

Full opening of Robertswood – September 2020

Questions and Answers for Parents and Carers*

****Subject to updates to guidance on 11th August 2020***

Q) What has changed?

A) From September, we have been instructed to welcome back all children from Nursery to Year 6. School will still be open for full time places in Reception to Year 6. Nursery children will attend for the hours that have been confirmed by school.

Q) What provision is the school offering my child?

A) School will operate in year-group bubbles. This means children will work together and not come into contact with other year-group bubbles. Consistent members of staff will operate across different year-group bubbles. Resources will be limited in order that they can be easily cleaned and older children will have their own resources which they will be responsible for cleaning. It means that we do not need children to bring in additional resources such as pencil cases as trays will be stored under tables to minimise movement around the classroom. Children in year 1 to year 6 will have designated spaces at tables in order to maintain distance between each other and staff.

In addition, we do not have the toilets and sinks to implement the hygiene requirements set out in the government guidelines which means that year-group bubbles will be chaperoned to the toilets in order to reduce the chances of bumping into other bubbles.

Q) What is a 'bubble'?

A) We will be using the term bubble to explain how we will ensure that children do not mix with everyone.
A) The purpose of these bubbles is to reduce the chance of transmission between different groups of children and staff across the school. Children and staff are not expected to wear PPE but staff who work consistently closely with group of children in their bubble will have the chance to wear PPE.

Q) What will my child be taught?

A) The children will be following the various schemes of work associated with each subject that we operate in school. Staff will also be assessing children to reveal what aspects of work need to be caught-up, focussing on skills associated with English and Mathematics. Most producers of the schemes have provided programme catch-up sessions which will be suitable for catching children up on learning opportunities missed. However, a complete curriculum will be available for children with adaptations for purpose of maintaining social distancing within bubbles. P.E, for example, will be limited activity outside as the hall will not be in operation until further updates to guidance are received.

Q) How will the children in Nursery and Reception carry out their learning?

A) The children will continue to learn both inside and outside the classroom as they have done previously. There will be a greater emphasis on outdoor learning. When inside the classroom the children will either be working with an adult or on activities at tables/different areas of the classroom. Limited numbers of children will be able to be at a table/in an area at any time.

Q) How will the resources being used in Nursery and Reception be different to what the children been used to previously?

A) Most of the equipment will be the same, however, the children will not have access to sand, playdough (or any other malleable materials) or any equipment that has fabric as a basis such as dressing up clothes. Equipment shared between the bubble will be cleaned regularly. This includes art and craft resources such as scissors and paint brushes.

Q) Will my child be able to attend Breakfast Club? Will any After-School Clubs be running?

A) No, Breakfast Club isn't open at the moment. After-School Clubs will not be running until at least half term. Unfortunately, the nature of any given club means that children from multiple bubbles attend which is contrary to the current guidance. The intention is to open up clubs before half-term when updated guidance allows us to do so.

Q) What should my child wear to school?

A) Children need to wear school uniform including shoes school as per the [school's uniform policy](#). On the days that children have P.E, they will be expected to come into school in the [school P.E. kit](#) and they can wear trainers. We are not storing P.E. kits in school in order to keep corridors and shared areas as clear as possible and reduce the movement of children into cloakrooms and there will not be the space in the classrooms.

Q) Will my child have hot lunches?

A) No. Children will be eating their lunch in their classrooms so they will need a packed lunch. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be offered a grab bag under their entitlement to a subsidised lunch. Children from year 3 – year 6 are able to purchase a grab bag. All lunches will be collected by staff from a central location in school.

Q) What are the procedures at lunch times?

A) Lunch times will be staggered. Children will eat their lunch in their classroom so that they can remain in their own bubble. They will then have 30 minutes outside for their designated playtime.

Q) What are the procedures at break times?

A) Children will wash their hands when going to break/lunch and on re-entry to school. Playground doors will be propped open during break time. Playgrounds will be zoned so that bubbles will play together and remain separated from other bubbles by extensive fencing. Break times will be staggered to enable children from the year-group bubble to play in their own designated playground. Children will be told not to touch each other and to stay apart during break times. During wet break, children will stay at their own desk and do something quietly or watch a film.

Q) What happens when my child needs the toilet?

A) The children will use assigned toilets but will be accompanied by an adult to ensure that children from different bubbles are not in the toilets at the same time.

Q) How will first aid be carried out?

A) There will be first aid stations across the school.

Q) Can my child wear a face mask?

A) We are not asking the children to wear face masks in school, the Government document states this is not recommended. Children may want to use them on a voluntary basis but clean masks must be used each day. If children want to remove their masks, these will need to be stored in a plastic bag, supplied by parents, and children will need to know how to put them on independently.

Q) Will staff be wearing PPE?

A) We are not asking the staff to wear face masks or any form of PPE in school, the Government document states this is not recommended. However, they will be used in certain 'close contact' situations by staff. Staff may want to use them on a voluntary basis but clean masks must be used each day.

Q) How often will the school be cleaned?

A) The school will be cleaned every evening. Throughout the day we will wipe down table surfaces / touch points and equipment. Hand sanitiser is available and all adults and children will be washing their hands regularly with soap and water following the government 20 second rule. The school will be 'fogged' once a week.

Q) Will the children in Year 1 - Year 6 be sharing stationery?

A) No, we will be providing children with a set of equipment. It will stay in their drawer which will be kept on their designated desk. Children will clean their equipment throughout the day including their table and chair. Children should not bring their own stationery to school.

Q) What will children need to bring to school?

A) A lunch box and drink - if a lunch hasn't been ordered. These will be stored on lunch trolleys until their designated time for eating.

