

Rathfern Primary School



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

School Opening

Monday 8th March 2021

Handbook for Parents/Carers

Introduction

The government has announced that educational settings can open to all pupils in September, provided that additional safety measures are put in place to minimise the risk of coronavirus transmission. In line with the government's direction, and following a robust risk assessment process, we are welcoming back all pupils from **Monday 8th March**

We are so pleased to welcome you back and to thank you all for your support and understanding during the coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic.

We have put together this handbook to provide you with all the details of the measures that are being put in place to ensure the safety of our school community as we fully open.

We hope this will address any of your concerns and reassure you that we have taken all the necessary precautions in preparing to welcome all our pupils back to school.

Guidance is changing frequently however we will keep you updated through emails via our database and text messages if urgent.

Please feel free to call our office on: 02086903759 or email us at admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk if you have concerns.

You will not be permitted to come onto the school site without prior permission.

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In order to keep our school safe, we would like you to help us

- Adhere to your child's pick-up and drop-off times – ensuring you leave the school site promptly. Maintain social distancing with staff and other adults.
- Only communicate with the school via telephone or email
- Remain vigilant for the symptoms of coronavirus
- Keep your child at home if they develop symptoms or if any members of the household develop symptoms
- Ensure your child washes their hands before they leave for school and after they return home
- Helping your child understand the importance of infection control, good hygiene, and social distancing.

All this guidance is current, but things are changing daily. If there is a spike in cases, we may have to go into a local lockdown and different controls may be implemented.

We will endeavour to keep you updated with any changes as soon as we can

1. Risk Assessment

The school has undertaken a robust risk assessment to identify all the risks and we have implemented control measures in line with the Government Guidance. Any new guidance will be announced on the front page of our website. <http://www.rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk/>

2. Symptoms

If anyone in your household becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you must not come to the school and stay at home and follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please notify the school office via telephone 0208 690 3759 as soon as possible if your child, or somebody in your household, is showing symptoms of coronavirus and your child cannot come into school.

3. Testing

Primary staff have been given kits for twice weekly testing at home, but there will be no testing of primary pupils but should you wish to have your child tested it is your choice.

All pupils, and members of their households, will be able to access a test if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus. If your child is displaying symptoms, we would strongly advise that you access a test.

There is information about how you can access a test on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>.

You can also call NHS 119

Where possible, we will provide a home testing kit for you to ensure that your child and other members of your household can easily access a test.

If your child is sent home from school with symptoms and subsequently takes a test, you must inform the school of the results as soon as possible. If the test is negative, your child

can return to school when they feel better. If the test is positive, your household will need to continue the self-isolation period.

We encourage you to inform the school immediately of test results.

You may also need to engage with the NHS Test and Trace programme, meaning that you need to be ready and willing to:

- Book a test if your child or another member of your household displays symptoms.
- Provide details of anyone your child has been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus or are asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- Allow your child to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive.

4. Procedure for Pupil Displaying Symptoms of Covid 19

It is extremely important that all parents and pupils remain vigilant regarding preventing, identifying and minimising the spread of coronavirus.

We ask, therefore, that you do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms.

- A high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

It is also important that you do not send your child to school if somebody in your household has tested positive for, or has symptoms of, coronavirus.

If your child becomes unwell at school and shows symptoms of coronavirus, the school will take the following immediate actions:

- Your child will be asked to self-isolate in school using a designated area.
- Your child will be supervised while waiting for collection
- You should come to collect your child must as soon as possible.
- We would ask that you have your child tested for coronavirus.
- You will be encouraged to engage with the NHS Test and Trace programme.

If an individual in your child's class tests positive for coronavirus, the school will send the individual's close contacts home to self-isolate for 14 days.

Close contacts include:

- Direct close contacts – anyone in face-to-face contact with the individual for any length of time, within 1 metre – this includes face-to-face conversation, unprotected (skin-to-skin) physical contact or being coughed/sneezed on.
- Proximity contacts – anyone in extended close contact with the individual, within 1 to 2 metres for over 15 minutes.
- Travelling in a small vehicle, e.g. a car, with the individual.

We will notify you if this is the case and ask that you pick your child up from school as soon as possible. While pupils are awaiting collection, they will remain in their classroom and be able to access one toilet.

