



Dear Parents/Carers,

Full Re-Opening Information for September Onwards

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I would like to provide you information regarding the re-opening of the school in September following the government guidance which was made available on 2nd July. This document outlines that;

'Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later. The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low. We know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families.'

Therefore, further to my earlier correspondence I am writing to provide you with the information on how we intend to open fully, safely and deliver our curriculum.

September Opening Dates

School is due to reopen to pupils on Wednesday 2nd September.

- Pupils in Y1-Y6 are expected to return to school on Wednesday 2nd September
- Pupils in Reception will have transition meetings during the week beginning 31st August and a phased start will begin from Monday 7th September with all Reception pupils fully in school from Monday 14th September.
- Pupils in Nursery will begin a phased return from Monday 7th September.

School Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct



Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating

The majority of pupils will be able to return to school. You should note however that:

- a small number of pupils may still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Please refer to most recent government advice.
- if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent.
- some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health at [COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people](#).

Public health advice to minimise coronavirus (COVID-19) risks

The full opening guidance document suggests how contact is reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- grouping children together
- avoiding contact between groups
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

Therefore, we have specified start and finish times and entrance and exit points for all groups, staggered break and lunch times, arranged our classrooms as above and will implement measures to reduce the chance of transmission as far as is reasonable practical.



The School Day

Please use the table below for information regarding the class groups your children will be in. Signage is on all the relevant entrance points for information

Gate A, B, C are on Milton Avenue.

Gate D and E are on Weyman Avenue

CLASS/POD	START	END	ENTRANCE POINT	EXIT POINT	BREAK	LUNCH (45 MINS TOTAL)
KINGFISHER	8.50	3.00	B	A	n/a	11.30-12.30
SQUIRREL	8.50	11.50	B	C	n/a	N/A
HEDGEHOG	8.45	2.55	B	A	n/a	11.30-12.30
OWL	8.50	3.00	B	A	n/a	11.30-12.30
JAGUAR	8.40	3.00	B	C	Individual MAIN YARD 10.10	12.00-12.45
PANGOLIN	8.40	3.00	D	D	Individual MAIN YARD 10.10	12.00-12.45
PANDA	8.40	3.00	B	A	Individual MAIN YARD 10.30	12.00-12.45
ZEBRA	8.40	3.10	D	D	Individual MAIN YARD 10.30	12.00-12.45
LION	8.40	3.10	D	D	Individual MAIN YARD 10.50	12.30-1.15
SHARK	8.40	3.10	D	D	Individual MAIN YARD 10.50	12.30-1.15
PENGUIN	8.40	3.10	E	E	Individual UKS2 YARD 10.10	12.00-12.45
WOLF	8.40	3.10	E	E	Individual UKS2 YARD 10.30	12.00-12.45
CHEETAH	8.40	3.10	E	E	Individual UKS2 YARD 10.50	12.30-1.15

Drop off / Pick Up, Use of the Car Park & Public Transport

As you can see from the timings of the day, we have staggered these to ensure we do not have lots of people arriving at similar time. We are asking all parents and carers that 'drop off' and 'pick up' to only arrive at the designated time and to follow the queuing systems in place. Maintaining social distancing remains a key element of our work and we ask that you use the visual prompts to support queuing and quickly move from the site following drop off and pick up. Staff members will be outside to the welcome and direct your child(ren).

Ideally only one parent/carer should 'drop off' and 'pick up'.

If you as a family are using public transport, please ensure you and your child are fully aware of the guidance for the use of local buses. The recommendations on transport to and from school allude to reducing any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport where possible (for example, by walking or cycling to school).

It is imperative pupils arrive at their allocated time. This will ensure the safety of everyone and reduce the chance of transmission of the disease.



Please can I politely remind all parents and carers to observe the social distancing measures at all times and be patient with each other and staff as this is new for everyone. You should not gather outside the school gates after dropping off or picking up.

Breakfast Drop Off & After School Provision (Wrap around paid provision)

The Breakfast Drop Off-Club will restart from 7.45am **for only those parents and carers who require this provision due to work.** This MUST be pre booked to enable us to plan staffing and organisation of pupils to minimise contacts. The provision will be limited to 16 pupils as a maximum.

After School Club will continue to run until 5.30pm.

These sessions will take place in the EYFS modular building which can be accessed via the main school car park on Milton Avenue. Children will be grouped into phases and strict social distancing will be in place in these sessions

If you require this provision from the return to school date in September, we will require you to contact the school office ASAP and no later than Monday 24th August to outline your requirements (days, sessions). A letter will be posted on the school website over the summer period with finalised arrangements. Please note any outstanding monies from 2019-2020 must be paid before a place can be offered from September.

Uniform, equipment & Mobile Phones

Pupils **WILL** be expected to wear full school uniform.

We ask that pupils do not bring their own stationary equipment into school initially. All children will be provided with their own personal equipment that is to be kept in school.

We recommend that children bring a fresh water bottle daily as water fountains are switched off in school.

PE kits are to only be brought to school on specific days and this will be confirmed in September.

