



Somerford Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Plans for school reopening in September 2020

In this letter I hope to outline the school's plans to welcome ALL children back to school in September. As you can imagine there is a lot to consider and I thank you for your patience while we drew these plans together.

I have tried to be as comprehensive as possible but I am sure there will still be things you want to know which I have missed out. Please don't worry about asking questions. You can email your child's class teacher on the class email address, email me at the office address (above) or call the school Monday to Thursday 8.30-3.30 (until 16th July).

As always, we have closely followed the guidance from the DfE which is based on advice from Public Health England. In doing so, we hope to have reduced any risks as much as we can. Our plans and risk assessment for welcoming back YR, Y1 and Y6 have worked well so we are confident these new plans will allow for a smooth return for all pupils.

When does school open?

School will open to Years 1-6 on Monday 7th September. Reception have Stay and Play sessions that week and have received a letter with dates and times.

What will the classrooms look like?

Classrooms from Year 1 will have the tables arranged in rows and children will be sat facing the front. They will be sat next to other children and they will always sit in the same place in the room. Children will be provided with their own basic equipment (eg pencil, ruler etc) in their own named wallet. If children wish to bring a pencil case they can but this will need to stay at school.

Can children bring things in from home?

Children can bring essential items in from home such as coat, hat, water bottle and packed lunch. Children can bring a bag from September. Children must not bring any other items in from home at this time. Children will be allowed to take home reading books and RWI books and bring these back to school.

Will Breakfast Club be open?

Yes. Children will be asked to sit on a table designated for their year group. There will be a range of activities ready for them on the table. The Breakfast Club staff will serve the breakfasts and drinks. Children will not be allowed to move tables or help themselves to food. If you wish to use

Breakfast Club, please ensure your children know the rules. If they are unable to abide by these rules, as they are for everyone's safety, your child will not be able to attend.

What will the start and end of the day be like?

We will continue to run staggered drop offs and pick ups to limit social contact at these peak times. It is very important your child arrives on time. Parents are still not allowed on to the school site and will need to drop off at the gates.

| | Gate A Front | | Gate B Back | |
|--------|--------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| | Drop off | Pick up | Drop off | Pick up |
| Year 1 | | | 8.40 | 3.05 |
| Year 2 | | | 8.50 | 3.15 |
| Year 3 | | | 9.00 | 3.35 |
| Year 4 | 9.00 | 3.35 | | |
| Year 5 | 8.50 | 3.25 | | |
| Year 6 | 8.40 | 3.15 | | |

If you have siblings at different gates, you can drop off both at the same gate at the earliest time slot. The children will then wait in a designated area and be taken to their class at the correct time.

Please observe social distancing when bringing your child to the gate.

Please walk or cycle to school wherever possible. If you have to bring a car, please park considerately and responsibly in the car park or on the adjacent roads. Please do not park in the designated disabled parking bays unless you have a blue badge and this is displayed. Thank you

Will the children all be together at play and lunch times?

Children will have break and lunch times with their year group but will be separate from other year groups. Siblings in different year groups will not be able to mix at these times.

What will lunch time be like?

We will be operating a staggered lunch time so only one year group is eating in the hall at a time. Year 3 will be eating in the infant hall initially.

Children with packed lunches in years 4, 5 and 6 will be eating in the classrooms.

Children will be handed their lunch and their cutlery. The self serve salad bar will be served by a member of staff. Children eating in the halls will be asked to sit on their year group tables.

Children will not be able to choose where to sit. Please make sure your child is aware of these new procedures.

Will the children still be washing their hands?

Yes! This will remain a really important part of our safety plan and the children who have attended this half term are experts in the routine. However, with lots more children this is a logistical challenge and we are looking at ways to make this process quicker. Children will be asked to wash their hands (as a minimum) when they arrive at school, after breaks and lunch times as well as before and after eating.

Does my child have to return to school?

Yes. It is mandatory to send your child to school from September. We want to work with you to ensure you are happy to do so. Please talk to us quickly if you have any anxieties about sending your child back to school. We will be following our usual attendance procedures in September. It is also really important your child is on time as otherwise they may be missing learning as you wait for other groups to enter school.

What additional support will my child receive?

The teachers are very skilled at assessing where a child is in their learning and then planning their teaching and support to move a child on to their next steps. This will be a focus when children return. Teachers and teaching assistants will be running small group support and children may have 1:1 support in some areas. The teachers will continue to communicate with you about the support your child is receiving. When we receive more information about the Tutoring Programme and the financial catch up support for schools, we will send more information to you.

My child has SEND (and an EHCP), will their support continue?

Yes. We will be able to start working on IEP and EHCP outcomes again and children will have the necessary adult support in class. We will also be able to welcome therapists and other adults who may support your child, back in to school. Adults supporting your child will still consider social distancing and good hygiene but this has been planned carefully. If you have any questions about your child's support, please contact your child's class teacher initially or email the school office for the attention of Mr Thorne.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes. We will return to a full school uniform and this includes school shoes or plain black trainers. Children will need their PE kit in school too. This will stay at school. There will be no school swimming in the Autumn Term. Y6 will be asked to wear their PE kit to school on PE days.

What will happen if there is a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

Children must not attend school if they have any of the symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, persistent cough, loss or change of taste or smell). They must not attend school if anyone in their household has any of these symptoms.

If your child develops these symptoms you must self-isolate and book a test. If your child receives a positive test then you must inform the school immediately. The school will contact the Local Health Protection Team and they will advise us who needs to self isolate. We will then contact parents to inform them. **It is therefore vital that we have up to date phone numbers and addresses for you.** Please complete the contact form which will be sent to you and return to the school on your child's first day. If you do not have a phone you must nominate someone else to collect your child for you in case of an emergency. Please agree this with them.

Please be assured, schools have been given very clear instructions on what to do if there is a suspected or confirmed case and we will follow these meticulously.

Will my child be given learning if they have to self isolate?

The school is expected to be able to provide immediate, high quality remote learning if children are self isolating and this is what we aim to do. We are conscious that not everyone has easy

access to the Internet or a laptop and printing work is even harder. We will consider this in our remote learning offer.

Will the flu immunisations still be going ahead?

The school nursing team have booked a date in October with us for these immunisations. More details will be sent home closer to the time.

Will my child be safe at school?

The virus is still in the community and therefore a risk always remains. However, we have followed the guidance completely and our risk assessment is detailed and robust. Therefore we have essentially minimised the risks to your child and our staff. Please do talk to us if you have any concerns.

We are expecting to receive final confirmation of schools reopening to all children on 11th August and it is likely we will receive updates to our guidance through the holiday. If there are any significant changes I will, of course, let you know.

Finally, thank you all again for your support, patience and concern for our well being. I have never experienced a term like this in my career and I hope I never will again! But it has been possible to achieve what we have because of your support and because of the INCREDIBLE team of amazing human beings we have at Somerford. I am so proud to work with them and I am sure you will join me in thanking them and telling them to rest over the holiday!

I look forward to seeing you all in September and I wish you a healthy and restful break if I don't see you before we break up on Wednesday 15th July.

Best wishes

Helen Frampton
Headteacher