancing. Other after school clubs will not operate to ensure bubbles do not mix. Woodland Wilds can be contacted at woodlandwilds@gmail.com or on telephone: 07801162956. School clubs will be reviewed later in the term.

Is it okay to only send my child with a bag when it is raining?

Any belongings will remain with your child under their desk or on the back of their chair. Cloakrooms will not be used if at all possible as these are areas where children congregate and struggle to socially distance. Therefore, the less in school the better. If it rains during the day and your child does not have a bag, they will be given a zipped plastic folder to bring their reading book home. This zipped folder can be used to transfer things to and from school.

Do trainers have to be black?

Black trainers would be great but they are not essential. We do not wish you to spend any money buying trainers for school - any colour will be fine. As things settle, school shoes are likely to be reintroduced.

Is my child allowed to have a second pair of trainers at school in case of wet days?

We are happy for your child to have a second pair of trainers at school in case they get wet. These must be named and stay at school. They will not be able to go back and forth.

Can my child leave a set of waterproofs and wellies at school?

Your child is welcome to leave a set of waterproof clothes and wellies at school. This is particularly useful for our younger pupils (Reception/Year 1) as some of their curriculum is based outside.

If my child is at home, will remote learning be provided for them?

All teaching and support staff are working within bubbles at school and therefore not available to provide remote learning for individuals. If the school has to shut for a group, bubble or as a whole, remote learning will be provided. If your child is required to self-isolate for a period of time learning can continue through the use of: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/> This site provides daily, age related lessons.

I usually come and help in school – will I still be able to?

Unfortunately at this time, we will be unable to have parent helpers in school. Visitors to school will be limited with a view to reducing introduction or spread of the virus. This position will be reviewed regularly and you will be notified if things change.

There is usually an introductory year group meeting– will this still take place?

Year group welcome meetings will still take place but these will be virtual via 'zoom'. You will be sent an invitation soon detailing the time and login information.

Can my child still bring external awards into school for the Friday assembly?

External awards will still be celebrated in the virtual Friday award assembly. Awards do not physically need to come into school however. Instead you should contact the school office (via email or StudyBugs) with your child's name, class and a sentence explaining the award. The message should be entitled 'Awards Assembly' and must be sent by Thursday 6pm to be presented the following day. These will still appear in the school newsletter.

Are arrangements likely to change?

Arrangements will be reviewed after a couple of weeks and any improvements or changes that will make life easier will be considered. You will be notified of any changes in advance.