



Thursday 9th September

Dear parents and guardians

Changes to arrangements for September school opening

Term has started really well and it is lovely to have you and your children back in circumstances much closer to normal.

Now that the guidance school receives relating to Covid appears clearer, I am writing to you with information relating to different potential scenarios. This information is in the new section in this guide *Covid Questions & Answers* and you will notice some sections are highlighted in yellow. These sections provide information on enhanced measures we have put in place to protect us all.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes

Jeremy Cooper

Headteacher

Main Points

Removed

- Staggered start and end to the school day (see table for times)
- Bubbles

Retained

- Attendance is mandatory and shielding remains paused. Shielding can only be reintroduced by national government.
- Not sending your child to school if they are unwell, including possible COVID-19 symptoms
- Wherever possible maintaining social distancing when dropping off and collecting your children
- Mask wearing on school premises, inside and out
- Preferably contacting school via telephone or emailing unless direct contact is necessary
- The temporary toilets for Year 3-6 for the short term future
- Maximum ventilation in the classroom and good hygiene routines
- Remote learning in schools for pupils if they have tested positive for COVID-19 but are well enough to learn from home or attendance at their setting has been temporarily restricted. If school is temporarily closed (in extreme cases and as a last resort) vulnerable children and those of critical workers will still be able to attend.

Returned

- Normal school life as much as possible (eg use of the hall for eating, indoor PE, assembly)

Covid Questions and Answers

National Guidance States: People who have been fully vaccinated are no longer having to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case; those under 18 years of age also no longer need to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

At Appledore School we have conducted our own risk assessments and the following covid guidance needs to be followed. **Some of this guidance goes further than the national guidance**, notably regarding contacts of a positive case, to protect our pupils, families, and staff and is highlighted in yellow.

Please read this guide carefully.

If my child has symptoms, can they come to school?

No. They should remain at home. The child with symptoms should get a PCR test. If positive, they will need to self-isolate for a full 10 days. If negative and they are well, they can then return to school.

If someone else in the household has symptoms, can my child come to school?

Yes, the child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms. The person with symptoms should get a PCR test and should self-isolate while they wait for the result.

If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?

No - not straight away.

At Appledore School we are adding the following enhanced measure:

Children should stay off school and get a PCR test. If the test is negative, they can return to school if they have no symptoms. **Please note: This is an enhanced measure based on the school risk assessment to protect pupils and staff.**

If my child is identified as a close contact from the community, can they come to school?

Yes, if they do not have symptoms. The child should get a PCR test straight away. Although they can continue coming to school, parents may prefer to keep the child off until the PCR result comes back.

If someone in the class has symptoms, what happens?

The child will be sent home and must get a PCR test and self-isolate while waiting for the results. The other children in the class will continue to attend school.

If someone in the class tests positive, what happens?

At Appledore School we are adding the following enhanced measure:

Staff will identify 'high risk contacts'; these are children who have had very close or prolonged close contact with the child who has tested positive. We will ask these parents to take their children for a PCR test and these children should remain off school while waiting for the result.

All other children in the class can continue to attend school. Parents will be informed that there is a positive case in the class and should remain vigilant to any developing symptoms for their child. **Please note: This is an enhanced measure based on the school risk assessment to protect pupils and staff.**

Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?

No, this is not a requirement for Primary schools, however, if your families would like to do this then that is fine. We would encourage all adults to take regular (twice a week) lateral flow device tests to help identify early onset of covid.

What happens if lots of children at school tests positive?

If this happens, we will involve our local health protection team and they will advise us if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups or classes.

What happens if the staff member tests positive?

The staff member will self-isolate for 10 days. Their children will either be taught by a cover member of staff or supply teacher; If the teacher is well enough, they may be able to teach remotely into the classroom. If the teacher is unwell, they will not be teaching remotely and will be resting and recovering.

If a parent has been a close contact and is not required to self isolate (double vaccinated) can they still bring children to school?

Yes, but we would ask that you take some additional precautions.

As well as getting a PCR test, we would ask that you:

- Wear a mask on the school site
- Keep physical distance from other families and staff

NHS suggest:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces and where you are unable to maintain social distancing
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in twice weekly LFD testing

This advice applies while the person who tested positive with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

Communication

Please continue to not enter the school buildings without an invitation or prior arrangement. All visitors and parents entering the school buildings must wear a face mask. Please contact school by calling 01237 474365 or emailing admin@appledoreprimary.co.uk

After school clubs and AOOSC

AOOSC opening hours have reverted back to what they were before staggered starts were introduced. Please visit <https://www.appledore-primary.devon.sch.uk/index.php?page=extended-schools> for more information. Information will follow regarding other after school clubs.

School uniform

Children will wear the correct school uniform when they return in September. Prior to breaking up some children were attending school wearing items that are not school uniform, eg leggings and trainers. Incorrect uniform will be discussed with children and parents. For the correct uniform please visit <https://www.appledore-primary.devon.sch.uk/index.php?page=uniform>

Drop off and collection arrangements

Information for all age groups

- From 8.40am the bottom playground is open for parents and pupils of any age group to wait until the bell rings. Please do not let your children play on the pirate ship (before or after school). Please be wary of the car park. The gates on Pitt Lane and Richmond Road will also be open.
- Children are not permitted to wait or play in our woodland before or after school, even if they are with their parents.
- At 3.15pm all school gates will be opened to allow parents and guardians to wait on the bottom playground. Parents and guardians are not to wait for or meet their children at the end of the day beyond the small gate at the top of the bottom playground.

Information for Years 1-6

- The school bell will ring at 8.50am to signify school is open for pupils in Years 1-6. Pupils must arrive at school in time for them to have settled in class and for lessons to begin at 9am.
- The school day ends at 3.30pm.

Information for Years 3-6

- On hearing the bell at 8.50am, children in Years 3-6 walk through the small gate at the top of the small playground to their classrooms. Parents are not to go beyond the small gate.
- At the end of the day, children in Years 3-6 will meet their parents on the bottom playground or walk home independently if that is what parents and guardians desire.

Information for Year 1

- Parents and guardians and children line-up along the path from the school front door. When the bell goes at 8.50am, the door will open and children will be met at the door by one of their teachers where their parents and guardians say goodbye.
- At 3.30pm children will be let out one by one to their parents.

Information for Year 2

- One of the Year 2 teachers will meet the children on the bottom playground in the morning and take them out again at the end of the day to meet their parents.

Information for Nursery (Turtles) & Reception (Dolphins)

- When the bell rings at 8.50am, please wait for older children to exit the bottom playground and then take your children to the Foundation Stage Unit (through the small gate at the top of the playground, follow the wall on your right and it is straight ahead). Staff will be there to advise you of where to wait.
- Staff will open the doors to the Foundation Stage Unit for nursery and reception and welcome the children in. Parents and guardians are to say goodbye to the children before they enter their classrooms.

Information for Reception (Dolphins)

- From 3.20pm, parents and guardians can wait outside where they dropped off in the morning and the teacher will let the children out when they see their parents or guardians.

Information for Nursery (Turtles)

- For lunchtime arrivals and departures at 12pm or 12.30pm, please wait outside the back gate on Kingsley Avenue for it to be opened by staff and for your children to be given to you.
- From 3.20pm, parents and guardians can wait outside where they dropped off in the morning and the teacher will let the children out when they see their parents or guardians.