

Covid-19 FAQs

Can you guarantee that my child will be 2 metres away from others at all times and that social distancing will be enforced?

We will not be able to implement the social distancing measures that we recognise and have come to expect in the wider community. Our school buildings, and the very nature of children's behaviour, will not allow such measures to be put in place.

We will, of course, do our best to separate children as much as possible.

We are awaiting further Government guidance as to how we will be able to open safely. Once this has been received, we will write to you with further details of the measures we will be taking.

Why are Year 6 children expected to return? As a Middle School, should you not be open for Year 8 children?

I (*and many of my Headteacher colleagues at local and national level*) have pressed decision makers to consider schools who do not fit into the two tier system.

At the time of writing I have had no response.

It has been decided that Year 6 children should return, we therefore have to comply with that decision.

When my child returns to school, will they be taught as normal?

Our initial planning is that the curriculum currently in place will form the basis of our provision.

Children will be taught in smaller groups, often by non-specialist staff.

We will minimise movement as much as possible during the school day. However, we will not be able to manage movement, or provide the necessary rooms, to ensure children are always 2 metres apart.

I will send more details once I receive further advice and guidance.

How will you manage lunchtimes?

We will not be able to safely open the school kitchens.

All children must bring their own packed lunch which will be eaten in separate rooms and/or outside. (Those children in receipt of Free School Meals will have a packed lunch provided)

Will breakfast club be open?

Breakfast club will be open as a supervised area for children of key workers only. No food or drink will be on sale.

Will you continue to provide online home learning activities?

We will continue to set home learning activities.

However, as all staff will be expected to be in school when we re-open, (they will be teaching small classes of pupils), it will not be possible to maintain the same level of personal interaction that we have established.

I am conscious of the need to adjust our provision as a result of your recent feedback. I am also acutely aware of the wellbeing of our pupils.

We will be writing to you shortly with updates for both our curricular provision and pastoral support and guidance.

This of course may change as we receive further information from central Government.

My Y8 child is due to leave, how and when will they start their induction?

As you can imagine, we work very closely with Codsall High School. Mrs Davison has had recent, lengthy discussions with Mrs Davies (who oversees induction into Year 9.) These discussions are ongoing.

I am in communication with Mr Harding and we will agree next steps once we have further Government guidance.

After half-term, we will be suggesting that Year 8 pupils only complete home learning activities relevant to the options and core subjects they will be studying in Year 9.

Further details of our expectations will be communicated in writing over the next few days.

Will extra-curricular clubs run?

No

Will the school office be open?

The school office will be open.

I would ask that you communicate wherever possible by email. If you must visit reception please ensure only 1 adult enters at a time and be aware that the glass partition will be kept closed.

Will I be penalised if I do not send my child into school?

We await direction from the DfE.

Once school re-opens, will key worker children from other year groups still be able to attend?

Yes, we will continue to be open for both key worker and vulnerable children from all year groups.

These children will continue to work as a separate group, (although if they are in Year 6 they will join the rest of their peers)

Will you continue to set home based work for Year 6 pupils?

Yes. We will continue to set work for all year groups.

We will shortly be writing to update all parents re. the adjustments we will be making to our home based learning provision.

Will breakfast club be open?

Breakfast club will be open. However, as the kitchens are closed, it will be in place as a supervised area for any children who need to arrive at 8.00am. It cannot be used as "drop in" centre for children arriving after 8.05am.

On arrival, please remind your child that they must wait outside reception and observe common sense social distancing behaviour.

When my child returns to school, will they be taught as normal?

This will not be possible. The government advice is clear that we must significantly reduce movement and contact in school.

- On return, pupils will be in groups of no more than 15 pupils, these will be based on current tutor groups.
- They will follow what you might recognise as a "primary model", ie they will stay in that group, in the same room all day. They will be allocated the same desk each day. Each room will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of every day.
- They will be undertaking the work that is currently being set remotely. There are a number of reasons for this. Most importantly, this will reduce the rotation of staff around different groups of pupils, as it will allow 1 member of staff to support each group on a daily basis, (although that member of staff will be different each day). This will also allow staff who are not in on that day to continue to provide support for the majority of our pupils who remain at home.

Will my child be expected to wear school uniform?

No

I appreciate you will need to wash their clothes every day on return. They will not need to attend in school uniform.

PLEASE NOTE: The above will be regularly updated and we will address any issues raised via the Covid19 email address (covid19@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk)