**Questions relating to the full opening of schools in September 2020**

**Frequently asked questions from parent survey**

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**‘Caring, curious, confident’**

**What are the main things I need to remember?**

* Follow Government Coronavirus infection control guidance
* Note staggered start times for the first two weeks of school:

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| * 8.50: Camelot and Blenheim enter via rear car park (Finish 3.15) * 9.00: Discovery, Gala and Maigold enter via front playground (Finish 3.05) * 9.15: Pippin enter via front playground (Finish 2.45) |

* Follow the new drop off and pick up arrangements
* Keep the flow going - no loitering. Maintain distance from other adults
* Children just need to bring a school bag, packed lunch (If not have school meal), water bottle and wear school uniform

**Do I have to send my child back to school in September 2020?**

School attendance will be compulsory again from the beginning of autumn term. This means that as a parent you have a duty to ensure that your child attends regularly and the school will be following its normal attendance procedures. We appreciate that many of you will still be anxious about sending your child back and we will endeavour to work with families to allay any concerns they have and provide the best support we can to rebuild the trust between school and home to ensure parents are confident in the measures we have put in place.

**What will stay the same and what will be different in September 2020?**

*Things that will remain the same in school include:*

* Our staff and friendly welcoming atmosphere
* Our buildings
* Our lunch provision
* A broad, engaging curriculum
* Reading books

*Things that will be different will be:*

* Start and finish times of the school day to enable staggered starts and finishes
* Parents will not be allowed inside the school unless they have a prearranged appointment
* Year groups will be in class “bubbles” and there will be minimal contact between bubbles. This means we are unable to hold things like collective worship all together in the hall (and sadly no singing). Children will play and move around the school in class bubbles and will have allocated toilet and handwashing facilities.
* Children will be required to wash their hands regularly
* Children will have their own stationery which they keep just for them
* Desks will be mainly facing forwards
* Most homework will be ‘on-line’
* Children will be asked to walk along the corridors on the left, keep a distance from others where possible and refrain from touching each other where possible. Play and PE activities will be ‘non-contact.’

**With regard to the staggered drop offs, why is there the need for this when the back gate are all going in together and all the front playground are going in together albeit at separate times?**

This helps us to manage and monitor new procedures. We aim to have ‘normal timings’ for all after the first 2 weeks. Of course, this will depend on many factors and the head teacher and governors will be monitoring this part of the school day very carefully.

**Will my child need to wear uniform?**

We will be asking for children to return in their school uniform. We have asked parents to ensure school shoes are comfortable for activities like ‘The Daily Mile’. On PE days (1 day a week) we ask that children come to school in their PE kit (Black jogging bottoms can be worn in colder weather).

**What does my child need to bring to school?**

It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials such as a named water bottle, lunchboxes, hats and coats. It is preferable to bring in plastic lunchboxes as these are easier to keep clean, but it is appreciated fabric lunchboxes are more easily purchased. They are allowed to bring in school / book bags. They do not need to bring in pencil cases or other stationery, as we will provide each pupil with their own bag containing everything they need and to limit the sharing of equipment. Ventilation in the school needs to be maintained, so windows and doors will need to remain open as often as possible, therefore, please could you ensure that the children have jumpers and coats in school with them especially on colder days. This will be important as we move further into September and October.

**What about PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) PPE?**

Staff and Pupils can wear PPE e.g. a face mask but this will need to be removed before they enter the school. Staff will have access to PPE if needed. Face shields, masks, aprons and gloves will be available in the first aid room if a child or member of staff is showing symptoms.

**Will my child be in a smaller class?**

No. The guidance is now focused around having “consistent” groups so your child will be in their normal class with the other pupils in that year group.

**Will classes be focusing on academics?**

Yes, there will be a focus on teaching and learning but there will also be a lot of work around building relationships and emotional well-being to reflect the different experiences that the children will have had during this time. We will be having ‘Well-being Wednesdays’ to focus on these aspects.

**How will I get my child back into the routine of school and learning?**

This is always difficult even after a normal summer holiday. Some suggestions: talk with your child about the return to school and the information in this letter; start adjusting bedtime and getting up routines now; re-establish reading routines, learning times tables etc (little and often). We appreciate that parents will be concerned about their child’s progress and learning, as well as their well-being. Although there will be new routines and procedures in school which will take up considerable timetable time, particularly in the first week, the teachers have planned an engaging curriculum to enthuse the children to get back to learning. In the second/third weeks there will be some assessments to find out where the gaps are- these are nothing to worry about but will ensure we are teaching to the needs of the pupils.

**I am worried that not everyone returning to school will have adhered to all the guidelines. How are risks reduced?**

Protective measures such as regular handwashing, using tissues for respiratory hygiene, keeping classes bubbles apart, increased ventilation and additional cleaning all contribute to reducing risks.

**Will wrap around care be on offer?**

We have been advised to delay the start of our after-school clubs provision until confidence has been raised. ‘Apple Trees’ will be offering its vital service of before and after-school care and we are working together to ensure that we are fully risk-assessing handover. Please see the website ([www.appletreesclub.co.uk](http://www.appletreesclub.co.uk/)) for more information or email [bookings@appletreesclub.co.uk](mailto:bookings@appletreesclub.co.uk) to book a place for your child at Apple Trees for September.  Initially places will be limited to 15 children per session and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

**I have a concern that I want to share with my child’s teacher but I understand I can’t do this face to face?**

Please email the school ([curryrivelprimary@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:curryrivelprimary@educ.somerset.gov.uk) ) ensuring that you state which teacher the message is for. You can also phone the school office to ask the class teacher to call you if you prefer. We appreciate that there is a wonderful family atmosphere here, and not being able to linger for chats is going to be hard for us all. You have been very complimentary about how we have kept you informed over the past term- continuing this will be vital. We will be organising a parents’ evening (even if we can’t do it face-to-face) during the first half term to help with this.

**What will happen if a there is a suspected COVID case in school?**

Schools must take swift action when they become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). Schools should contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools 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 work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools 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.

**Will you stick to the plan? Who will monitor the safety of everyone in the school?**

We will be working hard to adhere to all aspects of our risk assessments. The headteacher will liaise with staff, parents and pupils throughout each day, so as soon as we identify issues or aspects which need to be adjusted to improve our practice, we can action this. In the summer term, we were constantly reflecting and improving procedures and practice, and will be doing the same when our whole school family returns. We are well aware that we have to be alert and responsive as we will not get everything right straight away. We have completed numerous risk assessments which take into account and follow the Government guidance. These risk assessments will be monitored by the Governing Body and Head teacher. These risk assessments will be updated regularly to ensure we are up to date with the latest Government guidance. We will continue to risk assess the situation on a daily basis and make the most appropriate decisions. For further information please see the DFE link / guidance for parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>