A) Children in Reception need to bring in a book bag in order to carry books and other items such as homework.

A) Children in Year 1 – 6 should bring a book bag / small bag - it needs to be small as it will be stored in their trays or under desks.

A) A coat – if applicable – which will be stored on the back of chairs in year 1 to year 6 or in a limited cloakroom in Nursery and Reception.

A) What comes into school needs to be limited as there isn't the space to store it given the restrictions on movement around school.

Q) How will I collect and drop off my child?

A) The children will be asked to arrive and leave at different times. Details of these arrangements are below.

- Nursery 8:30 – 3:30 (drop-off#4) - **mid-morning** collection/drop-off: use drop-off point 5
- Reception 8:40 – 3:00 (drop-off#1) - except for Thursday 3rd September – 14th September
- Year 1 8:50 – 3:10 (drop-off#1)
- Year 2 8:40 – 3:10 (drop-off#2)
- Year 3 8:50 – 3:20 (drop-off#2)
- Year 4 8:40 – 3:20 (drop-off#5)
- Year 5 8:40 – 3:20 (drop-off#3) (Year 5 should be collected from drop-off#1)
- Year 6 8:50 – 3:20 (drop-off#5) (Year 6 should be collected from drop-off#3)

A one-way system will be in operation in order for parents to drop-off and collect in a way that adheres to distancing measures. The staggered start and collection means that children can go straight into classes and reduces the chances of coming across children from other bubbles.

Drop-off and collection points

Drop-off point 1 - is located at the blue gates which can be accessed via the one-way system from the wooden gates onto the site. (This is the usual way into the main school)

Drop-off point 2 - is located at gates at the end of the staff car park. You can access this drop-off point through the main gates of the staff car-park.

Drop-off point 3 - is located at the pedestrian gate down from Nursery's entrance in West Hyde Lane. It is opposite the entrance to the school field.

Drop-off point 4 - is located at gates at the end of the staff car park. You can access this drop-off point through the front door of Cheena house through the car park. Mrs Everett will be there to greet you.

Drop-off point 5 – is located through the nursery gate entrance on West Hyde Lane. Children will access their classroom via the side doors.

Only one parent should attend to drop-off and collect children and any siblings due at another drop-off should stay close to parents until then.

Q) Can I visit the school office?

A) Parents are not to visit the school or office unless they are collecting work / or in an emergency and by prior arrangement. We must reduce the number of visitors to the school. Please email or telephone the office.

Q) What happens if a child shows symptoms of COVID-19?

A) The school has an identified isolation area, where any children showing symptoms will have to be placed. Parents will be contacted to collect their child immediately. Staff looking after a child showing symptoms will wear a form of PPE when interacting with the child, but interactions will have to be limited for any child that needs to be isolated. The school will notify other parents that someone has shown symptoms. The classroom will be deep cleaned. The government has said that children will now be eligible for testing and we would encourage you to request a test if they show symptoms.

Q) Will school engage with the NHS Test and Trace Scheme?

A) Yes. Schools must ensure they understand the NHS Test and Trace process and how to contact their local [Public Health England Health Protection Team](#). Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

The government will ensure that it is as easy as possible to get a test through a wide range of routes that are locally accessible, fast and convenient. We will release more details on new testing avenues as and when they become available and will work with schools so they understand what the quickest and easiest way is to get a test. By the Autumn term, all schools will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that they can give directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at school, where they think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. Advice will be provided alongside these kits.

Schools should ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

Q) What happens if a child tests positive for Covid-19?

- A) if someone tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

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 carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

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. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home. To support them in doing so, we recommend schools keep a record of pupils and staff in each group, and any close contact that takes places between children and staff in different groups (see [section 5 of system of control](#) for more on grouping pupils). This should be a proportionate recording process. Schools do not need to ask pupils to record everyone they have spent time with each day or ask staff to keep definitive records in a way that is overly burdensome.

A template letter will be provided to schools, on the advice of the health protection team, to send to parents and staff if needed. Schools must not share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#). They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#)

Schools should not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation.

Q) What happens if there is an outbreak at school?

A) If schools have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, they may have an outbreak, and must continue to work with their local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group. If schools are implementing controls from this list, addressing the risks they have identified and therefore reducing transmission risks, whole school closure based on cases within the school will not generally be necessary, and should not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.

In consultation with the local Director of Public Health, where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person’s class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary, in line with routine public health outbreak control practice.

Q) Does my child have to attend school?

A) Yes. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the Autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Q) What about children who are shielding or self-isolating?

A) There will be far fewer children and young people advised to shield whenever community transmission rates are high. Therefore, the majority of pupils will be able to return to school. You should note, however, that:

- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Read the [current advice on shielding](#)
- if rates of the virus rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent.
- some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, schools are expected to be able to immediately offer them access to remote education. Schools should monitor engagement with this activity.

Where children to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

Q) What can I do to help get my child ready to return to school?

- Talk about how all the adults are really looking forward to seeing them again. Links to videos for each teacher should have been sent to families to familiarise themselves with their new teacher.
- Practice thorough hand washing and reinforce toilet etiquette.
- Teach your child how to sneeze and cough into a tissue that can then be thrown away. Use the slogan – 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'

Q) What can I do as a parent to help the school?

- All these new procedures have been put in place to ensure the safety for everyone. Please can you ensure that you follow this guidance at all times.
- Please do not send your child into school if anyone in your household are showing any symptoms of Covid-19 (new persistent cough, high temperature, tiredness and/or loss of taste).
- Please inform the school office as necessary.