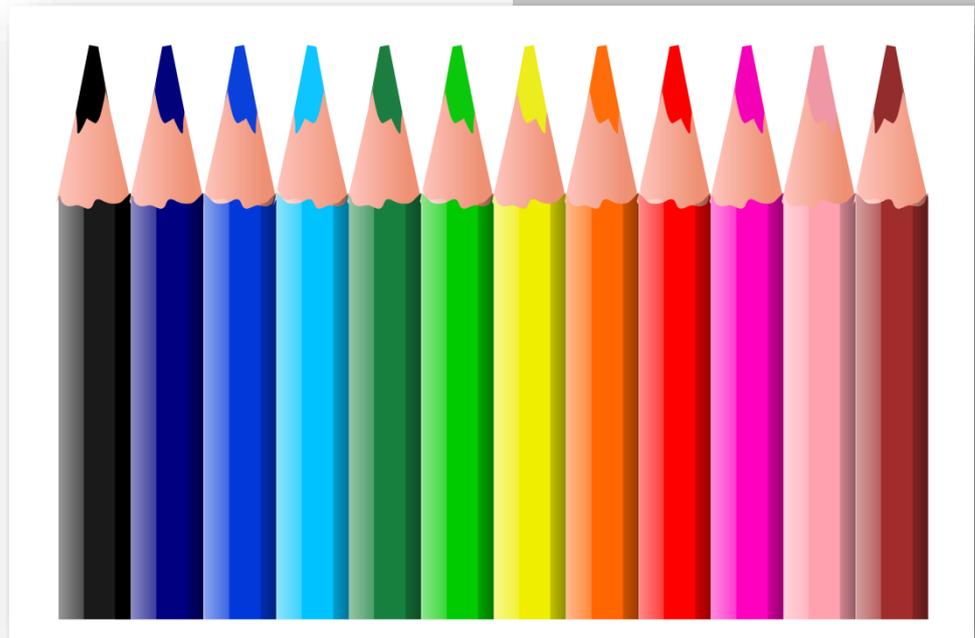


2020

## Covid 19 update for Parents



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

- Welcoming the children back to school; how has the return to school been going?
- The ongoing plan; are there any changes?
- What do we need you to do?
- After school clubs/extra-curricular activities
- What happens if we get a Covid 19 case?
- Face masks for children
- Curriculum including PE provision

Christina Singh

Nascot Wood Junior School

# Welcoming the children back to school; how has the return to school been going?

We were delighted to welcome the children back to school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and have been impressed by how well the children have managed the transition after such a long time away from school.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents for preparing your children so well for the return to school, and for supporting the procedures that we have put in place in order to be able to operate the school in as safe a way as possible.

I am pleased to tell you that the attendance figures for the first few days of the new academic year are as follows:

Day	Percentage
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	100%
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	92.5%
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	100%
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	100%
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	95%
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	95%

All the children have appeared enthusiastic and excited to return to school, and the Class Teachers have reported that they have been very engaged in their learning. A very high percentage of the children were fully engaged in their remote learning during the lockdown period, and this, along with all that you have done with them at home, appears to have prepared them well for their return to school.

During the summer holidays, a comprehensive catch-up intervention plan has been created, for those children who need some extra support with their learning, based on our assessments. These interventions will be in place during the Autumn Term and reviewed before Christmas.

We have continued to focus on the mental wellbeing of the children, with our daily mindfulness sessions and, where necessary, bespoke interventions.

As you will be aware, the reported cases of Covid 19 in the Watford area are rising, and it is therefore our primary aim to provide the children, staff and parents with as safe an environment as we can. This aim has been at the heart of our planning, and I am pleased to report to you that from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March – 17<sup>th</sup> July, we did not have any cases of Covid 19 amongst the children or staff who were onsite throughout this period. We continue to work hard to maintain this if at all possible, in order to keep the school open throughout this academic year.

## The ongoing plan

We have been pleased that our procedures for welcoming and dismissing the children each day have proved to be effective. After school each day, we meet as a staff to assess the procedures, and make any necessary adjustments for further improvement.

