



26th February 2021

Full Opening of Schools March 8th 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I am pleased to confirm that school will be open to all pupils from **Monday 8th March**. Our provision and arrangements will be quite similar to those in place before Christmas but I thought that you would appreciate a reminder and details of any changes.

The School Day

Children will continue to be in class 'bubbles' throughout the day and will not mix with other classes, with the exception of Reception and Year 1 who will continue to share the Early Years outdoor area and toilets. Break times will be staggered.

Drop-off and pick-up will continue to be staggered, using the one-way walking system (enter via School Road in the morning and exit via Newpound Lane; enter via Newpound Lane in the afternoon and exit via School Lane). Key Stage 2 children (Years 3 to 6) may be dropped on School Lane and children in Years 5 and 6 may walk to and from school by themselves with your permission (please let the office know). Please note that parents are responsible for their child's safety until they enter school grounds.

Times will be as follows:

Years 5 and 6	8:40am	3:05pm
Years 3 and 4	8:45am	3:10pm
Years 1, 2 and R	8:50am	3:15pm.

We politely request that only one adult per family drops off or picks up and that face coverings are worn by adults, unless medically exempt. We also request that you drop and pick up at the side of the playground, rather than walking across, to maintain social distancing. Siblings may still be dropped and/or picked up at the earlier of your allocated slots. We just ask that you let the office know in advance. The staggered times are closer than those in place last term, in order to maintain maximum time in school for all children. Should congestion occur or any other safety issues arise, we will have to consider reverting to broader time slots. This will be kept under review.

Please do not congregate at the entrance, exit, on the playground or beyond school grounds before or after school. The requirements for social distancing and avoidance of gatherings remain in place. Visitors will not be permitted on site. Should you need to speak to a member of the office staff as a matter of urgency, please wear a face covering and maintain social distancing at all times. In most cases, an email or phone call should suffice.

Please be aware that there is a voluntary one-way system in place when entering School Road from the pond entrance off the A272 between the times of: 8.30am—9.15am and 3.00pm—3.45pm during drop off and pick up times.

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Newpound Lane • Wisborough Green • West Sussex RH14 0EE

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If a childminder or grandparent is dropping off or picking up, please advise them of our requirements detailed above. The DfE recommends that parents using external childcare providers should limit their use to one out-of-school setting as far as possible and that parents check that providers have put in place their own protective measures.

Uniform

Our usual school uniform policy will be in place from 8th March. Please note that they do not need to be cleaned more often than usual. We appreciate that some families are currently experiencing financial pressures and children may have grown during lockdown, so if you have any issues providing correct uniform please do let us know.

Please be aware that increased ventilation in classrooms may make the school cooler than usual, so if children wish to wear additional layers they are welcome to do so.

Curriculum

We will continue to have high expectations for all of our children and to provide a broad curriculum in all subjects. 26% of our children have been attending school during the lockdown period and, of the remaining children, over 95% regularly engaged with remote learning to a reasonable or high level so we are confident that, for many children, progress has been made. Teachers will, however, carry out low-key assessments in English and Maths over the first few weeks in order to identify gaps in knowledge and to identify which areas of the core curriculum may need to be modified.

Identified 'recovery' groups will receive additional support during this period in addition to children with SEND currently on 1:1 programmes. Children working with our Catch-Up Coordinator will continue to do so. Learning in Reception will initially focus more on the prime areas of learning: communication and language, personal, social and emotional development and physical development.

Wellbeing

It is inevitable that some children will be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown, including anxiety, stress or low mood. Staff will help to support children through pastoral and PSHE activities to rebuild friendships and social engagement and to improve physical and mental wellbeing. For the first four weeks, each class will participate in 'Wellbeing Wednesday': a day full of practical, social and creative activities designed to ease children back into the school environment and rebuild social links with their classmates.

In addition, all children will be encouraged to be physically active through two weekly PE sessions, preferably outdoors, and one session of Forest School per week. Our Active Daily Mile will also continue. Teachers will be running a weekly after-school multisport club for the four weeks leading up to Easter. Due to current restrictions, these will need to be class groups only and will take place from 3:15 to 4:00pm. Further details will follow shortly.

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Please see the below timetable for Forest School and after-school multisport sessions.

Year Group	Forest School	After-School Multisports w/c 8 March – w/c 29 March
Reception	Monday	Wednesday
1	Thursday	Thursday
2	Tuesday	Thursday
3	Wednesday	Monday
4	Thursday	Tuesday
5	Tuesday	Monday
6	Wednesday	Wednesday

Lunches

From 8th March meals will be provided as usual but lunchtimes will be staggered. Please note that the Key Stage Two meal selector at Chartwells is now open and you will need to order hot meals if you require them for a child in Years 3 to 6.

Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from Monday 8th March. The usual rules on school attendance will apply, including 'the parent's duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school and the ability to issue sanctions'.

Please see our Attendance Policy on our website for further details. Our policy was reviewed and approved by our governing body in December 2020. **Please note that the office should be informed of any absence by 9:30am each day.**

If your child has been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) and has been asked to shield by the NHS or their GP, please notify school and provide a copy of your child's shielding letter for the office. In such cases, remote learning will continue to be provided and, of course, absence will be authorised.

We understand that some children and parents may be reluctant or anxious about returning to school. If so, please contact Miss Greenway, our Wellbeing Lead, to discuss any concerns you may have. We are also happy to provide further details of the measures we are putting in place to reduce any risks in order to reassure you. Please contact the school office in the first instance by email or phone. You may also use talk@wisboroughgreenschool.org.uk to speak directly to Miss Greenway or Mrs Butcher-Collier, our Learning Mentor.

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Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Our rules on coronavirus symptoms remain the same. Children and staff must not come to school if:

- They have one or more [coronavirus symptoms](#)
- A member of their household or support bubble has symptoms
- They have had a positive test.

They must stay at home for 10 days from the day after the start of their symptoms or the day after the test date if they did not have symptoms but have had a positive test (LFD or PCR).

If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develops symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10-day period from the day they developed symptoms.

Our own experience indicates that there are other symptoms associated with COVID-19 such as headaches, sore throat and mild cold symptoms. We ask therefore that you do not send your child to school if they are unwell, even if they are not displaying any of the three main symptoms. If they do display any of the main symptoms, you are advised to book a test immediately.

We will notify parents immediately if your child displays any possible symptoms or appears unwell in order to protect our children and staff from any possible infection.

Children who are self-isolating but are well will receive remote learning for that period via Google Classroom.

Assessment and Reporting

This year 2020/21, the DfE have cancelled the statutory KS1 and KS2 tests and teacher summer assessments, including the Early Years Profile, Year 1 Phonics Screening and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. Teachers will, however, continue to assess children in order to inform their planning of future teaching and learning and to provide transition information. A full report of your child's attainment will be provided at the end of the year. In the meantime, we will arrange parent-teacher conversations for the first week of next term, **week commencing 19th April**. Further details will be provided in the next few weeks.

Apologies for such a long letter but I was keen to address any questions or concerns that you or your child may have about the full reopening of school. If there is anything else that I have not mentioned, please email the office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you all on 8th March and cannot wait for the school to return to its usual buzz of energy and learning! Until then, please stay safe.

Best wishes,

Caroline Bennett, Headteacher

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