



# Uffington Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents,

I am writing to you about school fully reopening on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We are looking forward to welcoming back all of our pupils in every year group. This letter has important information about our operating procedures, most of these you will be familiar with as they mostly replicate those from the autumn term, however it would help us if you could talk to your child about these just to remind and reassure them.

I know that some of you will be anxious about sending your children back to school. The government has published guidance that attendance will be mandatory from 8<sup>th</sup> March and that non-attendance could incur penalties. Let me reassure you, that we will do all we can in terms of risk assessment to keep school as safe as possible and that we are here to discuss and listen to any concerns you might have. Working together will be key.

Our plan to welcome the children back will have a strong emphasis on wellbeing and pastoral support. For the first two weeks we intend to settle them in, get them used to socialising and routines and of course safety protocols. We will be focussing on project/topic work for the first two weeks – no tests, no pressure just enjoying learning, creativity and being together! Of course through these lessons children will be accessing high quality provision which covers the whole curriculum. By week three we will move to core subject lessons in the morning – recapping on essential key skills.

For your information, school staff currently test twice a week and new updated risk assessment will be on the school website prior to 8th March. The system of controls that form our risk assessment are based on government guidance and the children will be asked to clean their hands regularly including but not limited to:

- When they arrive at school
- When they return from breaks
- Before and after eating
- At the end of the school day



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We will still be operating a staggered entry and exit policy, including different times for each class and a one-way system in the playground. The times will be:

Wayland: 9.10am – 15.10pm

Dragon: 8.50am – 14.50pm

Ridgeway: 9am – 14.45pm

White Horse: 9am – 15.00pm

Children will be in consistent class bubbles for break and lunch times, and class bubbles will not interact with other class bubbles to reduce possible transmission. Collective worship will remain online with classes able to access them. Hot school meals will be available from 8<sup>th</sup> March but will be delivered to individual classrooms by catering staff. Learning resources will be selected for ease of cleaning and most items will be allocated on an individual basis.

Breakfast club will be available from 8<sup>th</sup> March, however once again we will be limiting the numbers to 10 in order to reduce possible transmission by mixing bubbles. Where parents are using external childcare providers or out of school extracurricular activities the Department for Education has asked us to advise you to limit such provision as far as possible and to check that providers have put their own protective measures in place.

Children will need to come to school in their normal school uniform, although I do appreciate that some of them may have outgrown some items – please do not worry about this. We will be keeping windows and doors open for ventilation purposes so you may wish to dress them in extra layers. Can you also send your child in with PE kits, any medications they would normally have in school, wellies or other alternative footwear (the field is quite muddy) and a school bag for essential items only e.g. packed lunches, drinks bottles, books. You do not need to send your child in with a face covering, government guidance has said that primary age pupils do not require these. Staff however will be wearing these in communal spaces.

Please do not send your child to school if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works#part-1-people-who-develop-symptoms-of-coronavirus>
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after the start of their symptoms or the test date if they did not have symptoms but had a positive result.

As before, we cannot admit parents into the school building, or have chats on the playground as normal. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher please contact the school office. Please do not let this put you off making contact with us – children thrive and learn when they are happy, so let us know any concerns big or small.



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Parent teacher consultations – we have decided to postpone these until the summer term in order to focus on school fully reopening. We hope by doing this that we will be able to hold purposeful discussions about where your child is holistically (academically/pastorally) after having had them back in school.

Finally, I think I speak for the whole staff in saying we are looking forward very much to seeing all of the children and yourselves once again. You and the staff have performed a marvellous job in supporting the children's home learning but I hope that this return to school will mark the end of interruptions to the children's education. The summer looks hopeful!

Best Wishes,

Mrs Bradbury



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