

Ladock C of E School



Covid-19 School Return

Parent Guide

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, many thanks to all of you who completed the survey regarding the wider reopening of schools for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 alongside children of key workers and vulnerable children on the 1st June, if the government's 5 key tests are met. Your responses were very helpful in allowing us to develop a plan for the implementation of this government directive, if confirmation of the tests being met is apparent at that time. Our aim is to be as transparent as possible regarding the school's plan so that you, as parents and carers, can make an informed decision regarding the attendance of your child at school.

As I am sure you are aware from the immense media coverage around reopening, when schools reopen children will return in small groups of no more than 15 children. Taking into account available space at Ladock, we are not always going to be able to operate this directive at a full capacity, but further information around this is included within this document.

Throughout this document, we aim to set out information regarding groupings as well as the school's plan for ensuring the environment children return to is as safe as possible at this time. Also included within this booklet is a frequently asked questions document that aims to answer questions posed by parents and carers completing the survey.

The school has developed its plan in line with the following government documentation:

- Department for Education Planning Guidance for Schools
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings

Before reading this booklet, we feel it is important to stress that, as a school, we agree with the government guidance that states that,

“Unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.”

So whilst our plan is to try and encourage social distancing as far as possible, we cannot guarantee that children will be 2 metres apart from other children and adults at all times and we wish to make that explicitly clear to parents and carers.

We know that this is a difficult decision and not one you will make lightly. Although attendance is not compulsory, the school does have to report attendance to the DfE each day and so we need to know which children we are expecting. I know some families are currently unsure about whether their child should attend; if your answer is no at this point, this can be changed as the situation develops as long as you inform us prior to your child attending school but please be aware that this request may not be granted if the school is at its maximum capacity. If you answer no to your child/children attending then they should not attend school unless otherwise approved.

I want to thank all the school staff for their commitment to the school at this challenging time. They have shown amazing dedication to the school during this period. They have continued to provide provision for key worker children since the school closed, including through the Easter and May half term period. I am extremely grateful for their support in allowing us to implement the government's guidance to schools.

We also want to thank parents for their unwavering support for the school; this has been very much appreciated.

I wish to reiterate that you are under no pressure from the school to take up your place and I fully understand the concerns you have and realise they are not directed at the school but at the situation itself. Your child's attendance is not a decision that I can take for you. The staff and I have planned to ensure the government's requirements can be implemented if the 5 tests are met. You must assess the risk factors and the steps the school has taken to try and mitigate against them as best as we can whilst working with small children. It is for you to decide what you feel is the best course of action for your child.

Pease inform us via the link on the first page of this document your final decision by Monday 25th May.

Chris Stoyles

Essential Information

How many children will be in a class?

The government advises group sizes of 15 however, due to a lack of space, we are unable to meet this demand for every classroom at Ladock school.

Maximum Capacity

Cuby Classroom - 14 children

Keyne Classroom - 15 children

Blaise Classroom - 13 children

Will children be in their normal classroom with their normal teacher/s?

Where possible children will be in their normal classrooms with normal teachers but there are exceptions for children of key workers in years 3,4 and 5. Please see below:

Cuby Classroom (EYFS) - Mrs Denning/Mrs Milling (Mon/Tues/Wed) and Mrs Tringham Mrs Milling (Thur/Fri)

Keyne Classroom (Y1/2/3) - Miss Harris and Miss Morcom (Mon-Fri)

Blaise Classroom (Y4/5/6) - Mr Cornish, Miss Burley and Miss Burnett (Mon-Fri)

Will the classroom environment look the same as it did before the school closure period?

No, our staff have worked hard to ensure that each classroom allows enough tables for the children to sit on their own and 2 metres apart from other children. We have removed some furniture, including all soft furnishings, resources and toys which cannot be easily cleaned. Children in Cuby class will continue to learn through play on a rotation of activities.

Will my child be 100% safe from catching Coronavirus?

We, or any company, business or working environment cannot give any assurance on this.

What happens if a child becomes symptomatic on site?

The child will be moved immediately to an isolated room. They will be supervised by a member of staff (wearing PPE) until they can be collected. The room will then be deep cleaned and children and staff in that bubble will have a period of self isolation from the school premises.

Will anyone be required to wear face masks?

The government guidance clearly states that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools is not recommended.

Will I be able to speak to Jane at school with enquires?

Yes, Jane will be in school but contactable only by phone or email.

Essential Information

How will social distancing be encouraged?

Classroom layouts have been changed to promote social distancing during the day and drop off and collection procedures will support this (please see additional information in this document). Rotas for all breaks and use of outside areas of the school have been produced so only one group uses an area at any one time. We are unable to give you reassurances that children will socially distance throughout the school day although every effort will be made. This would be unrealistic, especially for younger children and feel it is incorrect to claim otherwise. However, as documented in the government guidance, **Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings**, *“Unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out:*

Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
Regular cleaning of settings
Minimising contact and mixing”

How will the school ensure regular handwashing during the day?

