



Re-opening of Redbridge Primary School in September

Frequently Asked Questions

Dear Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our children and families back to school in September. We have missed all the children and the school has been very quiet without them. We know many families will be thinking about what school will be like in September and will undoubtedly have many questions. We thought it may be useful to produce an FAQ document to answer some of the most frequent questions we have been asked.

Do I have to send my child back in September?

The DfE have stated that school will be compulsory from September and parents could be fined for non-attendance. If you are concerned about your child returning in September, please speak to a member of staff.

How is the school going to keep my child safe when they return in September?

The school are following the guidance set out by the DfE and have carried out a thorough risk assessment in line with Local Authority guidelines.

The children will continue to be encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day. Every classroom has a handwashing station with antibacterial soap. If children wish to bring their own hand sanitiser they can, it will need to be labelled with the child's name. The children will be reminded to not share the hand sanitiser with other children. Each classroom will have antibacterial spray and will be cleaned throughout the school day. We have implemented an increased cleaning schedule so that that classrooms are thoroughly cleaned each evening. The toilets will be cleaned at different intervals throughout the school day.

We have made small adaptations to the classroom to support distancing where possible. This includes seating pupils side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on. Through maintaining a distance between people whilst inside and reducing the amount of time they are in face to face to contact lowers the risk of transmission.

Are the children going to be in 'bubbles'?

Following the DfE guidance, we have organised the children in Year Group 'bubbles'. This means that the children can have playtime and lunchtime together. The Year Group 'bubbles' will not mix with the other year groups. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered to minimise contact between the year groups.

How is the school ensuring that the children are socially distancing?

By keeping the children in Year Group 'bubbles', this reduces the number of contact between children and staff. Children will be encouraged to maintain distance between individuals. Children will be encouraged to maintain distance and avoid contact with staff and their peers where possible.

Will the school day start and end at the same time?

Following the government guidance, we have decided to stagger the start and end of the school day. This is to reduce the number of people on the school site at any one time. There will be a one-way system in the playground with one entry and one exit.

	Start	End of Day
Nursery Full Time	8.50am	3.40pm
Nursery am	8.50am	11.50am
Nursery pm	12.40pm	3.40pm
Reception and KS1	9.05- 9.15am (soft start)	3.25pm
Year 3 and 4	8.50- 9am (soft start)	3.15pm
Year 5 and 6	8.50- 9am (soft start)	3.15pm

Is my child getting the same amount of learning time as before?

The government guidelines are very clear that any staggered start and end times must not reduce the amount of teaching and learning time. Therefore, we have staggered the start and end time but have shortened lunchtime to make up the time. The learning time is exactly the same in terms of hours and minutes as it was before.

How and where will I drop off and pick up my child?

KS1 children will be dropped off and collected at the classroom doors as before. Year 3 will enter and leave the KS2 Building through the side door in the Playground (near the bike shed). Year 4 will be entering and leaving the KS2 building through the middle doors in the playground. Year 5 will enter and leave the KS2 Building through the door next to the new build block. Year 6 will enter and leave the building through the Year 6 entrance next to Year 2. There will be clear signs on all the doors to help direct the children.

What happens if I have more than one child in the school?

If you have children in different year groups, you can drop off the children at the same time. At the end of the school day however, the children will need to leave at their allocated time as it will be too disruptive to have children leaving from classes at different times. We do ask parents who are waiting to collect their children to ensure that they are socially distancing from other parents.

Will the children have to wear school uniform?

Children will need to wear full school uniform. We ask that children are in clean clothes every day.

Will the children still have PE lessons?

Children will have PE outdoors in the Autumn Term. Children will need to have a warm PE kit (black or grey tracksuit) in school Monday to Friday as PE will be only cancelled in extreme weather. All children are expected to participate in PE lessons.

Can my child bring in a packed lunch?

Children will be able to bring a packed lunch in if they wish. Each year group have a staggered lunch so that all children in that year group can eat together. Children must have their packed lunch with them at the beginning of the school day. The office will not be accepting any packed lunches or food items during the day. In the event your child forgets their packed lunch, they will be given a school dinner.

Will school dinners be available?

School dinners will be available, however in order to facilitate year groups not mixing and the revised timings for lunch, the kitchen can only offer a cold option only. Meals will alternate between wraps, sandwiches and baguettes with a variety of filling choices each day. Children will also receive fruit, salad and a cold desert such as flapjack or home-made biscuits. The school dinner menu will be available on the website before school starts.

