

Frequently Asked Questions from both Nursery & Year R Questionnaires

Thank you to Nursery and Year R parents who have responded to the questionnaire I sent out last week and for all your questions and concerns. Hopefully this frequently asked questions and answers will be helpful and answer most things. If you still have questions after this, please email and I will try and answer them.

1. How will social distancing be put in place for young children?

Would like to know more about the protocols which will be followed by children and staff.

Will the children in the small groups be interacting with each other or will they be keeping the 2 metre distance from each other?

We will not be able to adhere to the 2m social distancing rule in school.

The Department for Education (DfE) recognise that “young children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres from each other and staff.”

To reduce transmission risk, children and staff will only mix in their small consistent group. There will be up to 15 children in each class and consistent adults.

We will also:

- aim to avoid contact with anyone with symptoms,
- frequent hand cleaning and
- regular cleaning of settings and
- minimising contact with other groups and mixing

When the children are back in school, we will talk about new ‘rules’ during this time and explain what they can/can’t do e.g. keeping fingers out of mouths and away from faces.

2. What if one child touches a toy then another one picks it up straight after?

Any resources that cannot be cleaned easily will be removed from the classroom. All resources that can be, will be sprayed over night and then cleaned on a Friday. We will not be able to stop children touching toys that other children have used.

There is a recommendation that the children shouldn’t share books from the book corner, but I am afraid that if we get to that point, then it is going to be a really sad environment!! We will do what we feel is right to keep the children in each group safe.

We will be washing our hands very regularly.

3. Do they need to wear a mask and gloves or anything similar?

There is no requirement for the children or the adults to wear any gloves or masks.

4. What would happen if my child was upset/didn’t feel well etc? In other words situations where they would usually need a hug/physical contact?

Staff will do everything that is needed to ensure your child feels secure and will find lots of ways to help them if they are upset or feeling sad. Holding hands and then washing them would work and making them laugh if possible. But ultimately if only a hug works then it will be given as safely as possible.

5. Is there an opportunity to change our minds when we see how things are going?

If I send my child to school but find they are upset/unsettled/unhappy can I remove him until September?

Would we be able to come back later in the summer term instead of June?

Can they go back part time? E.g., 2 days a week or half days.

At the moment, we are able to continue with home-schooling as both parents are mostly working from home. In the unlikely event that both parents have to return to work on the same day, is it possible for our child to return to school on those days only? This may only be one or two days per week.

We will support every child coming back to school and give them the best care and emotional support we can. It is going to be very strange for children and adults but our ultimate aim will be to ensure everyone is happy and safe.

Please give your child a chance to settle – this will probably take a little while. But you know them best and if you really feel that they are unhappy, talk to us and we can review this.

Part time – if you feel this is best for your child please phone to discuss – but ideally not half days as trying to reduce the number of adults on site.

6. How will the school check the health of the children?

We will expect all parents to keep their children at home if they have any symptoms of CV19 or are generally unwell – just as we have always asked you to.

7. Will there be a process in place to update of any newly identified Covid cases, whether that be amongst the children and/or family members? And I suppose staff too?

We will keep you updated – if we have a case than all parents of children from that group will be informed and have to stay at home until told otherwise.

8. I'd like to know if any of the teachers have contracted the virus since working with the key workers children?

No, all staff who have been working have remained safe and well.

9. Can my child attend another setting, such as nursery also? Or must they stick with one school?

Many nurseries are recommending that children only attend one setting.

10. My main concern is for my child's mental well-being. I would hate to send them back with the changes being made and it put them off school all together.

As answered in Question 5, we will do everything we can to help your child settle and manage their emotional and mental wellbeing. But you know your child best and only you can really make the decision whether to send them back.

11. Will this be a full day with lunch? Or the normal half day session?

Nursery children will do one full day – this will include lunch. This can be ordered on the day (£2.40) or you can send your child with a packed lunch.

12. Will school meals follow the set menu?

The children will be able to order a hot meal each day, but it will be ‘hot finger food’ served in recyclable boxes. Once the menu is finalised I will put this on the website.

13. How will lunch and play be handled?

All groups will have playtimes and lunchtimes but these will be staggered. We will be using the outside area as much as possible.

14. What are start and finish times likely to be?

There will be three drop off and three pick up times.

8.45am – 2.45pm

9.00am – 3.00pm

9.15am – 3.15pm

You will get a separate letter which says which classroom your child will be in and what time to drop off and where to drop off.

We will only be using the double gates at the top of the playground (from the parent car park) as all other gateways and pathways are narrow. All other gates will remain locked.

15. One of us is still at work, can we bring siblings to drop off/pick up as there will be no one else to look after them?

There will be set places to come to when you drop off and you will be required to arrive at a set time and then leave as soon as you have dropped your child off.

Only one parent should come but if you have to bring siblings then you need to be responsible for them in managing to social distance.

16. How will the toilets work?

These will be supervised by the adults so ideally only one child from one group is in there at one time, but we know with very young children, they can't always wait. The children will still be able to go when they need to go – within reason!

17. Will they be in school uniform?

Yes the children should come in school uniform. But I understand if your child has grown out of their school shoes and you do not want to buy another pair – trainers or sensible shoes would be fine. Please remember though – no crocs, flip flops or open toed sandals.

18. How will the classrooms look?

They will look a little different but hopefully still welcoming. Some resources will have been removed that can't be cleaned well and also some furniture will have been moved so tables and units can be spread out so that children can sit apart at e.g. register time, snack time.

19. What would a typical day look like for the children?

Will the curriculum be followed? Or will it be more like childcare than actual school?

As you will have heard in the media, children's social and emotional well being is going to be the priority initially and helping children settle back into school routines. Then the days will be similar to how Daisies and Year R worked before – just the groups of children will not mix.

20. Will you still be sending work home for those Year R children who don't return on the 1st?

Yes, we will still be providing home learning – it will follow what the children are doing in school.

21. Can the children be grouped with a least one close friend to help them settle back?

The teachers will have grouped the children so that they are with a friend as far as is possible. But remember some of your children's main friends may not be coming back.

22. Are medications - inhalers still allowed to be given to a child?

Of course. We will arrange for you to drop them off at the school office.

23. Are there any expectations for the final weeks before summer commences?

Do you think this will have an impact on them missing transitions to reception? But then is that even happening due to the current situation?

This is still very uncertain and we have to wait for Government advice. We do not know what will happen with transition, but we will be continuing to plan how this could possibly happen in September.

24. Can you please let us know what specific steps will be put in place at Parsonage Farm to ensure the safest possible environment for our child?

Hopefully the answers to the questions above have answered this.

One important thing that I have not mentioned, is that we will be asking that any messages that the staff need to know about your child are communicated by phone or email to the school office. To ensure the safety of the staff, you will not be able to pass on messages at drop off.