

Dovers Green School

**Returning to School
8 March 2021**

**Information for Parents
and Carers**



We are delighted to be welcoming all children back on 8 March. Government guidance is still very clear that we continue to need to ensure that we maintain strict social distancing whenever possible and have strict rigorous hygiene measures in place. We are re-sending this booklet as a reminder of the systems and routines we have put in place to ensure that everyone stays as safe as possible. All of our procedures are regularly updated, according to the guidance received. Every morning, a member of the Leadership Team will be available to answer any questions that you may have and to listen to any feedback.

We will continue to use the term 'physically distance' to talk to the children about the importance of trying to stay away from each other as much as possible, because we feel that this is a more concrete image for children to refer to; socially distance is more abstract and more difficult for us to teach and reinforce. We are sure you will understand however, that we cannot guarantee that our infant children will remain physically distant all the time; after all, children will be children!

How many children are in each group?

The children will be taught in a year group bubble. This means that all of the children can be offered a broad and balanced curriculum, including free flow across the classes in Ladybirds and in the outdoor learning areas in Year One and Two. This arrangement will give us flexibility for Year One and Year Two when teaching phonics sessions. It also means that we can safely accommodate the majority of children when eating their lunch in the hall, however children who have a packed lunch will be eating in a classroom. To reduce the risk of spreading the virus, the children are only allowed to socialise with children in the same bubble.

When do I drop off and pick up my child?

To avoid crowds on the playground, we are going to continue to stagger drop off and pick up times. **We must insist on only one parent dropping off or picking up each child to reduce physical contact with other parents and children. Please leave the school premises as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child and do not loiter at the school gates. Unless you are exempt you must wear a face covering when on school grounds.** There will be physically distanced, one way movement around the school grounds, so please follow the signs responsibly. You will need to enter the school grounds through the main gate or the pedestrian gate adjacent to the car park and follow the markings around onto the playground. To maintain physical distancing, it is essential that you adhere to the following times:

Year Group	Drop off	Pick up
Year 1	8.30 - 8.45	2.30 - 2.45
Year 2 and Badgers	8.45 - 9.00	2.45 - 3.00
Ladybirds	9.00 - 9.15	3.00 - 3.15

For those families with two children; at morning drop off please drop both children off at the earlier time of the two siblings. At pick up please use the time for the older child.

What physical distancing measures have been put in place?

- Child-friendly guidance will be displayed on posters around the school and children will be reminded verbally.
- All children and staff will follow a one-way system using the main corridor and the playground. Footprints and arrows have been placed inside and outside to remind the children.



- Two meter markings are in place around the school.
- There will be staggered drop-off and pick-up times for different year groups to reduce the number of parents within the school grounds at any one time.
- All break times will be staggered and timetabled, so that year group bubbles use external areas such as the field, lower and upper playgrounds, at different times.
- All communication with the school needs to be conducted by email or phone. If you need to access the school office **in an emergency**, communication will be carried out across the office glass screen, which will remain closed at all times.
- All staff have read and signed the risk assessment and have received training. This training has included instruction on all the measures that we have put in place to minimise risk.

What will my child learn?

We know that the last few months will have been very unsettling for the children and we will therefore spend a lot of time focusing on the children's well-being and giving them time to reconnect with their friends, as well as focusing on reading, phonics and maths skills. Your child will also receive an engaging and exciting learning experience, following our Dovers Green values and principles of how young children learn. When the children return on 8 March, the whole school will be taking part in 'Performing Arts week' which will run during the first two weeks to help to settle the children back in, where the teaching will include core subjects, PSHE, PE, creative activities and outdoor learning.

We have devised a RESTORE model, to fully support the children in their return to school.

	Key Areas for planning our restorative return
R	RECOGNITION of what has happened. Our experiences in lockdown have all been different, life changing for many and significant for us all.
E	EMPATHY for the mix of emotions that we have in response to events at home, in school, the community and the wider world.
S	SAFETY will be paramount, both emotional and physical.
T	TRAUMA is now a collective as well as an individual experience.
O	OPPORTUNITY to change what needs to be changed, to reflect what matters to us and if we would like to do anything differently.
R	RELATIONSHIPS will have been affected and we can't expect all our children to return joyfully, and many relationships that were thriving, may need to be invested in and restored.
E	ENGAGEMENT in our own health and wellbeing and with the issues that affect us: our teaching, learning and community.

Will reading books be sent home?

The teaching of reading has always been one of our highest priorities at Dovers Green and will continue to be so. As Parents, the support that you can give your child as they are learning to read is vital because regular reading at home gives them practise in applying the skills and knowledge that they have been learning in school. Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Even if your child is at the very early stages of learning to read, through hearing stories read aloud to them, he or she will be exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

To comply with current guidelines your child will be given a minimum of three books each week. So that we minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus, these books will only be changed once a week on a **MONDAY**. They will be put in a box and left for at least 48 hours before being put back in circulation for other children to use.

