

Guidance on returning to Foresters in March 2021

You will be aware that the Government is expecting all children to return to school on March 8th. In the past few weeks, we have been meeting with staff to plan this.

To keep all children, staff and parents as safe as possible, we will be re-implementing the following measures that worked very successfully in the autumn term.

Rapid flow testing of adults at home

The Government has also said that all adults with school aged children can test themselves with a lateral flow test at home. Tests can be collected or delivered. Follow links below to find the nearest collection site or to order for delivery (this is only if you are unable to collect from a test site).

[COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://test-and-trace.nhs.uk)

Or

[Schools testing: Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Please note you should not use a rapid flow test if you have coronavirus symptoms.

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are the recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, arrange to have a PCR test if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a home self-sampling kit, a test site appointment or a test result.

Staggered start and end times to limit mixing

All classes will have a start and finish time to allow reduced numbers of children and parents in and outside of school. We would ask that as soon as you have dropped your child at the gate that you leave to allow as much social distancing as possible between adults and children.

We would also ask that parents allow their children to walk to class themselves to limit adults mixing on the school site.

Rowan, Cherry, Peach and Apple children can be taken to their class by **one** parent.

Staff will wear masks when at the gate,

Both the main entrance to the school and the side gate will be used for bringing and collecting children and an additional side gate will be used to try and ease any potential congestion.

Phase bubbles in school

Classes will be grouped in phase bubbles linked to their key stage:

Rowan, Cherry and Peach (EYFS)
Ash, Oak and Apple (KS1)
Willow, Pine and Larch (Lower KS2)
Sycamore, Beech and Maple (Upper KS2)

Staff will be assigned to these bubbles and only work within them to limit mixing.

We will undertake to keep these bubbles discreet from each other but there is acceptance from the Government that having brothers and sisters in different bubbles mean that there will be some links and but as long as we use our 'best endeavours' then this is acceptable.

All non-class based teachers and TAs (with the exception of Mrs Merritt, Mrs Caffrey, Miss Bricker and the office) will be assigned a bubble. Mrs Merritt and Mrs Caffrey will be assigned to a different bubble in the event that is cover required.

Playtimes and lunchtimes

There will be three sessions for playtime to allow separate bubbles to play safely. EYFS will continue with free flow.

Lunchtimes will be staggered and bubbles will eat at different times. No more than two bubbles will be in the playground at any one time and it will be split in two to allow the children to play separately.

Music and PE

Music and PE will continue but to avoid mixing, Mrs Ralton and Mrs Billin will continue to be reassigned to a bubble. Teachers and TAs, with the support of Mrs Ralton and Mrs Billin, will teach these subjects.

Children will not need to change for PE in this term so they do not need to bring a PE kit into school. For Year 2 and above, on the class PE day, the children can wear a tracksuit and trainers to school.

Limiting the spread and communication with teachers

One way of limiting the spread of the virus is to limit contact between adults and therefore we are asking parents not to come onto the school site. This means that children will leave their parent at the gate and walk to their class. Teachers will bring the children to the gate at the end of the day. As a positive, this promotes independence within our children.

If a parent wants to talk to a teacher they should communicate via email or class Dojo.

Again, to limit contact, no parent (or visitor) should enter the school site without permission. A phone call to the office is best under the current circumstances.

Staff will wear masks in communal areas of the school and where they are unable to social distance from other adults as per Government guidance.

Breakfast Club

Unfortunately we will not be running our breakfast club this term as this will affect the integrity of the bubbles. We will review this at Easter in light of the current situation with infections. The Magic Breakfast deliveries will continue until at least Easter.

Birthdays

We love birthdays at Foresters and understand how special the day is for children. If a child wants to bring some goodies in to share with the class, please can all cakes or sweets be individual wrapped.

Covid-19 Guidelines

Government guidelines have made it clear that they don't expect primary school children to social distance within their bubbles but there should be a rigorous focus on hygiene especially handwashing and catching sneezes (tissues and lidded bins are available in all classrooms and around the school). All children and adults will be expected to wash their hands when arriving at school, when coming in from outside and as usual before eating and after using the toilet. Sanitiser will be available in classrooms and around the school as well.

Government guidelines stipulate that primary aged children do not need to wear a facemask whilst in school so if your child wears one to come to school, they will need to have a sealable bag to store it safely and be able to remove it themselves.

Outside of the EYFS and Year 1, resources will not be shared and classrooms will be reorganised to have all children facing the front as per Government advice.

In the EYFS children will free flow inside and out as normal but resources will be cleaned daily or left 72 hours before being reused.

Classrooms and the school will be cleaned daily as before but we have specific areas of focus for the cleaning staff. All the school staff will continue to be vigilant with cleaning during the day and older children will clean their own space.

What happens if my child becomes ill with the virus?

We will ask the child to self-isolate and engage with the NHS 'track and trace' system which means they must be tested. If the test proves positive, you must tell the school immediately and then they must isolate for 10 days alongside all members of the family from the date of the onset of symptoms. The school will then take advice as to what needs to happen next for anyone who may have come into contact with your child. No other members of your household need to be tested unless they start displaying Covid-19 symptoms but must complete the 10 day isolation period.

If the test proves negative then inform school know and your child can return to school when they feel better unless anyone in the family is showing symptoms or has tested positive.

If your child has a medical condition which may affect their attendance

The Government have said that schooling will be compulsory again in March and if you have any concerns about your children returning due to a medical condition that makes them more vulnerable to Covid-19, please contact the school for further advice and reassurance. The Local Authority Medical Team and the school nurse will be able to offer advice on how children will be kept safe in school.

And Finally...

Daily online learning will stop from March 8th as children will be in school but teachers will still use the Google Drive to support children's homework. If a child has to self-isolate then we will use the Google Drive to share work for home learning.

I believe it is extremely important that parents understand how seriously we are taking the safety of our school community and this is not how Foresters normally runs. I ask for your support and understanding during these difficult times. Please feel free to contact me or other members of staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Together we will keep your child safe, happy, socialising and learning at school.