

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are thrilled to be welcoming all of the children back to school from Monday 8th March.

I would like to share our re-opening plans with you today, with the hope that it will give you all time to consider the details and for any questions you may have to be responded to. This might seem a little bit daunting initially, but I hope that we can return to some form of routine which will help the children enormously both emotionally and academically. Although numbers are falling and the success of the vaccine roll out are extremely positive indications, we do still need to have COVID safety measures in place for the foreseeable future as outlined in this letter. Our parents have been amazing at supporting the school to try to keep things as safe as they can possibly be and hopefully be sticking to the guidance we will be able to keep our school safe and open to all pupils.

1. Drop off

The school gate will be opened from 8.45 - 9.00. Please distance outside the gate if you are waiting. The children will go straight into their classrooms on arrival at school using the external classroom doors.

There will be a one way system, with the entrance to the school being the playground gate. Parents will then be required to walk around the school to exit through the main entrance gate.

To keep that system flowing, we ask that parents do not try to speak to staff at this point. I know this goes against our usual open door practice and hopefully we will be able to get back to that once we have moved through this period. Parents are asked to contact the school by telephone and leave a message or ask for a member of staff to call back.

Pick up

Once again there will be a one way system, with the entrance to the school being the playground gate. Parents will then be required to walk around the school to exit through the main entrance gate. Parents will not be able to exit through the playground gate.

Again, we will need to keep the system flowing and therefore ask that parents do not ask to speak to a member of staff at this point but please ring the school to arrange a telephone call.

We will have staggered pick up times to ensure less congestion on the school site.

Reception class	3.05	Leave via Reception external door.
3.15	Year 2 Year 6	Leave via classroom external doors
3.20	Year 5 Year 1	Leave via classroom external doors
3.25	Year 4 Year 3	Leave via classroom external door Leave via KS1 cloakroom door to avoid blocking route out of school

Please STICK to your allocated times as this ensures that there is not a build of people outside the school gates or on the school premises at one time.

All entry and exit doors will be manned for the whole drop off and pick up time to enable multiple children families to drop off and pick up. Please pick up children in order of one way system e.g. child in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 - collect Year 1 child, then Year 4 child and finally Year 2 child as that is the order of the classrooms.

2. Parents on site

We ask that parents follow the following guidance in order to maintain social distancing;

- Only one parent for drop off and pick up per family please at any one time if at all possible
- Please do not sit on the playground furniture or use the gazebos
- Parents will not be able to come into the school building without a prior appointment time
- Please stick to your allocated drop off/pick up times
- Please keep to the one way system to drop off and collect your child/children and keep the flow moving to avoid pinch points
- Please stick to social distancing.

I understand that the information laid out in this document may seem rigid and is not the usual Sowe Valley way of working, however the school has been tasked with not “contaminating bubbles”, and with keeping everyone safe. Once the guidance eases, we will be able to return to our normal ways and we can’t wait!

3. Bubbles

Children will stay in their ‘class bubbles’ throughout the day. They will eat their lunches and spend playtimes with their year group so that the bubbles do not mix. Playtimes have been staggered to facilitate this.

4. Assemblies

Assemblies will continue but will take place over Microsoft Teams as children will not be able to gather in large groups.

5. Hygiene measures

Handwashing is still the main preventative measure, and children will be instructed to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. All areas used will be cleaned at the end of each day as usual, but we have put in additional cleaning at lunchtime and each class will have their own cleaning materials so that if surfaces or touch-points need cleaning during the day, there are resources available to do so. All rooms that will be used have windows that enable good ventilation, and will be kept open as much as possible. Classroom doors will be kept open as well to maintain good circulation. Staff have been provided with PPE equipment to be used only when needed

(such as supporting with intimate care or for delivering First Aid). Staff may wear disposable aprons, gloves and a clear visor during First Aid treatments.

6. Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

All before and after school clubs have been cancelled initially whilst we look into staffing and areas

Once the children are back in school, we will be looking into starting this provision up as soon as we can, as we fully appreciate that this may be difficult for some of our working parents.

7. Lunches

School lunches will be in place as usual. Sarah, our cook will be serving these to each class individually. Most classes will eat their lunch in their classrooms. Reception will eat in the school hall.

8. School Uniform

The advice is that we can return to school uniform now please.

9. PE

We need to avoid the children changing for PE initially and therefore ask children to come to school in their winter season PE kit (joggers, sweatshirts, trainers) on allocated PE days. The children will be told when their allocated day is. The children will not need to attend in their PE kit during the first week.

10. Staying away from school

Any member of the school community (pupils, staff and other adults) should not come into school if:

- They have developed [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#) at home
- They have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in the last 7 days
- They are in a household with individuals who have been tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in the last 10 days.
- They have been contacted through the NHS Test and Trace programme and been advised to stay at home.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature whilst at school they will immediately be moved to the First Aid room and parents will be called to arrange for immediate collection. Children will be supervised from a 2m distance where possible whilst awaiting collection. However, where the 2m distancing guidance cannot be observed if a child needs further help and support, staff will wear PPE equipment.

When a child develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and you will be advised to self-isolate them for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 10 days. Any staff or children that display symptoms should take a test as soon as possible.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> or phoning 119.

Test results should be reported to the school as soon as possible. Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and household members can end their self-isolation

Where a child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group will be advised to self-isolate for 10 days.

11. Lateral Flow Testing - we have been asked by the Local Authority to encourage parents to have their children complete regular Lateral Flow Testing. This is entirely at parents discretion but may prove another protective layer in the fight against COVID.

Thank you for reading all of this information. As a school, we are confident that our plan is the safest for all, and are looking forward to inviting children back to school so they can get back to learning together, laughing and achieving together.

Can I finish by saying that, although life is still going to be a little strange as we bring our lovely school through these uncertain times, our ethos remains the same. We will always put our children first – their safety and the safety of our families is crucial. These are just the first steps as we move out of a very challenging and uncertain time. Hopefully, as there is more confidence that the country is recovering, we will be able to return to more normality however, in the meantime, it will be absolutely fantastic to have the children in school again and to take those first steps together.