



COVID-19 Coronavirus

COVID-19 National Lockdown Update

Friday 26th February 2021 11am

Please take time to read the updated information below.

Information relevant for all

PM Announcement

As I am sure you will agree, it is good news that all children can return to school on Monday 8th March. We are putting in place a return to school structure for the first two weeks and then will review. Whilst it is excellent that the children are returning, I need to be mindful that the risk assessments we had in place need to be upheld. Although the latest government update did state that children are not at risk, we know that adults are. Therefore, I need to consider how to protect my staff, as well as you as parents and carers, to ensure that together we minimise the risk to each other. During the last year, as a school community I feel we can all be justifiably proud of all we have achieved and I am sure that by continuing to work together we can ensure the best possible education for our children.

These are the plans we have in place; they take account of the feedback we received before the holidays. All children are expected back at school and there is not an option to work from home. However, should a bubble need to close then GC education will continue whilst the class self-isolate. Similarly, if you need to keep your child off as they have had a COVID-19 test/self-isolating (but are well enough to work) if they log into GC there will be work from the teacher.

Spring Term

Wk 1 KW/VP at school and home learning

Wk 2 KW/VP at school and home learning as well as online parents' evening

Wk 3 Week beginning 8th March all children return

Wk 4 Week beginning 15th March Hot school meals will begin

Wk 5 Week beginning 22nd March Wraparound care will begin

Wk 6 The INSET day which was planned for Thursday 1st April will be postponed

March 2021					April 2021						
M	1	8	15	22	29	M	5	12	19	26	
Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu	6	13	20	27	
W	3	10	17	24	31	W	7	14	21	28	
Th	4	11	18	25		Th	1	8	15	22	29
F	5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	30
Sa	6	13	20	27		Sa	3	10	17	24	
Su	7	14	21	28		Su	4	11	18	25	

Equipment: The children can bring a bag each day (please keep it as small as possible), each day bring reading records and reading books. A pencil case (if relevant) needs to be left at school. Teachers will let you know which days are your PE days, kit can be worn all day.

Bubbles: Children to be taught in class bubbles.

School Lunches: Please make sure that school lunch boxes contain nut free products which the children can eat/unwrap independently and they have all the utensils they need as we are limiting 1:1 contact for lunch staff.

Plan	Reason	Support in place	Please help
<p><u>Mornings</u> Gate opens at 8.45am, all children in school for 8.55am registration (come in on their own)</p>	<p>Starting the school day promptly for everyone helps everyone to settle. There is no adult mixing at the gate as the children come in on their own.</p>	<p>Should your child find it difficult to come back, please walk them in through the main gate and wait with them by the school sign. We will have a TA on duty each day who will walk children to class if they do not wish to go in on their own. In addition, a member of the Senior Management Team will be at the gate on a rota basis. Mon/Tue Mr Briggs Wed Ms Peach Thur/Fri Mrs Edwards</p>	<p>Please arrive on time, we do not have the staff to take late pupils to class and we want them to start the day with their friends and not miss any early classwork.</p>
<p><u>Afternoons</u> Staggered collection Elm and Maple 3pm Ash and Cedar 3.15pm Oak and Willow 3.30pm Collect the youngest ch. and any older siblings at the same time and leave the school site immediately. All adults on site to wear a face covering.</p>	<p>To help facilitate social distancing amongst adults.</p>		<p>The gate will be opened at 3pm and will remain open. We respectfully request the 3.15pm and 3.30pm parents and carers collecting wait until 3.10pm and 3.25pm before coming in. We do not have enough staff to keep opening and closing the gate.</p>

Staff Email Accounts: I am pleased that these proved useful as they were put in place for the period of the Covid lockdown following a parent suggestion. The accounts will be closed on Friday 6th March. Once the children return to school, please use the children's reading diaries as your method of communication. The children in E, M, O and W can put them in the communication box on the desk if there is a message. Children in A and C will have a trolley at the front of the school where parents can put them and the member of the Senior Management Team who is at the school gate will pass them to the class teacher.