All parents will also be informed that a positive case has been identified although it will be clear that your child has not been a close contact of the identified case.

5. Social Distancing

To reduce the risk of transmitting the coronavirus in our school, social distancing measures will be implemented. We expect pupils to follow these rules; however, we understand that some pupils may be unable to fully understand social distancing principles, e.g. because of their age or needs. Staff will work with all pupils to ensure their safety and positively reinforce good social distancing behaviour.

We have implemented:

- One-way systems
- Desks and chairs in classrooms arranged to maintain space
- Staggered lunch and break times
- Signage and floor markings to encourage social distancing
- Year group bubbles.

6. Arrangements

To increase the effectiveness of social distancing with all staff and pupils attending school, we have made the decision to have children in year group bubbles.

Children will still work in their individual classes as much as possible but will be in year groups when they are on the playground, at lunch, music and assemblies. They will also share some year group resources.

- We will endeavour to ensure that individuals within a bubble do not mix with members of another bubble.
- Some staff may have to move between bubbles to deliver a full curriculum, assist classroom staff, deal with an emergency situation, to provide cover etc however they will ensure social distancing is maintained and robust hand washing procedures.
- Each bubble will have its own classrooms, learning areas and designated outdoor areas for breaktimes and PE lessons.
- Each bubble will have their own classroom and outdoor resources which will not be shared with other bubbles. These resources will be frequently cleaned.
- Desks and chairs will be forward facing and as far apart as possible. Furniture has been removed from certain classes to provide extra space.
- All children will be issued with their own stationery sets and will not be shared.
- Any equipment or resources that is shared with other bubbles will be thoroughly cleaned or taken out of use (for the 72 hours) before being used by another bubble.
- We request that pupils do not bring in non-essential items from home.
- Pupils will be able to take home books and resources from their class to aid with their education. When returned they will be taken out of circulation for 72 hours before they can be used by others in the bubble.
- To ensure that social distancing is maintained children will be accompanied to the toilet by a TA
- Tissues and hand washing facilities will be available in each class.

- Contact points and surfaces will be cleaned and sanitised regularly during the school day.

We request that your child only brings into school:

- A water bottle – which can be refilled in school
- Packed lunches (only if your child is not eating a school meal)
- A plastic bag to keep their mask in
- Essential medication and medical equipment
- Coats and other essential outdoor wear
- PE kit (to be worn to school on their PE day – this will be advised)
- School bag

7. Travelling to School

Pupils should walk or cycle to school or be dropped off by only 1 member of their household where possible.

Public transport should be avoided; however, if you need to use public transport to get to school, you should follow guidelines on social distancing and wearing protective clothing, e.g. face masks / face coverings. (see information below)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

8. Face Coverings / Masks

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

If your child wears a mask / face covering to school, when they arrive they will need to place re-usable ones in a plastic bag provided by yourself or if disposable place it in the bins provided)

9. Drop off and Pick Up

Drop off and pick up times will be staggered in order for us to adhere to social distancing guidelines as much as possible. We ask that pupils are dropped off or picked up by only one accompanying adult.

Parents / Carers will not be permitted to enter the school building or gather in groups within or outside of the school premises.

Children must follow the one-way system which has been set up.

The table below outlines class / bubble / year group / family start and finish times

	MORNING	BREAK	LUNCH	PLAYTIME	AFTERNOON BREAK	HOME TIME
		FRONT PLAYGROUND				
Nursery	8.50					3.50
Reception	8.30	9.45- 10.00	11.00- 11.30	11.30- 12.00	2.15 – 2.30	3.00
Year 1	8.40	10.05- 10.20	11.30- 12.00	12.00- 12.30	2.00-2.15	3.10
Year 2	8.50	10.25- 10.40	12.00- 12.30	12.30-1.00	2.35-2.50	3.20
		BACK PLAYGROUND				
Year 3	8.30	10.00- 10.15	12.30- 1.00	1.00-1.30	n/a	3.00
Year 4	8.40	10.15- 10.30	1.00- 1.30	12.30-1.00	n/a	3.10
Year 5	8.50	10.30- 11.00 (30 mins)	1.30- 1.45	1.00-1.30*	n/a	3.20
Year 6	9.00	11.00- 11.30 (30 mins)	1.45- 2.15	1.30-1.45*	n/a	3.30

CLASS	GATE	TIMES
Nursery	Nursery Gate	8.50-3.50
Ocean		8.30-3.00
Waterfall		8.40-3.10
Stream & Mangrove	Gate A	8.30-3.00
Storm & Cloud Class		8.40-3.10
Avalanche & Everest		8.50-3.20
Year 3	Gate B	8.30-3.00
Year 4		8.40-3.10
Year 5		8.50-3.20
Year 6		9.00-3.30

* For year 5 and 6 we will have a longer morning break to compensate for a 45 min lunch.

For parents who have more than one child please drop both / all children to the school at the earliest drop off time at the correct gate and collect at the latest collection time.

Please ensure that you drop and collect your children on time at the allocated gates this helps to ensure that social distancing can take place. Markers have been painted on the wall to maintain social distancing

When collecting your child please queue outside the school your child will be sent to you.

10. Uniform

We expect all our pupils to attend school in full uniform in the Autumn term. Uniform does not need to be washed or cleaned any more than normal. Uniform can be purchased from Wearabouts in Sydenham High St and can be ordered on line at <https://wearaboutsschoolwear.co.uk/>

11. Infection Control

Strict infection control measures are an important aspect of keeping all staff and pupils safe and healthy in our school. This means that we will be enforcing new rules to ensure that good hand and respiratory hygiene is consistently maintained.

We expect pupils to follow these rules; however, we understand that some pupils may be unable to fully understand infection control principles, e.g. if they are very young or have special educational needs.

Staff will work with all pupils to ensure their safety and positively reinforce good infection control behaviour where necessary.

Pupils will be instructed to wash their hands at various times during the day including

- On arrival
- After removal of their face mask / covering
- Before and after playtime
- Before and after lunch
- After using the toilet
- After coughing or sneezing
- If they change rooms (IT Suite, Art Room etc)

Pupils will wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water or use the sanitiser. Young pupils and pupils with educational needs will be supervised when doing this.

We have also enhanced our cleaning regimes to include additional cleaning / sanitising of classrooms, toilets, surfaces, contact points (door handles, switches, handrails, phones etc). Staff and visitors will also be required to follow stringent infection control measures.

We have disconnected all our water fountains but pupils will have access to drinking water in each classroom.

12. Food and Drink

Arrangements will be put in place to ensure mixing between bubbles is avoided during lunchtime. Lunchtimes will be taken in year groups as shown on the table above school meals will be eaten in the Dining room and packed lunches outside and in the dining room.

13. Visitors

Visitors are not permitted to come onto our school site without a prior appointment or if it is absolutely necessary, e.g. for essential building works or to provide essential support to a pupil – this also applies to parents. Parents that need to come into school will need to make an appointment first. Please call the school office if you wish to meet with a member of staff.

Meetings will only be held where absolutely necessary and ensuring social distancing.

14. Breakfast and After School Clubs

Extended services will return as normal 7.45am – Breakfast club and 3.00-6.00pm Wraparound

15. First Aid / Intimate Care

There have been significant changes to our first aid and intimate care procedures to ensure we have effective hygiene controls in place.

Additional personal protective equipment has been issued to staff and where possible social distancing will be maintained.

The accident / incident reporting procedure will remain unchanged.

If you are called to collect your child after an accident you will be called as normal but collection will take place at the gate

16. School Trips

The government has advised that school trips abroad and other overnight trips do not go ahead until further notice.

Our school is not currently planning or arranging any new school trips at this time.

17. Assemblies / Gatherings / Events

The government has advised that school do not hold full school assemblies at this time. We may hold year group / bubble assemblies, but no parents / carers will be invited. We will not be organising any in school events or gatherings for the foreseeable future this includes any PTA events.

Therefore all parent information meetings and workshops will take place virtually.

18. Curriculum

It is important that as a school we sharpen our focus on supporting pupils "health and wellbeing" and help them back into school life successfully.

We will:

- Increased outdoor learning, where possible
- Continue with PE lessons – noncontact sport and in groups from their bubble. Classes will be held outside where possible and children will need to come to school dressed in their PE kit.
- Music – Virtual classes will be held until
- Computing - This will take place in class using sanitised iPads
- Forest School – Will take place on a weekly basis, children will have to come in dressed ready for Forest school.

