



What parents and carers need to know about Brooklands in the autumn term

This guidance is for parents and carers of children at Brooklands Primary School.

Welcoming children back to Brooklands

On Thursday 3rd September we look forward to welcoming children back to school.

It is the government's plan that all children, in all year groups, will return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term.

The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools restricted their opening to most children in March, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and we understand more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools.

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill, and there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. Of course, there will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why schools have been asked to put in place a range of protective measures.

In order to effectively manage the risks that remain, things will be a bit different when children return to school for the new academic year. This guidance sets out some of the changes and protective measures the government is asking schools to put in place and what parents, carers and children will need to do to help ensure schools are as safe as possible for everyone.

More information about the specific measures that we will put in place is detailed in our Risk Assessment (available on the school website).

School attendance

It is vital that children return to school - for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply.

A small number of pupils will 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). If your child is unable to attend school for this reason, you should talk to us about what support is in place in terms of remote education.

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 the small number of children who

will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

Some children 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 in September.

Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised.

If you have concerns about your child returning to school, because you consider they may have other risk factors, you should discuss with us the measures we are putting in place to reduce risks in line with government guidance.

Many families will want to take a holiday over the summer period, which may involve travelling abroad. As ever, parents should plan their holidays within school and college holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time.

Ultimately, local authorities and schools have a range of legal powers to enforce attendance if a child misses school without a valid reason.

How everyone can help make Brooklands as safe as possible

Brooklands has its own health and safety risk assessment as part of its planning for the autumn term and the return of all children. This is available on the school website.

As part of this, there are certain approaches that the government has asked schools to implement which are essential to reduce health risks. Parents and carers can support this by:

- ensuring that anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or has someone in their household who does, does not attend school - this means if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you should not send them to school
- engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to get a test and you should inform the school of the results of that test

Alongside this, the government is asking schools to ensure they are:

- managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school, in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days by their school or college (based on advice from their local health protection teams) if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus
- ensuring everyone at school cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - this can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
- minimising contact and maintaining distance, as far as possible. In broad terms, it will involve asking children to stay within specified separate groups (or bubbles), and through maintaining distance between individuals. The government's guidance to schools recognises that younger children may not be able to maintain social distancing so it is likely that for younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups.

It will be really important that parents help Brooklands to implement these approaches by following the advice set out here and wider public health advice and guidance.

Arriving and leaving school

Brooklands will have staggered start and finish times as this helps keep groups apart on the way to and from school, and as they arrive and leave the premises.

Groups (Bubbles) Arrival	Staggered start time	New processes for drop off
Early Years and Year 1	8.50 – 9.00	Lower Area external door (parents and older siblings can walk on to the playground).
Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4	8.40 – 8.50	Front entrance gate (parents not to enter the playground)
Year 5 and Year 6	8.30 – 8.40	Front entrance gate (parents not to enter the playground)

Groups (Bubbles) Collection	Staggered finish time	New processes for collection
Early Years and Year 1	3.00	Area of the playground near the Adventure (parent can enter the playground)
Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4	3.05	Middle area of the playground (parents can enter the playground)
Year 5 and Year 6	3.10	Area of the playground near the bike sheds (parents not to enter the playground)

- Only one parent or carer can accompany their child(ren) at drop off/collection. Exception Early Years for their child's first day at school (Thursday 3rd September).
- Once parents have dropped off/collected they should leave the premises immediately. Do not linger.
- Please stick to the agreed timings.
- Observe social distancing at all times.
- Back gate and path will not be open. All entry by the front gate.
- Where possible, children are encouraged to walk or cycle to school.
- See also communication guidance (below).

Curriculum

The government has set out clear expectations on what schools are expected to teach when pupils return in September. Brooklands will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects.

There may need to be changes to some subjects - such as PE and music - to ensure they can be delivered as safely as possible.

We will also make plans for the provision of remote education where needed, to ensure that the small number of children that need to be educated at home, for example, due to shielding or self-isolation, are given the support they need to continue learning.

