



## COALWAY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL

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3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year and a special welcome to our new families! We are really looking forward to seeing you and the children on Monday (Classes 3,4,5 and 6) or Tuesday (Classes 1 and 2) and are busy preparing the classrooms and planning for their return.

I hope you have all had a lovely Summer holiday and enjoyed time with family and friends. I shall send a full newsletter home at the end of next week but wanted to update you about a number of site arrangements you will need to be aware of for next week's return.

### Mixing & Bubbles:

- In line with the updated Government guidance from 16<sup>th</sup> August we are no longer required to maintain our year group bubbles and will be able to mix more widely across the school (for example at playtimes and lunchtime).
- However, bubbles may need to be reintroduced for a temporary period due to increased cases or 'outbreaks' within school.

**Self-isolation and contact tracing** changes significantly from September for children and adults;

### Contact tracing:

- Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace – school will no longer take on this role. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case/parent to identify close contacts.
- Contacts from school may be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the parent specifically identifies a child/adult as being a close contact.

### Self-isolation:

- **Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:**
  - they are fully vaccinated
  - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months (i.e. all of our pupils in school)
  - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
  - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- **Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.** (N.B. Please note that this should be a PCR, not a Lateral Flow Test).
- Staff who do not need to isolate, and children, who have been identified as close contacts will continue to attend school as normal (unless they have symptoms).
- If there is a local/school outbreak (a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in school), Public Health may advise school to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

### Face coverings:

- Face coverings are no longer required for adults so parents are not required to wear them at drop off/collection times, however, parents may wear them of their own choice if they would prefer to do so.
- Again, should there be a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in school, Public Health may advise that face coverings be temporarily re-introduced.



The main **COVID control measures** we will ensure are in place from September (as advised by the DfE) involve:

- Good hygiene and Cleaning practices;
- Ventilation; and
- Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed COVID-19 cases.

I would ask parents to remain vigilant in monitoring family members for COVID symptoms and keeping children at home and getting them PCR tested should they present with any of the 3 COVID symptoms. We will continue to contact parents during the school day should any child become ill with symptoms and ask that they be collected immediately. Our advice is as follows:

#### **If 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).
- If anyone in school develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.
- Everyone with symptoms should avoid using public transport and be collected by a member of their family or household.
- If a pupil is awaiting collection, they should be isolated (and supervised by one member of staff). A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation. Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary. Any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left.
- The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

Please remember:

#### **Remain very vigilant for symptoms:**

- Keep checking everyone in the household for coronavirus symptoms and react accordingly;
- Do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms, or come on to site yourself if you have either:
  - a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
  - a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
  - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.
- If a child/parent/family member in the household presents with any symptoms of coronavirus, check the NHS website and book a test as soon as possible. Do not go out or come to school.
- Keep school informed of reasons for absence and of test results. If the test results are negative, your child may return to school when they are feeling better. If the tests are positive, your child should self-isolate for 10 days. NHS test and trace will contact you and advice will be given.

#### **Hygiene, Cleaning and Ventilation**

Staff will continue to be vigilant in ensuring increased, regular hand washing, cleaning and hygiene practices and ensure plenty of ventilation throughout our working areas. We will continue to constantly put these daily safety measures in place for the children, in accordance with DfE advice. Regular hand washing, strict hygiene and cleaning practices have very much become our 'new way of working', measures such as these now being embedded in our day to day practice, with the

children responding well to them. We will spend time once again re-introducing and practicing these with the children when they come back to school next week.



