



ORCHARD HEAD

J, I & N SCHOOL

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Re: Back to School/ COVID-19 Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I trust you had an enjoyable summer and hope this letter finds you well. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all next Wednesday, 8 September, as we begin our new academic year.

This letter is to remind you of our 'back to school' arrangements, considering the government's latest COVID 19 guidance. The latest guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

- **All pupils** will now start school at 8:50am and finish school at 3:15pm for Reception and KS1 and 3:20pm for KS2.
- Parents/carers and pupils will be able to access school through the 'bungalow' gate and the 'nursery gate.' These access points are identified in the image below (and also feature in the most recent newsletter <https://www.smores.com/8kv5w>). The previous 'one-way' system will no longer be in place.

Classes in Y1 – Y6 will line up on the rear playground in the order shown in the diagram

Entry and exit for all pupils, parents and carers will be through the gates marked A and B.

All one way systems are no longer in place.



Nursery and Reception drop off and pick up points are marked on the map. Parents will no longer need to walk a full loop around the unit building to leave the school site.

- "Bubbles" will no longer be in place and we will revert to mixing of class groups where appropriate, such as break times, after school clubs and during curriculum activities.
- We will be resuming many of our
- 'traditional' school events and activities, such as assemblies, and look forward to being able to welcome parents/carers back into school for many of these.
- Our usual lunchtime arrangements will resume where pupils will eat with their classmates in the dinner hall.

- Pupils will no longer be required to self-isolate if they have been in contact with somebody who has tested positive for COVID 19. Contact tracing will be taken over by NHS Test and Trace, so we will no longer undertake this task in response to a positive case in school.
- If your child displays symptoms, we will request that they self-isolate until the results of a PCR test are known.
- Access to the school office, is now available for face to face queries, however, we would also still welcome communication via telephone and email.

Elements that are unchanged:

- Our vigilance towards good hand-hygiene and good ventilation in all learning spaces will continue to further mitigate the spread of COVID 19.
- If your child tests positive for COVID 19, they will still need to isolate for the recommended period (NHS will advise).
- Adults or children may still choose to wear a face mask if they wish in school.
- A positive LFD result will also continue to lead to self-isolation whilst an individual is awaiting a confirmatory PCR test.

It is worth remembering that The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or will only suffer a very mild form of the illness. I would like to reassure you that we will continue to treat COVID 19 as serious and as such, our rigorous approach to our on-going hygiene measures will continue.

We are very much looking forward to the return of all of our pupils on **Wednesday 8th September 2021** and to a fantastic year of wonderful learning opportunities and events!

As Headteacher of our school I greatly appreciate your continued support. As always, should you have any queries please contact school via admin@orchardhead.patrust.org.uk or by phone on 01977 723495.

Yours faithfully,



Joe Mitchell
Headteacher