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5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Families of Amesbury Primary,

Last week I wrote to you to briefly outline the return to school for all pupils on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. All staff have been earnestly preparing classrooms and learning spaces and are eagerly awaiting the welcome of children back to school. This letter is to recap those key points already sent out and to provide further information regarding the return to school. We continue to implement the Government guidance for schools on control measures for COVID as we have been already. For our pupils, life in school will be very similar to how it was before Christmas. A complete copy of the school's protocols and control measures can be found on the school website.

### **Does my child need to attend school in March?**

From Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> attendance is mandatory for all children. If you wish to talk through any concerns about sending your child back to school please contact Ms Batchelor through the school office and we will work with you to support your family. Equally, if you or your child falls under the 'extremely clinically vulnerable' group please do also get in contact as soon as possible.

### **What should I do if my child is ill at home?**

Your child must not come into school if:

- **if your child is displaying any of the Covid 19 symptoms (new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell) or is unwell with other symptoms not associated with coronavirus**
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or a positive test result
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test result

They must immediately cease to attend and continue to stay at home for at least 10 days, following on from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test

We all need to follow this process and we will ensure everyone onsite or visiting is also aware.

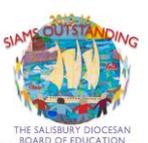
### **What will the school do if my child becomes ill at school?**

In school we have a designated space should a child become unwell. We will notify you if any symptoms arise and ask you to collect your child immediately. The guidance states that your child must be sent home as soon as possible to begin isolation and the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days.

The advice is to then follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-homeguidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>).

You must book a test as soon as possible.

Other members of your household (including any siblings and members of their support or childcare bubble if they have one) should self-isolate. Their isolation period includes the day symptoms started for the first person in their household, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, and the next 10 full days. If a member of the household starts to display symptoms while self- isolating they will need to restart



the 10 day isolation period and book a test. If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms. If the test returns negative your child can return to school and all contacts can come out of isolation.

### **What if my child has been in close contact with someone who tests positive?**

In the event that your child needs to isolate, because someone in their group has a positive result, we will contact you directly. The school will also contact our local Public Health England protection team in response to any confirmed cases of COVID19 that result in close contact with other staff or children. If your child does have to isolate, and is not unwell themselves, we will provide remote education for them to access. Details will be shared with you at the same time as initial contact is made.

### **Will my child have to complete COVID tests at school?**

This week the government has announced that households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8 March. [All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-age-to-get-2-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week)

As a school we cannot give test kits to parents, carers or household members. You will need to organise your own tests and this can be done via a number of options detailed below:

- Via employers if they offer testing to employees
- At a local test site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment. [Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site. You can collect up to four home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains seven tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go. [Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)
- By ordering a home test kit online. Please do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most. [Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

There is also more [guidance](#) here on who can be tested and how you can get a test.

### **What safety measures are in place?**

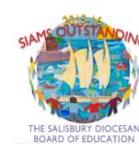
The children adapted really well to the new routines and practices in September. These same safety measures will be in place on their return and we will take the time to remind them of each one and their importance in keeping everyone safe. These will include regular hand washing, maintaining social distancing where possible and promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

Within the classroom every child will be allocated their own designated space at a table. All windows and external classroom doors will remain open, weather permitting, in order to ensure rooms are well ventilated. Please do encourage your children to wear extra layers under their school uniform if they start to feel cold too.

### **How will the start and end of the day work?**

We will be following the same approach for start of day and home time collection by having allocated entrance points for year groups. The school day remains the same for all pupils with arrival between 8:30-8:45 and home time collection at 3pm.

We respectfully ask that no parents come onto our school site, maintain a social distance from one another and staff using the 2m markings and wear face coverings.



Year Group	Collection/pick-up point
Reception	Side gate on School Lane (9am drop-off/2:30pm pick-up)
1	Side gate on School Lane
2	Main school gate on Kitchener Road
3	The Ark entrance on Coldharbour
4	Top playground / back gate entrance on Coldharbour
5	Staff carpark entrance on Kitchener Road (Smiley Faces)
6	Drop off lay-by on Kitchener Road, pedestrian access only

### **Will there be wraparound care provided (The Ark/Breakfast Club)?**

We fully recognise the need for our Before and After school provision to continue in supporting families and we are very lucky to have a brilliant team of staff who lead these opportunities. Our wraparound provision has remained open during lockdown 3 and will continue to run on the return of all children to Amesbury. The Ark afterschool club continues to end at 4pm for the remainder of the Spring Term. Can we ask that you continue to book this provision in advance using SCOpay as numbers are strictly limited.