19. Behaviour

For our school to remain safe for pupils and staff to return, we have implemented additional rules with regards to social distancing and infection control.

Pupils will be expected to follow these rules however we understand that they may be difficult for the young pupils or those with additional educational / behavioural needs, so each situation will be considered individually.

We will expect pupils to:

- Partake in additional hand washing.
- Not to behave in anyway that puts others at risk
- Maintain social distancing where possible.
- Not mix with other pupils from different bubbles (with the exception of siblings / family bubble)
- Adhere to all the classroom / bubble hygiene rules

20. Clinically Vulnerable

If your child is considered clinically vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable, was previously 'shielding', or lives with somebody who was shielding, they are **now** able to return to school.

If your child is considered clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable, you may wish to contact your child's GP to discuss whether additional safety measures need to be put in place to ensure it is safe for them to attend school.

If, after speaking with their GP, you decide that your child will need additional safety measures in place to attend school safely, e.g. wearing a face covering, please contact the headteacher via the school office.

21. A message from TFL

Some of our families use buses to get to school. Buses are the most common transport mode for school children and are likely to see the biggest increase in demand as schools return.

To help manage this, Bus Operations are introducing changes to buses during term time on weekdays from 07:30-09:30 and 14:30-16:30 that will help with safe travel:

- dedicating a number of existing buses for school travel only on routes with a frequent service that are likely to be the busiest. These buses will have clear signs to differentiate them from regular bus services and information will be posted at bus stops and [online](#)
- adding over 200 extra dedicated School Service buses on some of the busiest routes with less frequent services. This includes adding buses to existing school bus services.
- These measures have been prioritised for [routes](#) on which students travel longer distances

[Check to see if your route is affected](#) or [view a full list of bus routes affected](#).

[Watch our video to see what other changes we have made to our buses](#) that help safe and sustainable travel.

Travelling back to school this March

We are working to get London moving and working again, safely and sustainably, as quickly as possible. As part of this, we are providing travel advice to teaching professionals, parents, guardians and students to help prepare travel plans for when schools reopen. We are asking parents and students to:

- Walk, cycle or scoot wherever possible. Consider using 'walking buses', a supervised group of children being walked to, or from, school

- Use local Streetspace improvements, which include widened footpaths and cycle lanes, to help maintain social distancing when travelling
- Avoid busy stations and interchanges, if using public transport. Please plan ahead and allow more time for your journey as travelling at the busiest times may take longer than it would normally to complete your journey to school. To help with this, please check tfl.gov.uk
- Follow the advice on maintaining social distancing and act on the instructions of hardworking TfL staff, who are there to help prevent crowding on the transport network
- If using public transport, or taxi and private hire services, you must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth. This does not apply to children under the age of 11. For more details please see: <https://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/face-coverings>. We're also asking people to carry hand sanitiser and wash their hands before and after they travel

Our travel advice is updated in line with the Government's latest guidance. We'd encourage you to check regularly for updates at: tfl.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Twitter and social media

To help with your back-to-school travel plans this March, check out TfL's latest travel advice on:

- Busiest times
- Service levels
- Safety
- Hygiene

Read this guidance at: tfl.gov.uk/coronavirus

Yours sincerely,

Claire Mann
Director of Bus Operations

22. COVID Resources for Parents:

Returning to school: What Parents need to Know:

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools-/resources/parents-leaflets/>

Travel abroad guidance

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/stay-alert-to-stay-safe/resources/>

Travel guidance for schools:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/schools-and-young-people/travel-guidance-for-schools?intcmp=63366>

Every Mind Matters: Looking after your mental health

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

COVID resources for Children:

Make It Count: Mental health is not extracurricular

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-schools-make-it-count>

The Recovery Curriculum –

<https://www.evidenceforlearning.net/recoverycurriculum/> A think piece and resources for helping children understand what has been happening, and allowing them space to adapt to the new patterns.

COVID resources for children

There are a range of resources for children and young people via e-bug https://e-bug.eu/eng_home.aspx?cc=eng&ss=1&t=Information%20about%20the%20Coronavirus