



Kingsleigh Primary School

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Where everyone can be great, not just good!

Dear Parent/Carers

Return to School September 2020 Update

I hope that you are all well and that you have had good summer holidays. I am very aware of the increasing number of uncertainties and questions amongst parent/carers both at KPS and nationally. I have received a number of emails regarding the start of term that contain questions about individual situations. Some of the broader queries from the emails and from a Facebook thread I have been made aware of, are clarified in the information below. With the school being closed for the summer, I know it is not an ideal time for such new systems to be introduced but they are a requirement. I think it is clear to see that the plan for schools returning in September is still very much subject to change and I, like you, watch the news and learn of new requirements of schools almost daily. Our plan for the start of term is based on the Government's guidance which was published in July and then briefly updated in early August and is still subject to change. As it stands, our plan for the new term has not changed and our previous communications still remain valid. Media hype will increase as we near the start of term so I urge you to email office@kingsleighprimary.co.uk if you have any questions or concerns that you would like answering.

I know that there is a desire for an outdoor, face to face meeting in advance of the new term to help clarify points and answer questions. Sadly, this is not permitted and I am not able to host an event that could be very large in its size and difficult to ensure social distancing expectations are followed by all. So as to remain the safest we can, I ask again that any questions are emailed and I will personally do my utmost to reply to them and hopefully offer some reassurances where needed. Using an online facility, like Zoom, will not offer a better solution as the school population is so big that questions would not be able to be asked effectively and answered in sufficient detail.

What will happen on day one?

On day one, we ask that you arrive at school at your allotted time and entrance. Staff and SLT will be highly visible and will be able to signpost you to the correct classroom. We are very aware that many families will be unsure where to go and so we will be there to support. We have allocated times and gates based on surnames to try to avoid the significant disruption that would occur by organising it by year groups. Many schools are putting in place rigid gates/times that can be different for each sibling. Some schools are also not allowing any parents/carers on site and children must line up at the external school gates. I feel our system is very safe and limits the impact as much as possible. To clarify, a staggered start and end to the day, is an absolute essential requirement for a school as large as KPS and in such close proximity to a secondary school. The staggered start and end times will be carefully managed by teachers and it will not have any negative impact on children's learning. The start and end of the days will be used as ideal opportunities for welfare/pastoral check-ins and for teachers to address individuals and any gaps in their learning.

On the first day your child needs to be in their school uniform and bring with them the items listed in our July letter. A pencil case, water bottle and lunch in a disposable bag. These items can be carried in a back pack if required. We have asked that lunch is not brought into school in lunch boxes as we are trying to reduce the number of items in school, limit the amount of lost property items and ensure classroom surfaces are as clear as possible so that they can be easily cleaned throughout the day. This system will be regularly reviewed to ensure it is effective and serves a purpose.

Vital: On the first day, or first day or two, if you forget something, arrive late/early/through the wrong gate please don't worry. This is new for all of us and we are all in it together. Our priority on day one and week one is to settle everyone back into school and ensure that we are all feeling safe, happy and relaxed with school life. Teachers will confirm on the first day back exactly what days your child has PE/Games and what kit needs to be worn into school and when. On day one everyone can attend school in school uniform. The fruit snacks will also be re-starting in the first week once our delivery is received. On day one please send a suitable snack in for your child if you wish too.

How will the class bubbles work?

Classes will work as individual bubbles throughout the day to limit the amount of mixing that occurs in school normally between staff and pupils. By having class bubbles, any confirmed COVID-19 cases will have a much smaller impact on the school community. This includes break and lunchtimes.

What happens if a child has symptoms?

As per the published Government guidance, children that display symptoms at home must be kept off school. If there is a confirmed case, then the track and trace system will come into effect and all affected families will be notified as to what action is needed. This new way of life clearly has the potential to be disruptive to school life and family life but, until we start working under these systems, I cannot predict exactly how disruptive it will become. Learning will be provided for all children who are required to isolate from school.

Do children need to be tested if they show symptoms and prove any testing results before they come back to school?

Yes, this is an expectation of all children and families nationwide. The school will then await the outcome before being advised how to proceed further. To clarify, the school will not be completing any tests in school at any point. We will have a small number of home testing kits available should a family have difficulties attending an official testing site.

If a child presents with symptoms does that mean the bubble is shut down for 14 days for every occurrence?

If there are confirmed cases within bubbles then there is likely to be the need to have the bubble out of school. Exact details and requirements would be shared as and when this situation arises. A bubble won't shut if there are symptoms displayed, they will only be potentially closed with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Should parents wear masks on the grounds when dropping off and collecting children (because we feel they should as the surrounding pavements are narrow and social distancing cannot take place with that many children around)?

Currently this is not expected of primary schools but could still change. Families are welcome to wear masks to and from school but I am not permitted to insist on them at present, either on school grounds or in neighbouring roads as this is outside of government guidelines for the wearing of face masks in public. Guidance on face masks has changed significantly since July and so further changes may still occur. The staggered start and finish times are in place to reduce the volume of people at any one time in any area in or around the school site.

I really do appreciate the volume of information associated with this years start to the year. At the start of lock down we adapted quickly as a school and made it successful for all. I know again that the school and the schism community will once again rise to the challenge of the new term.

Best wishes to you and your families and thank you for your ongoing support and resilience.

Mr J Lumber

Headteacher

Kingsleigh Primary School