### **What should my child wear to school each day?**

The children should return to school wearing their school uniform. With shops being closed we do appreciate that if there are any issues regarding school uniform, please contact your child's class teacher to make them aware of this. Online ordering of school uniform is still available from Kids Klobber.

### **What will my child need to bring into school?**

We still need to minimise the equipment that children are bringing into school. Children continue to attend school in the P.E. kit on specified P.E. days. Guitar lessons will be restarting face to face again and the children will need to bring their instruments into their classrooms at the start of the day.

Please do bring back in any medication your child is required to take. Please hand this to a member of staff at the main gate. If this is new medication or there are any changes, you will be requested to complete the medication consent form. A paper copy can be obtained from the School office.

### **What groups will the children be in during the day?**

The children will be back in their normal classrooms with their Teachers. They will stay predominantly in their class groups within year group bubbles and movement around the school site will be kept to a minimum to avoid any mixing of year group bubbles.

During break and lunchtimes the children will be outside in their year group bubbles in their designated playtime zones.

### **What will break and lunchtime look like?**

Parents are able to order a hot school meal each day for their child(ren) via SCOpay. They will, as they did for the Autumn term, continue to eat in their classrooms before going outside to enjoy the school grounds within their designated outdoor space. Children can bring in their own healthy snack for morning break (i.e. fresh fruit or vegetable).

### **What will the curriculum look like?**

Having experienced transitioning the children back to school after the previous lockdown we learnt a lot about the impact this had on the children's wellbeing. For the remainder of the term we will provide opportunities for the children to reflect and discuss their experiences of this most recent lockdown. We also recognise we will need to support the children continuing to develop their social and friendship skills and support any anxieties they may have. Our curriculum will provide a broad and balanced range of subjects to re-engage the children in their learning with plenty of opportunity for physical activity.



During this lockdown period the children have continued to learn new skills and knowledge through our remote learning provision. They have been able to progress through their year group curriculum which will continue on their return. Our teaching time will be prioritised to address the most significant gaps in children's knowledge. This will be informed by ongoing assessments of children's starting points when back at school. Attached to this letter is also a helpful guide for parents on supporting their child's return to school.

**What should I do if I need to contact the school office or my child's Teacher?**

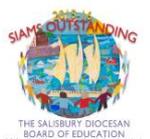
In line with government guidance, we ask that parents do not enter the school site. For contact, the School Office will be open from 8.00am – 4.30pm on Monday- Friday. If there is an urgent message, such as a change in pick up arrangements please call the school office on 01980 623009. For any less urgent matters or if you wish to talk to a member of staff please email: [office@amesbury.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@amesbury.wilts.sch.uk) and we will ensure any messages are passed to the relevant staff member.

At each stage of the COVID-19 journey the whole community has been truly brilliant at supporting each other and this is what we are asking of everyone again. Working together to keep everyone safe so that the children can fully engage and relish in the opportunities school has to offer.

From all the staff at Amesbury CE Primary, we are counting down the days to have our school full of life once again!

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Robinson  
Interim Headteacher



# Returning to school after COVID-19: Advice for parents



The process of welcoming children back into schools after a period of school closure might be a source of concern and challenge for some children and their parents, and this might create a range of different emotions. For children, some emotions might be excitement to see their friends again or worry that things might be different in school. It is important for adults and caregivers to support children to recognise that a variety of feelings such as feeling anxious, worried, scared etc. are completely normal and should be recognised and validated.

## TOP TIPS

Help your child to establish a predictable and consistent routine by using a visual calendar on display so that your child can begin counting down the days to the first day back, re-start a clear morning and evening (bedtime) routine, in preparation for getting ready for school again.

Try to show your children that you feel calm about their return to school.

Chat with your child about starting back at school. What do they think it will be like? What are they most looking forward to? Is there anything they're unsure about? By talking about this, you can find out how your child is feeling and they can feel heard and reassured by you.



It is important that you talk with school staff about changes in family circumstances e.g. illness, bereavement, trauma, furloughing/job loss and separation so that they can be supported.

Help your child focus on what will be the same in school to help reduce anxiety: same staff, classroom, furniture, equipment etc.

Children and young people have spent a lot of time with parents/carers during the lockdown period, and they might want to remain with you. Reassure them that lots of other children are likely to be feeling the same way, and remind them that you will be there for them at the end of the school day.

Try and encourage your child to talk about what they are feeling and explain that experiencing a range of emotions is normal. You can also try 'wondering aloud' to try and interpret how your child might be feeling about returning to school, with curiosity and empathy e.g. "I wonder if you are feeling a little worried about going back to school because you are used to being at home. I understand that and it is normal to feel that way. I am feeling a little worried about going back to work, too. Would it help if we had a talk about how we are feeling?"

