



# Ely St John's School

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Headteacher: Miss Liz Bassett  
Deputy Head: Mr John Henson

2.9.20

Dear Parents,

We have been in regular contact with the Local Authority and Public Health advice and are confident that we can welcome all children back to school from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. We have updated our COVID Secure Risk Assessment, which is on the website, to include new guidance that has been sent during the holidays.

Our basic premise remains to give formal consideration to how we maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable. While we cannot expect children to social distance effectively in such close proximity with so many others, we will continue to encourage distancing as much as possible.

Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace – see additional attached letter about the test and trace process
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

Our model is to have year group bubbles – two classes sharing toilets; some shared spaces and staff to work across no more than two year groups as much as is reasonably possible. (*For more details please see our detailed COVID-19 Risk Management Assessment on the website, which has been agreed by the Local Authority and governors.*)

Here are some practicalities to consider for the children's return (some of which may have been put into transition information). Please see the accompanying site map to aid safe drop off and pick up.

## **Face coverings**

Please note that we are asking all parents/carers to wear a face covering when on the school site (outside in the playground or in school for any meeting).

The advice is still that children in primary school do not wear face coverings. *This is because:*

- *children, young people and staff are mixing in consistent groups*
- *not using them correctly may accidentally increase the risk of transmitting the virus*
- *there may be negative effects on communications and therefore on your child's education*

Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classrooms should be avoided.

Where children arrive at school wearing a face covering we ask parents to help their child safely remove the covering before entering the classroom. Please take face coverings home and bring them back at the end of the day if you wish your child to wear them to and from school. If children come to school on their own, please ensure they have a plastic bag to place their face covering in while in school.

Some staff may be wearing plastic visors when working with the children but will not be wearing masks when teaching.

### **Entry to school:**

The Beresford Road Gate and Beresford Road Emergency Exit Gate will be for morning entry. The lane gate must be used by KS2 children with bikes / scooters please. (*The narrow corridor round from bike sheds to the back playground is going to be one way so those with bikes and scooters will not be able to access the bike area from Beresford Road.*)

Children will be able to come on site and enter their classrooms straight away from 8.35am to 8.50am so as to ease congestion a little and to avoid waiting in playgrounds. We ask parents to leave straight away and exit out of Beresford Road Emergency Exit Gate or the Front Playground Gate (*which is exit only*).

**Collection at the end of the day:** (*this has been more difficult to manage and likely to be more congested thus relies on families staying together and not allowing little ones or pupils to run around*) : Please see the attached site plan – parents will wait outside rooms 1-2m apart and come forwards one at a time to collect children. Please wait, standing back from classroom doors. The area just in front of the building will be an exiting corridor for parents to collect and walk along to exit out of the Emergency Gate. To begin with, parents with 2 or more children will have to collect from each classroom. We will review this after the first week or, so when we can see how congested things are.

The narrow stretch from KS2 bike area to the back of the school will remain one way at the start and end of the day, thus please can we ask parents collecting KS2 children to enter through the St John's Road Lane Gate and collect your child's bike or scooter on the way past when going round to wait in the playground. Please note that for children in Mrs Turner and Mrs Derry's class we will ask you to wait along the nature garden fence opposite the bike racks. Children will be brought out through the door just near the back of the hall.

Collection times remain the same – 3pm EYFS and KS1 and 3.05pm KS2. However we know collection may take a little longer so please bear with us.

### **What to wear:**

School uniform with footwear suitable for physical activity (trainers). Children will be able to manage most PE dressed sensibly in uniform but older children may wish to come in to school wearing uniform top half and jogging bottoms or green shorts on days that they have PE. Information on which days each class has PE will follow in September.

Please remember a raincoat / coat when weather requires it as we tend to go out in all weathers. Wellies too for spinneys and some outdoor activity for KS1 particularly please.

### **What to bring:**

A pencil case would be brilliant as we will still try to have children using their own equipment exclusively. Other equipment will be shared across the class and children will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly.

No big bags please and no PE bags. Just book bags, lunch boxes and water bottles + a snack (if KS2).

No toys or other things from home please.

Please hand in monies and letters directly to the office as much as is possible.

### **What to expect in class:**

Desks will be in rows facing the front from Year 2 upwards, so children are likely to share a desk with one other child. Assemblies will be in classrooms or year group areas (virtual or otherwise). Unfortunately we will not be having our Sharing Assemblies for parents to attend in the first instance but will be sharing what children do on the website year group pages. PE will be outside mostly, with the hall used only as a back up in wet weather. Children will have allocated playground spaces and staggered break times. The curriculum will be very much focused in the first couple of weeks on settling back in to school life.

Teachers will be focusing on key skills for progress. They will also work on resilience; re-socialisation; allaying anxieties and fears; working on codes of conduct based on our EJWay and how to take responsibility for keeping COVID-safe in school. Children will need to build up good learning attitudes again within school. Teachers will be quickly trying to judge children's learning needs after so long out of school and we will try to provide as much catch up and intervention as possible to get children back on

track. We will have an early Parent Consultation this Autumn term focused on how children have settled, around the third week of term.

**What to expect at lunchtime:**

Children in EYFS and Years 1,2,3 will have hot dinners and packed lunches in the hall (with tables and chairs wiped between year group bubbles). Year 4-6 will have packed lunches in one of their year group bubble classrooms and hot dinners will be in the Gallery. They will have allocated spaces for their year group bubble to play in at lunch time. While we will encourage socially distanced games, it will not be possible to keep children socially distanced from each other all the time when at play. We have invested in some mobile hand washing stations to try outside to help with handwashing at lunchtimes and will ensure they wash their hands before eating. There will be midday staff working with specific year groups to again avoid mixing as much as possible. Lunchtime for EFYS and year 1 will be 11.45-12.45; Year 2-6 will be 12.15-1.10.

**What to expect as moving around school:**

When we first arrive back, children will not be moving around school as freely as usual and will be encouraged to stay largely in bubble year group rooms, outside or in other allocated spaces. However we will be using some rooms for interventions and additional space for lunch clubs or 1:1 or small group work. In general, children will need to keep to the left in corridors and remember to try and stay socially distanced from adults as much as is reasonably possible.

**What happens if my child is ill?**

Parents will inform the office in the usual way, if their child is ill, in line with our usual attendance policy which is on the website. However, we will need to ask you the exact nature of your child's illness and if they have symptoms of coronavirus, we will be asking them to stay off school until they have had a test. If the test is confirmed positive they will need to be off for 10 days and until well enough to return. The self-isolation of others will be managed through the test and trace advice from Public Health. We will inform parents where there is a suspected case in their child's bubble and again when we are informed of whether a test was negative or positive, in line with LA model advice.

**Test and trace**

Please read the accompanying letter about test and trace and what the school will do in the event of a possible or confirmed case of COVID 19. We would ask parents to share the results of tests with the school in the event that your child has to have a test taken.

Please do not hesitate to ring or email us if you have any other questions or concerns.

Best wishes,  
Liz Bassett