

Cupernham Infant School

Together we care, we learn and we achieve

Headteacher: Mr Duncan Wells BA (Hons) QTS, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Jen Turski BA (Hons) QTS



Friday 27th August 2021

Arrangements for September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your child/children have had an enjoyable and safe summer break. We are very excited about coming back to school and hope that you and your families are well. Thursday 2nd September is an INSET day for us, as previously communicated, therefore we look forward to welcoming the children back into school on **Friday 3rd September for Year 1 & 2 and Monday 6th September for Yr.R.**

The purpose of this letter is to outline some of the practicalities that you need to know for the start of term. We have reviewed the updated government guidance and revised our risk assessment and procedures. Please take the time to read through this information with your child/children ahead of them returning to school as there are some key changes from how the school operated last term. These arrangements are fully aligned with Government guidance and adjusted where necessary according to the specific context of our school.

From 19th July, there has been a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. The government states:

"As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September".

The key messages are:

- nationally, education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory (for schools). This means it's your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly
- the [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](#) has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only
- staff will continue to take regular rapid tests to identify infections early and reduce transmission
- the school will no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- your child does not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')

In school, our risk assessment is based on the four main control measures stated in the current guidance:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone. Children will continue to wash their hands and sanitise regularly during the day.

Bransley Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7JT

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2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes. Additional cleaning will continue to be in place within the classrooms and additional cleaning of communal areas will take place within the school day.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated. Classrooms will continue to be ventilated throughout the day.
4. The school will continue to follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They **should not come into school if they have symptoms**, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

Guidance states that 'if anyone in your school develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, you should send home and they should follow public health advice.

As you may be aware, schools are no longer involved in contact tracing. From 19th July, as with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. As parents or carers, you may be contacted to help with identifying close contacts. More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know>

Additional Information

Attendance

The guidance makes it clear that **attendance at school will continue to be mandatory** and parents/carers will have a legal duty to ensure their child attends. We will follow our normal protocol for following up on non-attendance-which **could** include being fined. All clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.

We understand that there may inevitably be increased anxiety and that some parents may have some particular concerns relating to their own circumstances. In such a case, please contact the school to discuss these worries with a member of staff.

Travelling to and from school

Please continue to encourage your child to walk to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so. Please continue to not congregate at the school gate to ensure that free-flow of movement is maintained.

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Car Parking

To ensure the safety of all children as they enter the site, the car park immediately outside the school gates will **remain unavailable for parents and carers**. Staff who do not start their school day until 8.30am will be parking in the car park outside of the school gates. We ask that you continue to make arrangements so that you do not need to access this car park.

What time shall I bring my child to school and pick them up?

We will no longer have staggered start and finish times. School starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3.20pm. Children will be dropped off and collect outside the classroom door. Year R children will be dropped off and collected by the wooden gates of the Yr. R area on the playground.

The small gate used last academic year next to the park, will no longer be in use. Therefore, the main gate and small gate on the playground are to be used for dropping off and picking up.

Children from the junior school will be accessing the main gate from 8.40am so we ask that you bring the children onto the playground after this time to encourage a 'free flow' through the gates. Also, to ensure the safety of all children as they enter the site, the car park immediately outside the main gate will not be available to parents and carers.

Staff who do not start their day until 8.30 will be parking in the car park outside the school gates. We ask that you continue to make arrangements so that you do not need to access this car park.

Wraparound Care:

Breakfast Club and After School Club will resume normal operations and times. Please continue to drop off your children at the normal entrance. Children attending our After School club will now need to be collected from our Library, situated near Year 1 and our new outdoor classroom.

How will I get a message to class teachers?

We would like to encourage you to continue with emailing our office if you have a message for a member of staff. From 08.50am, staff are engaging and teaching children so this is a more efficient way of getting information to your class teacher. Please email adminoffice@cupernham-inf.hants.sch.uk before school, during the day or after school if you want to leave a message about anything. Office staff will pass these on to the relevant staff as quickly as possible.

Class bubbles/Playtimes and Lunchtimes

We will be moving away from class bubbles, in line with government guidance. Children will therefore be able to play with other children at playtime and lunchtime.

Assemblies:

We are delighted to announce that whole school assemblies will be back and we look forward to coming together once again for this special time.

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Lunch

We will return to pre-Covid service provided by HC3S. Children will eat together in the hall. A healthy snack at breaktime will continue to be provided for all children.

Library books

The use of the Library, library books and reading books will resume and children are asked to bring their Book Bags into school with them everyday.

Water bottle and coats

Please can we make sure that children bring a water bottle into everyday along with a coat.

PE

We would like children to continue to bring their PE kits into school, which will be kept in school. If these could be brought into school on Monday 6th September for all year groups, that would be great.

Contact details

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date. If you have changed any of your details, please let the school office know – thank you.

As always, the children's well-being remains paramount and we will continue to ensure that children settle back quickly into school life in a safe and happy manner. We are looking forward to seeing you all soon. Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Wells', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Mr. Duncan Wells, Headteacher.

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