INSET: In response to a suggestion, in light of the current lockdown and all children returning soon, I am cancelling the Thursday 1st April INSET day and moving it to later in the summer (Friday 2nd July) when hopefully children can enjoy a family day without lockdown restrictions in place. Therefore, the children will be back every school day until Easter without any interruptions.

Parents' Evening: At the time of your appointment (ideally a few minutes before) you will need to click on the link in the email reply you had from School Cloud when you booked, a reminder of this email will also be sent today. Everything is done through this link. We do not ring you. If you put your camera on, the teacher will too. All timings will be exact as the software automatically

organises the sessions. In order to help everyone make the most of the time, when you booked there was the opportunity to ask a question or mention any concerns (you can go back in and edit/add to this if you wish). Booking closes on 26th February at 12 o'clock so you will not be able to edit after this. Remember, when you booked, you could choose to invite a second parent to attend from a different location, there is no option for two separate appointments.

Wraparound Care: This can be pre-booked using the [booking form](#). All bookings need to be placed by Friday 5th March.

Hot School Lunches: These can be booked for KS2 directly with Mrs Giles and for KS1 the [booking](#) will resume as before.

School Office: The office is accessible for medication only, please ring and leave a message on the answer machine for any other urgent matters. The school post box will be emptied daily. In order to support the learners in class, we have significantly reduced the staffing in the office, please direct any email queries directly to the class teacher. If another parent/adult is collecting your child, please arrange beforehand and add a note to the planner or email the teacher as if you ring in towards the end of the day, the office may be without cover.

Absences: Please continue to inform the office via answer machine prior to 9am of any absence and keep us up to date regarding any COVID-19 testing or contact tracing.

Catch-Up Funding: You may have read a lot about this in the press, as soon as we know more information and are able to organise future plans, we will update you. The initial allocation we were given was spent on providing additional pastoral/academic support by having a Teaching Assistant for more hours in each class. More information regarding our return to school focus, bubbles, mental health, assessing pupils can be found on the [website](#).

School Swimming Lessons: These will not be happening this academic year. If you have the opportunity to book swimming lessons locally, please do. I know lots of our children do already but thought you might want to take advantage of booking any after school/weekend swimming lessons when the local pools open.

Educational Visits: We will not be planning any visits in the summer term. At the moment the Y6 residential is planned to go ahead, if we hear anything different, we will let parents and carers know.

Red Nose Day on Friday 19th March: We will not be asking children to bring in donations but will suggest to children that if they wish to follow the national theme or dress in red, they would be most welcome. If any children want to share any fundraising they have done, teachers will happily share their successes on the class twitter accounts.

Children at home learning via Google classroom

Please continue with all of your hard work for the remainder of lockdown. On Monday 8th March please bring in your reading books, records, Maths workbooks, exercise books as well as CGP books. No PE kit will be needed on Monday.

Children learning at school

Thank you for keeping us all up to date with regard your childcare needs and letting the office know of any absences.

Remember, please check Twitter before you leave to bring your child/children to school, in case your class bubble is closed.

All dates are also in the school website calendar.

Reminders from past updates

Available Support



Somerset's Local Authorities
Coronavirus support helpline
0300 790 6275

Available 8am to 6pm, seven days a week

A single number is now available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus related support from Somerset's Local Authorities. Anyone who can't find help within their community can use the helpline to get help and advice surrounding:

- Emotional support if you're feeling worried or anxious
- Financial support
- Personal care and support including food and delivery of prescriptions
- Housing and support for the homeless
- Social Care or Medical transport needs
- Waste collection and disposal
- Employment, skills and business advice



Reporting Covid Test Results

A reminder of who to contact for children at school.

I will monitor the Covid mailbox 24/7.

- School term time (8.30am – 3.45pm when the office is open) via phone (**01458 250735**).
- Out of hours (including weekends/holidays/evenings) please email our COVID-19 account: **highhamcovidresults@educ.somerset.gov.uk** (This is open 24/7 and monitored throughout the day).

NB: Please keep an eye on Twitter for any future changes.