### **Drop off and collection:**

- Parents are no longer required to wear a face covering at drop off/collection times but may choose to do so.
- Parents may enter and exit site through either entrance gate – Coalway Road or Holcot Road. A 2-way system will be in operation at each gate.
- All children in all classes should be dropped off between 8.50-9.00 a.m. Times will no longer be staggered. Parents should wait outside Classroom doors/gates until the Class teacher welcomes the children in to school.
- Collection time is 3.00 p.m. for all Classes.
- With increased numbers of parents collecting/dropping off children at one time on site, please provide plenty of space for others when passing on pavements and through gateways.
- Please don't arrive too early to reduce the amount of adults waiting and to avoid unnecessary congestion.
- Keep your child by your side whilst waiting at class designated areas and when on pathways.
- We would ask that you keep a safe distance from staff when they open classroom doors and avoid blocking entrances for the children entering their classrooms.
- Parents should also not expect to stop and talk at length to the Class teacher at these times, which will compromise social distancing for staff and for children arriving at classroom doorways (N.B. parents should email or telephone with important messages instead).
- Please use the roadway as a pathway or waiting space if necessary, to ensure appropriate social distancing is possible (N.B. no cars are allowed on site during drop off/collection times to make this possible and ensure everyone's safety) .

### **School Office Arrangements**

- As a continued safety measure, the School Office will remain working virtually this term. Please avoid entering the entrance foyer by the School Office unless absolutely necessary.
- Should you have any important messages or queries for staff please don't hesitate to continue to telephone or email the School Office directly. All queries should be directed to Mrs Nash or Mrs Edwards by telephone (01594 833457) or email [admin@coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@coalway-inf.gloucs.sch.uk).
- Any messages for Class teachers, the Headteacher, Family Support Worker (Lisa Mudway) or Special Needs Co-ordinator (Miss Roberts) should also be sent this way; staff will get back to you as soon as they can.
- If parents require uniform, please ring us beforehand so we can get your items ready for collection/ payment at an agreed designated time.
- If parents want to replace their child's water bottle, we can send water bottles directly to classrooms if parents ask us in advance and send the money into class in a sealed envelope, price £1.20.
- Medical forms (e.g. for asthmatic children) are available on the school website and should be completed and sent to the School Office via email wherever possible. (For legal and safety reasons, parents are required to complete and sign this short agreement form).
- Unfortunately, we are unable to administer any medicines (such as anti-biotics) to children at the current time due to COVID regulations. Parents will need to administer medicines out of school hours or telephone the Office directly to arrange to administer medicine themselves (outside of the building) if absolutely necessary.
- Parents should continue to contact the School Office directly with reasons for absence. Parents should expect to receive a telephone call or text from Mrs Nash or Mrs Edwards on their child's first day of absence if we have not received notification of a reason for absence.

## School Meals:

- Hot school meals will be available for children in Classes 3-6 from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September; parents will find details of this term's menu attached.
- The children will be having their dinner in the dining rooms once again rather than in their classrooms. Classes 1 and 2 will start by eating their lunch in their classrooms until they are fully settled in to school.

## Uniform:

- Please contact the School Office to place an order/arrange a time for collection if necessary.

## Items from Home:

- The children should only bring essential items to school each day, i.e. lunch boxes (in a bag if necessary), water bottles, reading bag, hats, coats.

## PE Days:

- As notified in July, we will be continuing our Class 'PE days' in school this year, starting the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> September.
- On these days the children will need to come to school dressed in PE kit that is suitable for them to work in both indoors and outside: We suggest joggers/leggings, sweatshirts/hoodies (no slogans please), trainers, a warm, waterproof coat, a hat and gloves.
- The children's PE days will be as follows:

Classes 1 and 2: Friday

Class 3: Wednesday

Class 4: Thursday

Class 5: Tuesday

Class 6: Monday



## Reading Books:

- It is our intention to return to using Reading books again this year for home reading.
- We hope to send Reading books home with your child next Friday so we would appreciate it if children in Classes 5 and 6 could bring in their book bags before then.
- Children in Classes 1-4 will receive a book bag from school.

I trust the above information provides you with any necessary information you may need for the start of term. Please don't hesitate to contact school if you have any further queries about your child's return to school on Monday or Tuesday.

Have a lovely weekend; we look forward to seeing everyone very soon!

Yours sincerely,



F. Hamilton

Headteacher