

Attending learning & care during the CoViD-19 health emergency

Information for Parents of Children of Critical Workers

Since 23rd March, only the children of critical workers and vulnerable children have been attending our setting. Now, the Department for Education and Hartlepool LA, in the light of scientific and medical advice, have given permission for the wider opening of early years and school settings, to children in daycare, from birth to the age of 5, and children of Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 6.

We are beginning this wider opening from Monday, 8th June by welcoming those children in the eligible age-groups and classes, who have not attended since 23rd March. They will visit for an induction session during the week beginning Monday 8th June, where they will meet their key worker or teacher. During the next week, beginning on Monday 15th June, they will be introduced to the other children in their 'bubble' over a series of sessions, ready to attend full-time their allocated sessions from the following week, beginning on Monday, 22nd June. The children of key workers, in eligible year groups, will transfer to their class 'bubbles' during the week beginning Monday 15th June

School and Early years is very different to the setting other children left on Friday, 20th March. We would be very grateful if parents could talk through the changes and discuss the return of other children where appropriate. So that all children will feel part of the setting, there are changes to which everyone will adjust over the next few weeks, which we have explained in this leaflet.

Preparing to come to setting

School Kit

Each child will have an individual 'workstation'. Their everyday equipment and resources will be kept in a tray at their desk. Other belongings can be kept in a box under the desk. There are a few things to which each child should have access, that we hope parents will provide, including:

- a hat & suntan lotion (labelled) – we expect to spend more time outside so on sunny days please apply before coming and children will re-apply during day;
- a box of tissues;
- a water bottle (approx. 1 litre) which can be easily re-filled each morning and used during the day;
- a change of clothes;

Additionally for Early Years:

- dummy or comforter that can stay in school and be easily cleaned;
- bottles or special cup if needed for feeding;
- nappies and wipes, as appropriate;
- if toilet-training, additional 5 changes of bottoms and underclothes, we will then use and wash in setting.

If these could be delivered, in a labelled carrier bag, to the setting, before children return full-time, and at the latest by Friday, 19th June. You will be informed when re-fill is needed.

Uniform

Children need to wear clothes that can easily be washed when they return home from school, so it is recommended that children try to wear a variation of 'summer uniform', namely shorts and t-shirt (if possible, in one of our school colours – jade, white, blue, red, yellow and green) one of which could be their PE top. The blue gingham dress would also be an option. (We are not changing into slippers during this period).

Handwashing & respiratory hygiene

This is the most important way that children can protect themselves and others from the spread of the virus in school. Children need to wash their hands thoroughly:

- On arrival;
- Before and after eating;
- After any activities during which they have touched potentially infected surfaces, such as after being outdoors;
- After using the toilet;
- After coughing or sneezing and disposing of the tissue;
- Before leaving for home.

Children will learn how to use the paper towel, after drying their hands, as a barrier to protect from potentially infected surfaces as they leave the washroom.

Trapping coughs and sneezes in a tissue (or the crook of the arm in emergencies), disposing of the tissue and washing hands afterwards, helps reduce the risk of spreading infection. This will become even more important in the Autumn, as the usual colds and 'flu' begin to spread.

Social Distance

Workstations have been positioned so that children have a distance of 2 m from others. Teachers and practitioners will maintain social distance from themselves and the children, which means teaching will be very different. Moving around

school will be supervised to ensure children keep their distance. Outdoors, the children will be reminded to maintain social distance while playing.

Arriving at the setting

Handing over children

All children of critical workers, regardless of their start time, will be dropped off at doors from the school garden. For early years, where transfer of very young children may take more time, covered areas are in place and practitioners will meet parents there. If arriving after 9.00 am, use the buzzer at the gate to contact the appropriate room or the early years office for Years 2, 3, 4 or 5.

In setting

Bubbles

Children will be in much smaller groups than usual, with no more than 15 classmates in each group. These 'bubbles' will spend all their time together in school, have separate breaks and even take their lunches as separate 'bubbles'. The children of critical workers in one of the wider opening years, will all be in one 'bubble', which may include other children. This 'bubble' will be available from 7.45 – 5.45 for those requiring extended provision, whether critical worker or other.

Meals

Universal free school meals will be provided for all children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 and school meals will be available for other children. To reduce the amount of equipment coming in and out of the setting each day, it might be safer if children took the school meal rather than bringing packed-lunches from home. (If children prefer a packed-lunch then please wash the lunch-box thoroughly when it returns home, and wipe down the external surface with a disinfectant wipe before leaving the house each morning. The lunch box will be stored in the child's box under their desk.)

Illness

At this time, please be vigilant and keep children away from the setting at the first sign of illness and err on the side of caution. Please do not use the normal, "See how you feel at playtime" approach.

If children become ill while at school, then parents will be contacted, as usual, to come to collect them. (During this period, we will contact parents/carers only, so they can decide the best course of action.) If a CoViD-19 infection is suspected the child will be isolated, supervised from outside the room or by someone in PPE if they need closer support, while awaiting collection. While we recognise that lots of childhood illnesses are accompanied by high temperature and cough, as you might expect, we will be extremely cautious at this time, so expect to be called for conditions that we previously may not even have mentioned.

We will inform all parents of children if a case of CoViD-19 is confirmed in their room and provide Public Health England advise and instructions.

Leaving the setting

Collecting children

All children of critical workers, regardless of their finish times, will be collected at the relevant doors from the school garden. For early years, where transfer of very young children may take more time, covered areas are in place and practitioners will bring children to there.

When collecting children, if the gate is still closed, then use the buzzer to contact the appropriate room or the early years office for Years 2, 3, 4 & 5. When the gate is open, then knock on the relevant door and wait for a practitioner to respond.

Washing clothes

It is advised that children remove their school clothes and wash thoroughly as soon as they arrive home. Thus, it will be helpful to consider which clothes your child wears for school so they are easily washed each day.

Contacting the setting

Attendance

All critical workers need to continue booking their children into the setting by Thursday of the preceding week by emailing admin.

As usual, please call the setting each morning, if your child will be absent. It would be very helpful, if this call could be made before your child is expected to arrive.

Administration

Please do not enter the setting, unless by appointment. For practical and administrative issues, please telephone school.

Learning

All children, including those accessing as children of critical workers in Year 2, 3, 4 and 5, will have time during the week with a teacher and will be undertaking a curriculum drawing from our usual provision.

Tapestry, our real-time reporting platform, will continue to be useful for contact between home and practitioners to support learning. Teachers and practitioners will not be available before or after sessions as they are normally. They will arrive in the setting 'just-in time' and leave as soon as possible after their teaching time, to reduce contact and any spreading of the infection to others. Thus, to speak with the teacher leading your child's 'bubble', please telephone to make a telephone appointment.

We will also use the 'Care Diary' function of Tapestry to provide information about meals, sleeps, toileting and accidents.

Contacts

Email: admin@sjvschool.co.uk (for bookings)

Telephone: 01429 273273 (absence/to make appointments)

If your contact details change, please make sure we know immediately.