You will no doubt be aware that schools are operating different systems with regards to keeping groups of children separate. We have chosen to operate in class groups rather than year groups, to ensure that the minimum number of classes are closed should there be a positive covid 19 case.

As you will have seen this week, there has been a subtle change to the arrangements regarding the collection of year 3 and 4 children, allowing us more space to ensure foot traffic is free flowing.

Mr Watts and I plan to continue to ensure that the children and parents arrive and depart in a socially distanced manner, by closely monitoring the situation and making any necessary changes.

As you know from previous correspondence, we will be closing the school each Friday from 12 noon for the foreseeable future.

The reason for this is that we have a statutory duty to provide all Class Teachers with Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time each week.

During this time, the class is normally taught by another member of staff. In order to limit the risk of transmission, we have decided to change our usual approach and provide this PPA time for all Class Teachers on a Friday afternoon. Therefore, your children will be taught consistently by the same staff members where at all possible.

We will, of course, keep this under review and communicate any proposed changes when necessary.

During the week beginning the 14<sup>th</sup> September, we are planning to have a socially distanced fire drill. On this occasion we will be informing staff and children of this, as we need to practice our amended evacuation processes.

## Are there any changes?

Thank you for your support with our transition plan. Having half the school in at a time for this short period has enabled us to securely establish our safety procedures and protocols with the children. You will have noticed that we have made subtle amendments each day, as we evaluate and refine our procedures.

From **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September**, children in years 5 and 6 will be dismissed via the back playground gate and can exit the site by walking down the front path to the pedestrian gate. This will allow us more space to ensure foot traffic is free flowing. *Please could you let us know if you wish your year 5 or 6 child to collect a younger year 3 or 4 sibling, and we will make the necessary arrangements for them to do so.*

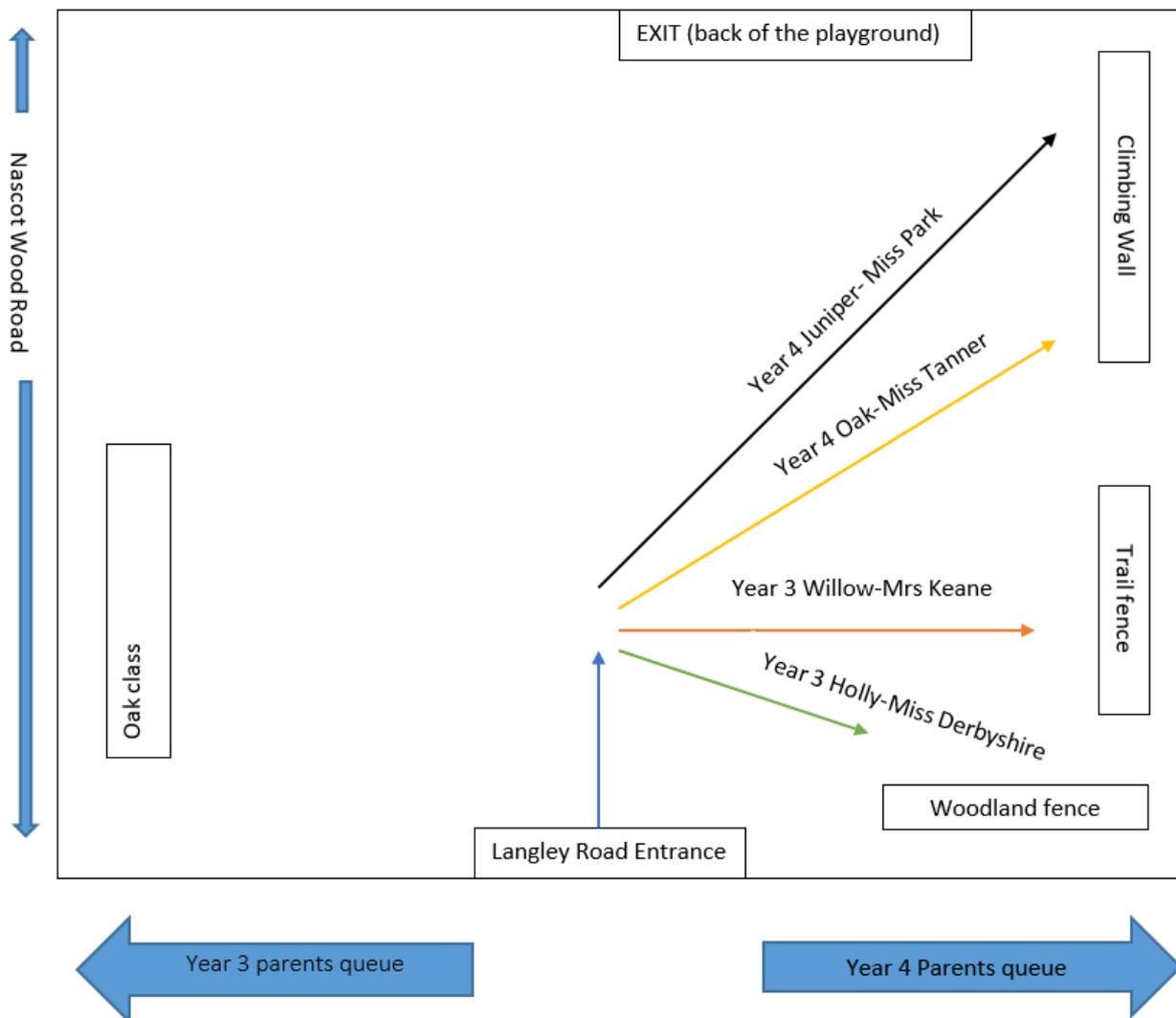
One of the things we noticed when we returned to school was that our dismissal arrangements for years 3 and 4, meant that our Year 3 parents were having to wait for a considerable time before collecting their children. In order to limit their waiting time, we decided to amend these dismissal arrangements. Therefore, we are now bringing Holly, Willow, Juniper and Oak classes onto the playground at the *same time* for collection, whilst maintaining social distancing. Small groups of both year 3 and 4 parents are now invited onto the playground from **3.10pm** to collect their children (please see the diagram on the next page for clarification).