Statutory Primary Assessment

We recognise that children will have missed a critical period of their learning due to lockdown in the 2019 to 2020 academic year. It is vital that the government better understand the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on children nationally and give support to schools that need it the most.

The government is, therefore, planning on the basis that statutory primary assessments will take place in summer 2021. The early years foundation stage profile, and all existing statutory key stage 1 and 2 assessments, should return in 2020 to 2021 in accordance with their usual timetables. This includes:

the phonics screening check
key stage 1 tests and teacher assessment
the year 4 multiplication tables check
key stage 2 tests and teacher assessment
statutory trialling

Behaviour

Brooklands has an annex to its behaviour policy to reflect new rules and approaches that are needed from the autumn term. This is available on our school website.

Uniform

Brooklands relaxed its uniform policy while only certain groups of children were attending before the summer holidays. We are, however, returning to our usual uniform policy in the autumn term. This is available on our school website.

Jumpers and cardigans should have the school logo. These can be purchased online (www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk) Plain round neck t-shirts for sport can also be purchased online.

Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

School food

Our school kitchen will be open from the start of the autumn term, and we will provide free school meals and universal infant free school meals as usual for those who are eligible. School meals will be served in recyclable boxes with single use wooden cutlery.

Our catering supplier, Chartwells will be offering a set meal. See attached menu.

Groups (Bubbles) will be staggered over the lunch period. The lunch period will now be 45 minutes.

We will not be able to offer Birthday lunches.

School trips

We intend to make use of outdoor spaces in the local area to support delivery of the curriculum.

In the autumn term, Brooklands will resume educational day trips e.g. Forest School, in line with the latest public health guidance and wider guidance for schools on the actions they can take to reduce risks. Volunteers may be used to support the work of the school, as would usually be the case.

We will follow the Government advice against overnight visits.

Extra-curricular activities

Brooklands will need to make sure after-school activities can be delivered in line with the wider guidance on protective measures. We will offer a very limited programme of after-school clubs in the autumn term. We may need to run things differently and adapt over time.

Process in the event of outbreaks

If a school experiences an outbreak, either because they have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among children or staff in their setting within 14 days, or they see an increase in pupil or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), they will need to contact their local health protection team. This team will advise if additional action is required, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.

Where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their bubble, then the whole school, if necessary.

If your local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, decisions will be made on what measures to implement to help contain the spread. The government will be involved in decisions and will support individual schools to follow the health advice.

In all cases, where groups of pupils need to self-isolate or where a larger restriction of attendance at school or college is needed, your child's school or college should seek to ensure children and young people's education can continue remotely.

What else you need to know

For our youngest children (Early Years and Year 1) a member of staff will be on the Lower Area external door. For children in Year 2 and above a member of staff will be on the front entrance gate. Messages should be brief to avoid gatherings at drop off or collections. Please leave the school site immediately. Do not linger.

Concerns and questions should be raised by phone, email or ClassDojo where possible.

Items such as letters should be handed in by the child to their class teacher.

We will welcome parents on site only by appointment. Parents will be required to adhere to all social distancing measures.

We ask that parents do not visit the school office unless they have an appointment. Exceptional circumstances will be for medical reasons (e.g. to collect a sick child or to drop off medicine).

We will not be accepting forgotten belongs during the school day. Please make sure your child brings:

Water bottle

Packed lunch (if necessary)

PE kit

Coat, suncream and sunhat (depending on the weather)

Forest School clothes (when required)

Brooklands will avoid large gatherings. Therefore we have no planned onsite activities for parents (e.g. Learning Together). We will look for creative solutions to engage with parents through the use of remote activities.

Conclusion

Brooklands has a small number of children returning to school who will remain on the shielded patient list under the care of specialist health professionals. It will be really important that parents help Brooklands to implement these approaches by following the advice set out here and wider public health advice and guidance.

We will monitor the changes we are making closely to keep children, their families and our staff safe. More updates will be shared about any further easing or increasing of restrictions as the pandemic continues.

We'd like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we continue to do our very best to protect our community.