The books will include:

- A book that they have previously read to build fluency and to continue to practise all of the strategies young children need to use when they are reading, so they can develop an awareness of what it means to be a good reader. This includes using the pictures, so please don't be tempted to cover them up! It may be that your child wants to read the same book over and over again and this is absolutely fine! You can help them to develop their reading skills by encouraging them to read with expression and to think about their phrasing and fluency. We say, 'Make it sound like talking' which helps the children to understand what a good reader sounds like.
- We use a scheme called 'Read, Write Inc' to teach the children the phonic knowledge that they need to decode phonically regular words. As we know the English language is also full of 'tricky' words, for example 'they,' which do not follow a regular spelling

pattern. The children are also taught these in the programme which we then practise further through our Ladybird and Butterfly words. Your child will be given a book which precisely matches their phonic ability and should therefore be able to read fairly easily, but decode any words that they are not sure of. Reading shouldn't be hard; if the book is too difficult for a child, they may become demoralised and not want to read and this is the last thing we want!

- A book from the class book corner which the child will have chosen themselves. They may be able to read this by themselves or it will be a book that you will need to read to them.

We also have a range of books that we will put outside the main entrance every morning that you can take from. Again we ask that you put any returned books in the labelled box so that we can quarantine them for 48 hours before putting them back in the box for others to take home.

What should my child wear and bring into school?

- School uniform - Your child needs to wear their usual school uniform every day to school. The guidance is that we ensure rooms are well ventilated so you may wish to provide your child with an extra layer if it is cold.
- Forest School - Unfortunately, we cannot share the clothes that we usually use for Forest School. If you are able to provide waterproof trousers, a jacket and wellies, this will enable us to go out in all weather. As with everything, please make sure all clothes sent in are clearly named. Unless they are absolutely filthy, we will keep these clothes in school and will send them home at the end of every half term.
- PE Kit - The children need to bring their PE kit at the beginning of term, but instead of sending this home every week, we will be keeping it at school, and sending it home at the end of each half term.
- An apron or old shirt for painting and being creative.
- They will need to bring their bookbag and water bottle to school every day. If needed, they can, of course, wear a coat in the colder weather, and can bring in a hat if the weather is warmer.

The children will be using the Pirate Ship, Trim Trail, Climbing frame and playhouses during playtimes. This will be done on a rota basis to ensure that the equipment can be quarantined between each year group using it therefore **please do not allow your child to play on the equipment before or after school.**



Forest School



Outdoor

What hygiene measures have been put in place?

We will be employing strict hygiene measures in school. Examples of the detailed protocols in place include:

- Adults and children must wash their hands thoroughly when they come into school, after each playtime and before lunch. Guidance on effective hand washing will be modelled to the children and supported by posters around the school. Regular hand washing will be carried out in classrooms to avoid a bottle-neck in the toilets.
- We will continue to promote the 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' approach, and children will have easy access to tissues and covered bins in every classroom.
- Additional daily cleaning routines have been established such as regular toilet cleaning.
- Staggered toilet times will be in place around staggered break times and lunch times. Toilets have been designated to each year group bubble. If your child needs the toilet they will be accompanied by an adult to ensure that cross contamination with other bubbles doesn't happen.
- All classrooms have had a deep clean and will be thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis. All soft furnishings, such as cushions and rugs, have been removed from the classrooms.
- Every classroom has their own set of cleaning supplies, which are regularly used throughout the day.
- During the staggered lunchtime, tables and chairs will be thoroughly cleaned between each year group bubble.
- Each year group bubble will have their own resources for PE lessons, which will remain the same for half a term. The resources will then be quarantined before being swapped for use, by a different year group bubble.
- Staff engage in twice weekly testing using a Lateral Flow test at home. These tests are designed to stop the transmission of the virus by identifying and therefore isolating anyone who is asymptomatic.

How will lunchtimes work?

Lunchtimes will be staggered. Children who are having a school lunch will eat in the hall in their year group bubble and will stay with their bubble at all times. Children who are having packed lunch will eat in an identified classroom within their year group.

Will my child be expected to wear a face mask?

Following the guidance set out by the government, **children will not be allowed to wear any form of PPE while at school**. Staff will be following the PPE guidelines, if they have to wear it, for example, when dealing with a sick child. If your child wears a mask to school, we ask that you remove it at the gate and take it away with you. Staff however will be wearing face coverings when moving around the school and in communal areas.

Can my child still travel to and from school on a scooter or bike?

Current Government Guidelines encourage children to walk, scoot or bike to and from school. Scooters and bikes can be left outside the Children's Centre or the front of the school where you will find racks available.

Will there be any larger gatherings, such as class assemblies, school plays etc?

At the moment, there will be no large gatherings at school, which includes whole school assemblies, and class assemblies. Instead, we will run year group assemblies, ensuring that the children do not mix outside of their bubble.

What happens if my child becomes unwell?

In order to minimise the risk of spreading coronavirus, please do not send your child in to school if they display any of the following symptoms:

- **a high temperature** - this means they will feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- **a new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Please make sure you inform the school as soon as possible if you or your child has suspected COVID-19.

To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital if you have any of these symptoms. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus and stay at home until you get your result.

If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 whilst at school, then they will be quarantined and you will be asked to collect them as soon as possible and to arrange a test for them. If a child tests positive, we will act according to the latest guidelines, which may require the bubble group to immediately self-isolate for 10 days or the school may close. The school will provide home learning on Seesaw for any children who are having to self-isolate.

- Please note that the class email addresses will ONLY be used for children who are self-isolating or if we go back into lockdown. Teachers will not be checking or communicating using these email accounts, under any other circumstances.
- For any further information, please look on our school website, under COVID 19, where there are more useful documents for your reference.

