

Rolph Church of England Primary School and Nursery

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13th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Returning to school guidance – September 2021

Over the past 18 months, life in school has changed beyond recognition. Staff, children and parents have had to respond to a rapidly changing vision of education and have faced challenges that we never thought possible. Some of our youngest children have yet to experience a ‘normal’ school day where bubbles were things that you played with rather than something that dictated how you played!

Finally, we are being given the hope that we will be moving forward from September. The latest DfE guidance for schools enables many of the current restrictions to ease in line with stage 4 of the roadmap. It is anticipated that we will have confirmation today that we will move to stage 4 from 19th July 2021. Based on this, I am writing some FAQs that should cover the return to school for children in September. If, however you have any further questions, please do contact the school office where I will be able to give you further information as required.

Will my child need to take a test before they return to school in September?

Currently, the guidance does not recommend children under the age of 11 taking a lateral flow tests before returning to school. Children who will be moving into Year 7 will be asked to test by their new school.

Will there continue to be staggered start and end times?

There will no longer be a requirement to stagger the start and end of the day. Normal school times will resume. We have tried in recent months to align staggered starts and end with historical school times to support our families. From September the school day will return to the following:

Arrival for all children between 8.35-8.50am

Departure EYFS (Nursery & Reception) 3.00pm

KS1 (Years 1 & 2) 3.05pm

KS2 (Years 3 – 6) 3.10pm

Do we have to wear masks on school site?

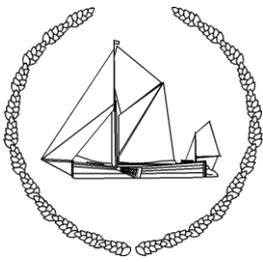
There will be no requirement to wear masks on school site unless you would prefer to continue doing so. This will be each person’s preference and we will support staff and parents/carers who wish to remain wearing masks. However, we are also looking forward to sharing whole smiles with you rather than just ‘smiling eyes’ from September.

Will my child need to continue playing in a bubble?

From September there will not be a requirement for schools to operate a bubble system. We will return to normal break and lunchtimes where children can mix. We will also be returning to whole school collective worship and the guidance also allows us to sing in large groups again – this is the thing I have missed the most and I cannot wait to hear the children sing collectively during worship during the autumn term.

What happens if there is a positive case in school?

From 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 and adults who have been double vaccinated will not be required to isolate if they have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. We will likely see members of our school community continue to test positive and this will be managed by the NHS Test and Trace service. If you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace you will be advised to take a PCR test.



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What should I do if my child develops symptoms of Covid-19 from September?

Pupils and staff will continue to have to self-isolate and follow the isolation guidance if they develop symptoms of Covid-19. They must not attend school. A PCR test should be taken. If a pupil develops symptoms whilst in school, we will contact you to come and collect them.

What protective measures will you continue to have in place?

School will continue to have a risk assessment in place in line with the most up to date guidance. This will always be published on the school website. We will continue to operate a system of controls which include:

- Increased hand hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning regime
- Good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it)
- Well ventilated spaces

I am worried about my child returning to school in September and the easing of restrictions, can I choose to keep them at home?

Attendance for all children is compulsory. If you have worries or anxieties about your child returning to school, please contact us and we will support you in managing these to suit you and your family.

Will my child need to come into school in their PE kit?

There are pros and cons for children coming into school wearing their PE kits. However, on balance, the decision has been made to return to the children wearing full school uniform every day and having a PE kit, in school, in a named PE bag. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school when they return on the first day of the new term.

Will there be clubs running from September?

We will be writing to parents with a full list of available after-school clubs during the first week of term. We hope to be able to offer a range of after-school clubs. Places for these will be allocated on a first come-first served basis.

I hope that you have found the FAQs helpful. In short, life in school will predominately return to a pre-covid existence. We are very much welcoming this and excited for the year ahead. We are also eager to plan a number of opportunities in which parents and carers can once again enjoy life in school and be part of your child's school journey.

I would like to thank you again for your ongoing support and also stress again that if you have any further questions, please do contact the school directly where we will be happy to support you. The DfE guidance for parents and carers can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

Kind regards,

Mrs K Jones
Executive Headteacher