### **Dismissal arrangements on Fridays, will be as follows:**

Years 5 and 6 will be dismissed, a class at a time, via the back playground gate from 12.00 noon.

Small groups of both year 3 and 4 parents will be invited onto the playground from **12.10pm** to collect their children as per the other days of the week.

# Collection arrangements at the end of each day



When you enter the school playground, you will see your child's Class Teacher standing with the children. Please approach the Class Teacher and ask for your child. If you are unsure of where to go, Mrs Singh and Mr Watts will be available to ask.

Over the coming weeks, as you become more familiar with these arrangements, we aim to be able to revert to a 3.30pm collection time.

## What do we need you to do?

- When queuing to drop off or collect your child, please stand on the marked footprints behind the marked white line, allowing space for Mr Watts and I to bring the children into school/dismiss the children in a socially distanced way
- We respectfully request that you consider wearing a face covering/face mask when dropping off and collecting your child, as our narrow pavements make it difficult to maintain social distance
- Please could we request that only one adult comes to collect each child
- Please ensure that you read all the communication from the school and familiarise yourselves and your child with the arrangements

### Year 3 and 4 Parents

- Please ensure that the person collecting your child knows the name of the class that your child is in, and the Class Teacher
- Please ensure that you are ready to collect your year 3 or year 4 child between 3.10 and 3.30pm

### Year 5 and 6 Parents

- Please ensure that your child knows whether they are walking home or meeting you somewhere
- Please ensure that they know where to meet you or are confident to walk home alone
- Please arrange to meet them a short walk away from the school – do not arrange to meet them at the school gate
- Please inform the office [admin@nascotwoodjm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@nascotwoodjm.herts.sch.uk) if you wish your year 5 or year 6 child to collect a younger year 3 or year 4 sibling

# School lunch

As you will remember from previous correspondence, we intend to keep the school kitchen closed for the foreseeable future. This enables us to ensure that the children are not mixing in the dining room and to limit the number of additional adults on site.