Mobile Phones, should they be brought into school, will be collected by your child's class teacher and safely stored in a box for the rest of the day. These can be collected at the end of the day. Mobile phones should only be brought into school by children who walk to and from school on their own and may need to contact family members after school.

PODs & Class Sizes

We have worked very closely as a school team and with external support from the Wade Deacon Trust and their Health and Safety advisors. We are working on the premise of having 'Class Pods'

This means that pupils will get their full curriculum entitlement in their current classes and staff will stay with them throughout the day. Additional staff members will teach the children at times during the week for teacher PPA time and/or specialist provision within their Pod but this will be kept to a minimum. All classes will have assigned classrooms, toilet and outside areas and they will remain in these areas for the duration of each day.



Learning & Curriculum

I know you appreciate; this period has been a very complex and challenging situation for all concerned. However, it is imperative we get pupils back into learning routines and engaged in a full curriculum offer. We will continue to work with our pupils on them filling in any gaps they might have and we will share with you any 'catch up' plans once these are finalised.

Essential Measures

Below are a list of essential measures we will adhere to reduce the risk of transmission;

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home – please ensure your child does not attend if they are showing any of the symptoms.
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene – this will be encouraged regularly as it is now and we will increase the signage as a reminder to take these steps.
- enhanced cleaning arrangements – this has been carefully considered and staggering breaks, lunches will allow for this.
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace – we will engage fully in advice and guidance from Public Health and the NHS Test and Trace team.
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable – the steps I have mentioned will reduce the risk of transmission.

Lunch, Break Time & Food and Drink

Those Pupils entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal will receive a meal as will families entitled to Free School Meals. We would suggest that those families who usually pay for school meals use Parent Pay to reduce the need for handling of money and/or visits to the school office. Please contact the school office for information relating to this.

School meals for the first few weeks will be school made cold packed lunches. We will look to extend this to hot meal provision once the children are settled and school is functioning fully.

You may wish to send your child(ren) with their own packed lunch. Please advise them that this should not be shared with anyone. It is also advisable that children bring in their own drinks bottle (clearly labelled and filled) as we will turn off the water fountains. Please be reminded that fizzy or energy drinks are not allowed.

Support for Pupils with SEND

We will work with families and Pupils to provide the best possible support for pupils with SEND and make reasonable adjustment as necessary to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. Should any parents and carers wish to discuss this in detail please contact Miss Watkins.



Cleaning Considerations & Movement around the site

We have worked very closely with our maintenance provider to ensure regular cleaning has and will take place as it has done during lockdown. We will ensure there is enough tissues, hand sanitiser, disinfectant and paper towels and bins in every classroom to keep everyone safe.

Behaviour

There are amendments and an addendum to the current Behaviour for Learning Policy, which can be found on our website. The guiding principles are, as usual, linked to our UNICEF 'Rights Respecting' work; where we expect Pupils to be respectful, persevere and to keep themselves and others safe. Nevermore have these principles been more important. It is critical pupils co-operate with staff and follow instructions for the safety and well-being of everyone. Any behaviour that might put others in danger will not be tolerated and appropriate sanctions put in place.

First Aid & Medication

Pupils that require first aid will still be able to access this and additional PPE will be provided to the designated first aiders. Pupils that need medication - medication will still be administered by trained staff.

Please do not send your child(ren) into school if they feel unwell, are showing any one of the Covid-19 symptoms or require any general first aid.

Pastoral Support for Well-Being and Mental Health

We are very aware that the coronavirus outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children. It is important to recognise that while 'getting back to normal' is important and will be reassuring for many, we will consider how to support pupils back into school.

We know some children may also have experienced bereavements in their immediate family or wider circle of friends or family or had increased/new caring responsibilities. All children will have missed the routine of school, seeing their friends, and being supported by their teachers and other adults in the school.

Therefore, we will provide opportunities for children to talk about their experiences of the past few weeks. This may include opportunities for conversations with adults, some refocused lessons on relevant topics, for example, mental wellbeing or staying safe, pastoral activities, such as positive opportunities to renew and develop friendships and peer groups and other enriching developmental activities.

Home & Remote Learning Plans

Home learning and Remote Learning plans will still be in place should there be a 'local lockdown' and we have plans for how this will be communicated should such an event occur.



Visitors and Guidance on accessing the school office

We will carefully ensure that only essential meetings take place on-site and where possible all correspondence should be via telephone, e-mail or letter.

Only one person at a time will be allowed into the main office and signage will ensure this is clear to visitors. We have a duty to protect our staff and I appreciate your co-operation in this matter. There will be clear markings on where to queue to access the office if this is necessary.

As always, we will continue to use our social media and website to communicate any updates with you. These are listed below.

Website: www.whistonwillis.co.uk

Twitter: @whistonwillis1

I hope this letter has served as a clear indication of what we will endeavour to put in place as control measures to minimise risks but this will not mean that risks can be removed altogether. If you require any further information, please contact the school office between the hours of 9.00am and 3pm.

Finally, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation and I wish you a lovely summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ian Cooper

Principal

Useful Links

Safer Travel Guidance for Passengers: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

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

Learning for Life