



TIBBERTON CE FIRST SCHOOL HINDLIP CE FIRST SCHOOL

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01/09/21

RE: Return to school September 21

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and that the children are excited to be returning to school, or starting school, on Monday 6th September. Whilst COVID-19 has not gone away, we are really excited that we are now in a position to welcome the children back into a bubble free school, where they can sing, worship, socialise and enjoy school life with *all* their peers.

Please read this letter carefully, so that you are clear on the latest guidance, as this will help us keep school running as safely as possible.

The emphasis of new guidance is to maximise the number of children in face-to-face education and minimise disruption in a way that manages the COVID-19 risk. As part of managing risk, we have already reviewed and updated our COVID Risk Assessments and produced an Outbreak Response plan (should we have an outbreak in one of our schools). These will be published on our websites for your information next week.

What will school look like? Importantly, for how we run our schools, there will be no 'bubbles' and the school day will return to normal. The children will start and finish at normal times (see below), we can have assemblies, sing and have shared lunchtimes etc. The children will be able to socialise with all their peers and experience school as normal - for many of our pupils for the first time!

Guidance on self-isolation has changed - You no longer need to self-isolate if you have had contact with positive person if you are fully vaccinated (14 days after your 2nd jab), if you are under 18yrs and 6mths old or can't get vaccinated for medical reasons. This means we will hopefully not need to close any classes etc. due to close contacts. *You do still need to book a PCR ASAP if you have had a close contact but only need to isolate if it comes back positive.* Children under 5 are not expected to get a PCR test unless someone in their household is positive. If you are not vaccinated you will still need to self-isolate for 10 days for a close contact.

These changes to the National Self Isolation Guidance are substantial, so please take the time to read the latest NHS information here - [When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do-coronavirus-covid-19)



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When to self-isolate. Self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

www.nhs.uk

In School:

- We would ask all parents and visitors to continue to wear a face mask when in school and to maintain good social distancing.
- We will continue to support good hygiene for everyone - Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will continue to be regular practice. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.
- Cleaning of frequently touched areas remains a priority.
- Ventilation continues to be very important and we will give particular consideration when visitors and parents are on site. We will be receiving CO2 detectors to support good ventilation.
- Staff will continue to undertake lateral flow tests twice a week, this will be reviewed at the end of September.
- New thresholds are in place to determine outbreaks, at which point we coordinate with the Local Outbreak Response Team. You have been amazing at working with us and keeping us informed which helps us to keep everyone safe.
- **Symptoms - You still need to isolate and get a test if you have symptoms. No-one (pupils and adults) should attend school with the main symptoms (high temp, loss of smell or taste, continuous cough). We are aware that this may cause some difficulties as winter colds take hold but it is a vital part of keeping everyone safe and school open. Anyone developing symptoms will go home and will need a PCR. We have the right to refuse attendance to keep our pupils and staff safe.**
- We will use PPE when looking after symptomatic pupils.

The School Day:

- Breakfast club is available from 7.45 am.
- A member of staff will be on duty in the front playground from 8.35am and the day officially starts at **8.45am** when the children will line up and come into school. The children will be dismissed at **3pm**.
- New intake families, please don't forget that you have slightly different times for the start of term.
- Please be mindful when parking in the local area. Our staggered starts over the last year have alleviated how busy it can get, so please be respectful of our neighbours and park safely. *Please do not park on or directly opposite the yellow zig-zags as this puts the children at risk.*

It will be lovely for our schools to feel normal again. Should things change we will move quickly to keep our communities safe, as we have throughout. I am particularly looking forward to seeing all the children socialising again, hearing more singing in our schools, and welcoming parents back into school.

See you all soon,

Warm regards

Mr. Gromski



worcestershire
county council



Healthy School



Eco-Schools