## After school clubs/extra-curricular activities

We would like the children to be able to take part in their extra-curricular activities as soon as it is safe for them to do so.

Initially our focus is to get the children back into school successfully and, following this, we will take a phased approach to returning activities.

Extra Time provision will begin on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September; please contact Extra Time directly, should you wish to use this provision <https://xtratime.co.uk/NascotwoodPage.html>

## What happens if we get a Covid 19 case?

If a child becomes ill within school, we have a set of procedures that we will follow, some of which are outlined below:

- The child will be taken to a separate room whilst awaiting collection
- Following collection, parents will be asked to follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) which explains that the child must self-isolate for at least 10 days, and have an immediate test.
- Parents will be asked to communicate the results of the test as soon as possible to the school
- The family will be asked to continue to follow the relevant guidance

Part of our procedure is to seek advice from our Local Health Protection Team and close classes if necessary.

Please see the flowchart on the following page, published by the Local Authority with advice for parents.

# Information for parents and carers on suspected COVID-19 (coronavirus) in a child

## WHEN TO SUSPECT COVID-19 IN YOUR CHILD:

if they develop symptoms of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**Do not** send your child to school or childcare setting. Inform the setting through absence reporting

If your child develops symptoms at the childcare setting, they will be separated from others, and will **be sent home**

If your child (or anyone in your household) has symptoms they must arrange a test **as soon as possible** and isolate at home for **10 days** from date of onset of symptoms (or until they receive a negative result). Everyone else in the household who does not have symptoms must isolate at home for 14 days (or until the symptomatic household member receives a negative result)

Arrange for a coronavirus test for anyone in your household with symptoms either online via [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call NHS testing line on 119. The test must be done within **five days** of when symptoms start. Ensure you know who to contact with the results in the school/childcare setting if the results are received outside usual working hours

You will be offered a test at your closest drive-through centre. This is the quickest option. A parent or carer will need to perform the test on children under 12 years old. If you don't drive, you can request a home test kit. **Do not** get a taxi or public transport to the test centre

Result of test (you will receive this by email or text message)

### NEGATIVE

Child/staff member can return to setting once well, unless they are a contact of a case, when they will need to complete 14 days self-isolation

If your child is identified as having been in contact with a confirmed case, they will need to self-isolate for 14 days, even if they have had a negative test result. If they develop symptoms, they should isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms, arrange testing and follow the flowchart above

For medical advice call NHS 111, or in an emergency call 999

### POSITIVE

Inform the school or childcare setting as soon as possible even if outside opening hours. The child's close contacts within the school will be advised to self-isolate for 14 days

Ensure the child who has tested positive completes the **10 day** isolation period (from date of onset of symptom)\*. Household members without symptoms should complete 14 days isolation

NHS Test & Trace will send you a text or email alert or call you with instructions of how to share details of people with whom you have had close, recent contact and places you have visited

\*If the child is a confirmed case they can return to the childcare setting/school after 10 days. If they still have a temperature, diarrhoea or are being sick they should wait until 48 hours after these symptoms stop. If the child does not develop symptoms, but lives in a household with someone who has tested positive, they can return to setting after completing 14 days self-isolation at home

For general information about COVID-19 please go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

# Face masks for children



If you wish your child to wear a face mask, they may do so. However, we ask that children ensure that when they are not wearing their face mask it is appropriately stored in their school bag.

Face masks left onsite at the end of the school day, will be disposed of safely.

The Tzu Chi Foundation have kindly donated 240 face masks suitable for children aged 7–11. If you would like your child to have one of these face masks, please ask them to ask their Class Teacher. *We only have enough for one mask per child.*

## Curriculum

During the transition period, we have been focussing on:

- A smooth transition between home and school
- New rules and routines
- Assessment of where the children are with their Mathematics and English

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, the curriculum will be taught as normally as possible, with consideration given to any necessary constraints.

## PE provision

PE lessons will begin in the week beginning the 14<sup>th</sup> September. Initially this will be outdoor activity of a low impact nature, to mitigate the risk of any injury.

Children are permitted to come to school wearing their PE kit on the day of their PE lesson.