Staff will explicitly teach and supervise health and hygiene arrangements such as handwashing, tissue disposal and toilet flushing. Children will be made to frequently wash their hands with soap and dry them properly throughout the day including every time they come in from outside and before and after they eat snacks or lunch and after sneezing or coughing. Help will be available for children who have trouble cleaning their hands independently. All classrooms have their own sink and toilets to use.

Will the school carry out daily temperature checks on the children?

The government guidance states that schools do not need to carry out daily temperature tests on children as routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus.

My child's sibling is not eligible for a school place, are they allowed to attend?

Currently, we are unable to provide an additional school place for siblings of children who are not in the year groups: nursery, reception, Y1 or Y6 unless the sibling is categorised as vulnerable or at least one parent is a recognised key worker.

Essential Information

Does the school have access to PPE?

The school has a small amount of PPE that would only be used in the following circumstances, highlighted by the government guidance:

- Where staff are carrying out intimate care for a child (this was always the case before coronavirus)
- If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus whilst in the setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home.
- If a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus and a supervising adult cannot maintain 2 metres distance from the child.

Will the children be taught from the curriculum during the day or is this just childcare?

It is not possible to cover all curriculum requirements at this point but we will be prioritising the following:

- Opportunities to promote children's physical and mental health.
- For children in year 6 moving to secondary school, academic readiness particularly in maths and literacy.
- Reception and Year 1 - early reading skills, including phonics.

Can I send my child to school on a part time basis?

The expectation would be for your child/children to attend on a full time basis if a school place is taken up. Children in nursery can continue to attend on a part time basis.

How will hygiene in school be managed?

Each group will have their own cleaning wipes and spray that adults in the group can use to frequently clean surfaces that children are touching e.g. toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, light switches.

Children will be actively encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and noses. Children will regularly be reminded of catch it, bin it, kill it procedures. All classroom bins have been replaced with pedal bins and these bins will be emptied regularly throughout the day. All rooms will be well ventilated by opening windows and wherever possible doors will be propped open to aid ventilation and limit the use of door handles. Children will not use the school corridor; they will only use their allocated room and enter and exit this via the fire escape unless there is an exceptional circumstance.

All adults and children will be strongly encouraged to wash their clothes at the end of each day after school. Toilets will be cleaned throughout the day.

At the end of each day, each room will be thoroughly cleaned.

Will nursery schooling be offered throughout the week?

Nursery children will be able to attend throughout the school week.

Essential Information

How will the school run be managed so there are not adults coming into contact with others outside their family group?

We will be operating a staggered drop off and pick up system. Each group will be given a time to drop off their child and a time to pick up. No other group will be dropping off and picking up children at this time. It will be crucial that adults adhere to their allocated time slot. Only one adult will be allowed to drop off a child and they will drop the child just inside the main gate at the entrance to the school. They will then be taken by a member of staff within their 'bubble' who will take them to their classroom through the fire escape door. No parents/carers will be allowed onto the school site during the school day. If for any reason they need to collect their child early, they will need to contact the school office, by telephone, to make arrangements. There will be no parental access to the main office and communication with school staff will need to be via telephoning the main school office or through email.

How will small groups remain in place at break and lunchtimes?

Break times will be staggered so that each group has their break time separately and each group will be provided with equipment that can be used to independently play with such as skipping ropes. Children will be encouraged to remain 2 metres apart during these times. Break times for individual groups will be supervised by the adults allocated to that group.

What procedures are in place for school meals?

We are asking parents to provide a packed lunch for children each day until further notice. This will be eaten in their classroom and parents currently receiving electronic school meal vouchers will continue to do so until we are in a position to open the school kitchen.

Will breakfast and afterschool club be available?

We are unable to offer breakfast and afterschool club until further notice. This is because it would disrupt the 'bubbled' groups the children have been placed in. However, if you are a key worker we are able to provide additional provision if absolutely necessary; you will be contacted separately about this.

If I choose not to send my child into school, will there still be able to access home learning?

Mrs Stevenson will plan and oversee home learning in KS1 and KS2 for children not attending school. She will be available for direct contact through ClassDojo from 10am-2pm every school day.

School Day and Timings

Drop off and pick up times

We are asking parents not to enter the school premises and only one parent should drop off and pick up children. Children will be collected by a teacher/teaching assistant before entering the school.

From 1st June:

Cuby Classroom (EYFS)

Entry Point and Time: school gate outside Cuby classroom - 8:45

Exit Point and Time: school gate outside Cuby classroom - 3:15

Keyne Classroom (Y1 and Y2/Y3 key workers/vulnerable)

Entry Point and Time: main school gate - 9:00

Exit Point and Time: main school gate - 3:30

Blaise Classroom (Y4/5 key workers/vulnerable and Y6)

Entry Point and Time: main school gate - 9:15

Exit Point and Time: main school gate - 3:45

*****Important*****

It is a statutory right that all teachers are entitled to PPA time. To ensure that grouped children do not come into contact with additional teachers outside their 'bubble', the school day will finish at the following times on Fridays until further notice. If absolutely necessary, key worker parents can request a later pick up time. This information will be communicated to you separately.

Cuby– 12pm school gate outside Cuby classroom

Keyne– 12:15pm main school gate

Blaise - 12:30pm main school gate