Can my child have home dinners?

Unfortunately, children will not be able to have home dinners until further notice. This is to minimise transmission during the day.

Will the children be given reading books and homework in September?

All children can take home a reading book and homework books.

What will playtimes look like?

Playtimes have been staggered to minimise mixing and contact. Each Phase will have a set playtime and a set playground zone.

What will the curriculum look like in September?

We have revised our curriculum to take into account the mental health and wellbeing of our children on their return to school. There will be a focus on PSHE in the first half of the Autumn Term to address any concerns and anxieties the children might have. An information leaflet about our revised curriculum will be available on the school website soon.

How will the children 'catch up' on missed learning?

Our teachers have worked hard on identifying gaps in the learning based on the transition meetings with the previous classteacher. Teachers will meet the children wherever they are in their learning and address any misconceptions and gaps. Teachers will be using the objectives for the current year group and those for the previous year group to ensure coverage. We are planning intervention groups for all year groups for any child who needs it.

Will there be any clubs happening in school?

There will be no clubs in the Autumn Term. We hope to resume clubs as soon as it is safe to do so.

Will Breakfast and After School club be running?

Breakfast and After School club run by Future Stars will operate as usual in the Autumn Term. Children will be kept apart from other children not in their bubble during Breakfast and After School club. Enquires can be made via the following email address info@futurestarschildcare.co.uk

Will there be any workshops/events in school?

Unfortunately, we cannot offer any workshops or whole school events in the Autumn Term. This will include sharing assemblies and the Stay and Learn sessions. Hopefully these can resume again in the Spring Term.

Will there still be assemblies in school?

There will be no assemblies in the Autumn Term. The children will participate in online assemblies in school. We will be continuing to celebrate children's achievement through our assemblies and are working on a plan to share this with families remotely.

Will the school still be closing at 2:35 every Friday?

Yes, school will still be closing at 2:35 every Friday. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide any provision for this as this would involve the children and adults mixing in different groups. Families will need to make their own arrangements for childcare at this time. Any children that are not picked up on time will have to wait under supervision, outside in the playground until their adult arrives. This is due to the need to keep all year group bubbles separated and the school not having a large enough indoor space to safely accommodate groups of children from different year groups.

Are there any school trips planned for the Autumn Term?

There are no school trips or curriculum visitors planned for the Autumn Term. We will make good use of online virtual tours and video conferencing to enrich our curriculum.

Can children wear PPE to school?

The guidance is very clear that children under the age of 11 do not need to wear PPE – mask etc. in school. If you travel by public transport, then it is up to you if your child wears a mask on the journey. The children will be expected to remove the mask before entering the school building.

What happens if my child is ill?

If anyone in the school 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 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. We have organised an isolation room in case an adult or child falls ill during the school day. You will be contacted to collect your child immediately from the school office please ensure the school has your most up to date contact details.

Will I be told if someone in school tests positive for Coronavirus?

In the case of someone testing positive, the school will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact the school directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work with the school in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, the school must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

If the school goes into lockdown what will happen?

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice. Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, we will offer immediate remote education. We are currently working on a contingency plan for remote education using different online platforms.

I am worried that my child has been adversely impacted during the lockdown. How can I let the classteacher know this?

If you are concerned about your child's return to school or if they have been adversely impacted during lockdown, please do not hesitate to contact the school office through email. This can then be forwarded to the classteacher.

How do I make arrangements to meet the class teacher once the children are back in school?

If you wish to speak to the classteacher, please contact the school office and your request will be forwarded to the classteacher. The classteacher can then arrange a phone meeting or a socially distanced face to face meeting if required.

Will the school office still be open?

The school office will be open but we ask that parents phone or email where possible. Please note that the school office will not be taking in any items to pass onto the children. This will include: coats; bags; packed lunches; water bottles; PE kits; reading books etc.

My child has been classed as clinically vulnerable, can they still come back to school in September?

If your child has an underlying medical condition and is classed as clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable, please seek advice from your GP/Consultant about guidance on your child returning to school. If you wish them to return to school, we may need to conduct an individual risk assessment to support their return. If your child is advised not to return at this time, please contact the school office.

We hope that this answers all of your questions however, if you think we may have overlooked something or if you have any unanswered questions then please email them to admin.redbridgeprimary@redbridge.gov.uk. Staff will be checking the email box throughout the summer holiday break and so, we will endeavour to answer any questions that you may have before the start of the new school year.