



# Return to school: Information for Parents

*Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021*

Here's what you need to know in 5 minutes...

- Return to school; the context
- Arrangements for the return to school
- Safety at school
- School lunches
- ...and finally

Nascot Wood Junior School

## Return to school; the context

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister last night, I am pleased to tell you that all the children will be returning to school on *Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021*.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for the support that you have given your children whilst they have been working from home. This has allowed the teaching staff to follow the curriculum as they usually would do in class, and to minimise the impact of the school closure on your children.

Those of you who saw the government's announcement yesterday evening, will have heard the Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty, say that the infection rates remain higher than they were in March 2020 and that the number of people who are currently in hospital remains of equal concern.

It is therefore important that we continue to be vigilant and take every precautionary step to ensure that the school community remains as safe as possible and we avoid any further closures.

The advantage of this return to school is that we have well-practised procedures in place that we know will work effectively to keep both children and staff safe.

On the following pages, I will outline these arrangements.

# Arrangements for the return to school

Please read the arrival and departure arrangements carefully, to remind you of the systems that we had in place at the end of the Autumn Term.

Monday to Thursday	
8.30–8.50am	Arrival: Please could you ask your child to queue <i>briefly</i> outside the Langley Road gate, whichever side is appropriate to the way they come to school. Please queue <u>behind the white line</u> , using the footprints marked on the pavement to give a social distancing guide.
3.15–3.25pm	Parents will be given access to the playground to collect children in years 3 and 4. Please can parents queue outside the Langley Road gate <u>behind the white line</u> , using the footprints marked on the pavement to give a social distancing guide. <u>Please continue to wear a facemask for collection.</u>
Approx. 3.30pm	Years 5 and 6 will be dismissed by their Class Teachers from the Nascot Wood Road gate and the Langley Road gate (depending on destination), once years 3 and 4 have been dismissed (approximately 3.30pm). There will be provision for year 5 and 6 children to collect siblings in years 3 and 4.
Friday*	
8.30–8.50am	Arrival: Please could you ask your child to queue <i>briefly</i> outside the Langley Road gate, whichever side is appropriate to the way they come to school. Please queue <u>behind the white line</u> , using the footprints marked on the pavement to give a social distancing guide.
12 noon	Collection of children in years 3 and 4.
12.10pm.	Years 5 and 6 will be dismissed. Please note that there will be provision for year 5 and 6 children to collect siblings in years 3 and 4.

\* From the w/b 8<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March, we will continue to close the school on a Friday afternoon. As previously stated, the reason for the early closure on Fridays is that we have a statutory duty to provide all Class Teachers with Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time each week. Normally, members of the teaching staff would work closely together to ensure that the curriculum is equitably planned across each year group. This close collaboration would normally take place in a small planning room. Once the children have left on a Friday, the Teachers are able to stay in their classrooms and meet in a socially distanced way to plan for your children.

As well as providing a safe working space for our staff, this approach also allows your children to be taught consistently by the same staff members, where at all possible.

Whilst we operate this early closure on a Friday, we have increased our direct teaching time to ensure that the children are receiving *at least* the same hours of teaching that they were receiving before the pandemic.

We will be revisiting this arrangement before the Easter holidays, in the hope that the situation has continued to improve, allowing us to resume Friday afternoons in school.

# Safety at school

During the pandemic, our health and safety procedures have been designed to mitigate the risk of infection for our children, their families and our staff.

I am mindful of our school community which includes some multi-generational households and families that have extremely clinically vulnerable members.

In order to ensure that we limit the risk of spreading the virus we are taking the following precautionary measures:

- All staff are taking part in a twice weekly testing programme
- All staff are wearing a face covering
- We request that children wear a well-fitted face mask whilst in the classroom, as the classrooms do not allow adequate social distancing. Airborne transmission is a significant route by which COVID-19 passes between people. Particles of the virus can build up and circulate in the air in the form of aerosols in enclosed spaces (even if they are large) especially where air exchange is poor. This makes indoor settings more risky than outdoors, where the fresh air quickly disperses the virus to safe levels. This is confirmed by observational studies tracing people infected with COVID-19 which shows the majority of transmission occurs in indoor settings. *Please note that this is not mandatory*
- Parents are asked to temperature test their child each morning
- Children who exhibit signs of a high temperature will be tested in school using a non-contact thermometer

The children who have been attending school since January have managed these safety procedures very well indeed, and we feel that this vigilant approach has contributed to the low number of cases in the school community.

# School lunches

As I have previously reported to you, we are currently going through a tendering process, with the view to appointing a catering provider for September 2021.

In the meantime, we have asked Herts Catering to provide school lunches for the children from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, when the school reopens.

This will be a hot food option, served in a takeaway box and distributed to the classrooms.

If you would like to order school dinners, please follow this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1sZR9Mth1keF0yluM3hGs9112AnMJ36tbV5FpQbn4Tvs/viewform>

Please complete the order by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February, in order to give us time to place the food order.

Please make a note of your choices and communicate these with your child, as we will not be able to remind them of what you have chosen.



## ...and finally

Between now and the Easter holidays, we are beginning work to re-carpet and replace the hard flooring in Holly, Willow, Juniper, Elm, Beech, Rowan and Poplar classrooms.

Oak and Maple class have been carpeted fairly recently and are therefore not included in this project. We hope that this work will provide your children with an enhanced working environment.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and help during this challenging time.

The children have exhibited such a good attitude to their learning and I feel very proud of all they have achieved.

The staff and I will be delighted to see the children again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

With best wishes,

*Christina Singh*

Headteacher

