



# Torridon Primary School

*Returning to School*

*Summer Term 2020*

*Please note this guide will be regularly updated in line with guidance from Public Health England, the Department for Education, the government and the Local Authority.*

## Introduction

We are gradually welcoming an increased number of children back to school this term, starting with children of essential workers and vulnerable children.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** will be an INSET day for all staff to prepare for the new arrangements. We look forward to seeing key worker and vulnerable children **on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June**.

Those of you who completed the parent and carer survey last week had lots of questions about how school was going to work when more children started to return. Here are responses to some of the most frequently asked questions.

### Does my child have to come back to school in the summer term?

Parents and carers will not be penalised if they choose not to send their children to school. Every effort will be made to ensure the school environment is as safe as possible, however we cannot guarantee to be 100% risk free. The decision to send your child(ren) to school is yours.

### How will children be grouped?

Children will be grouped with others in their year group in a 'bubble' of no more than 15 children. Each bubble will be staffed by up to 4 adults who will remain with the children throughout the day and across the week. The staff within each bubble will cover each other for breaks. Children will learn, play and eat within their bubble. Please note that children may not be with their usual teachers and/or their friends and may need to be prepared for this. Each group will be allocated their own learning and playground space.

### Where will I drop off and pick up my children?\*

Children will arrive to a specified gate (according to their bubble) at a designated time. **Please note – this may be at a different time to usual in order to allow a staggered start and minimise the number of adults and children arriving at the same time.** Please line up 2 metres apart outside your allocated gate. Senior staff will greet children at the gate and take them to their learning space where they will wash their hands on entry.

At the end of the day, each bubble will have an allocated pick up time. Please come to your allocated gate (observing 2m distancing rules if you have to wait) where senior staff will greet you. Children will wait on the playground with the adults from their bubble until parents or carers arrive to collect them. We ask that you stick to your allocated times and not wait any longer than necessary outside the school gates. Parents and carers will not be allowed on site (except in an emergency).

\*Further details about specific times for drop off and pick up/ allocated entrance and exit points will be available next week.

### What will children be learning?

Learning at school will follow the same themes as the home learning. We know that some children will find it strange being back at school and will make sure there are lots of opportunities to talk about how they are feeling and to share any concerns they may have. There will also be plenty of PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), outdoor learning, gardening, arts and crafts, sport, games and creative challenges alongside some reading writing and maths.

We will be using reading books within each bubble but, in line with latest guidance, we will not be sending books home. Books used each day will be 'quarantined' before their next use. Children should not bring their book bags or any other books, toys or equipment from home.

### What about playtimes and lunch times?

Each bubble will have their own playground zone and their own equipment which will be disinfected at the end of each break. Break times will be staggered to minimise contact between bubbles.

For the first two weeks, children will have packed lunch in their learning space (or playground zone if the weather is nice). Children eligible for free school meals will have packed lunch provided for them. If your child is in year 3,4,5 or 6 and would like a school packed lunch, you will be charged at the normal rate. You can, of course, provide a packed lunch from home if you prefer. We will review this after two weeks.

### Does my child have to wear uniform?

We suggest that children wear clothes which can easily be washed and dried at the end of each day, such as dresses, shorts, T-shirts etc. Children are not expected to wear uniform or to bring a PE kit but please make sure they wear sensible shoes as we will be doing lots of outdoor learning and physical activity. Please send children with a bottle of water (labelled with their name) and a sunhat (if the weather is hot). If required, please apply sun cream before the children come into school.

### Will children be sharing equipment?

Children will be given their own pack of stationery and an exercise book for all their learning. This will be kept in a zipped wallet with their name on it. Play equipment will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day. Any equipment that cannot be cleaned easily will be removed from the learning spaces.

### What about toilets and handwashing?

All adults and children will wash their hands as soon as they arrive at school, before and after break and lunchtime, on entry to the classroom during the day and, of course, after using the toilet. We also have hand sanitiser available in every room and sanitisation stations on the playground.

Each bubble will have assigned set of toilets to use. Children will be accompanied by an adult if they are using the toilets. Toilets are cleaned by the premises and cleaning teams 4 times daily.

### How often is the school cleaned?

The school is cleaned twice a day. Once in the evening by our regular contracted cleaning team and once over the lunchtime period by additional cleaners who joined us in March. Staff may choose to clean more frequently within their bubbles.

### Will the children and staff be socially distancing?

Where possible, we will encourage children to maintain social distancing. This will be challenging for some children and they will need to be gently reminded from time to time.

### Will staff be wearing PPE?

PPE is not recommended for use in primary schools by Public Health England. Some staff may choose to wear PPE if they want to. All staff will wear the usual school PPE for first aid or intimate care (i.e. disposable gloves and aprons if required).

### What will happen if someone feels ill?

If a child feels unwell, parents or carers will be called and asked to collect the child as soon as possible. The child will be isolated from other children until they are able to be collected and taken home.

If any child or adult at school displays symptoms of COVID-19, we have access to a portal which allows us to request tests for the person showing symptoms and the people they live with. They will isolate until the results of their test is known.

If a case is confirmed, all the children and adults in the relevant bubble will need to isolate for 14 days. This will also apply to any bubble containing a sibling.

### When will more children return to school?

We will review our system after two weeks. If this system is working well and government guidance allows, we will then look to extend our offer more widely. This will take time and we cannot guarantee who, how many or when more children will attend at this point.

We would love to be able to welcome all children back to school but this will have to be done in a manageable way which is as safe as we can make it for all concerned.