



Torridon Primary School

Returning to School September 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 looking forward to welcoming all children from year 1 to year 6 back to school on **Thursday 3rd September 2020**. If you have children joining Nursery or Reception in September, you will have received details of your child's start date separately.

As a result of our extensive risk assessment, there has been a lot of consideration and implementation of a wide range of health and safety measures in order to ensure that we keep everyone as safe as we possibly can. The following information outlines how we intend to do that in the first phase of full school opening from the beginning of the autumn term.

Does my child have to come back to school in September?

From September, school attendance reverts to being compulsory unless children are officially being home-schooled in agreement with the Local Authority. We understand that some children may be feeling anxious about their return to school. Staff members are very aware of this and will be sensitive to supporting children on their return. Annie Chamberlain (Attendance and Welfare Officer) and Carol Powell (Pastoral and Wellbeing Lead) will be more than happy to offer support if you are having any difficulty with your children's return to school.

How will children be grouped?

One of the protective measures advised by the latest guidance is that children will have reduced contact with others. Children will therefore be grouped in year group 'bubbles'. Children will remain in their bubble throughout the day and will have separate playtimes and lunchtimes in allocated playground zones in order to prevent them from coming into contact with children from other year groups on the playground.

Where will I drop off and pick up my children?

The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest time for children and adults congregating in one place, and maintaining safe distances can be a challenge. We aim to minimise crowding and will be staggering start and finish times and increasing the number of entrances in use.

We will be using the following entry and exit points:

GATE A: double gates on Torridon Road (Year 1 and Year 2)

GATE B: former Key Stage One gate on Hazelbank Road (Year 3, Year 4 and Resource Base)

GATE C: Key Stage Two gate on Hazelbank Road (Year 5 and Year 6)

GATE D: Reception gate on Torridon Road (Nursery and Reception entry only)*

GATE E: Nursery gate on Torridon Road (Nursery and Reception exit only)*

*Children in Nursery and Reception will have a phased start and will not start full time until the week beginning 14th September.

Start of the day	GATE A	GATE B	GATE C	GATE D	GATE E
8.45am	Year 1	Year 3 and Resource Base	Year 5	Reception Entry	Reception Exit
9.00am	Year 2	Year 4	Year 6	Nursery Entry	Nursery Exit

End of the day	GATE A	GATE B	GATE C	GATE D	GATE E
3.05pm	Year 1 and Saplings ASC	Year 3 and Resource Base	Year 5	Reception Entry	Reception Exit
3.20pm	Year 2	Year 4	Year 6	Nursery Entry	Nursery Exit

Siblings can be dropped off and collected at the same gate and time slot allocated to the oldest sibling.

Senior staff will be on duty to greet children at the gate and direct them to their learning space. There are sanitisation stations at each gate so children can sanitise their hands. Additional staff members will be on the playground to support the younger children and accompany them to their classroom as appropriate.

At the end of the day, pick up time will be between 3.05pm and 3.30pm. 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 or in their learning space with the adults from their bubble until parents or carers arrive to collect them. We ask that you stick to the pick up and drop off times and do not wait any longer than necessary outside the school gates. We also ask that you are also that you are considerate and respectful to our neighbours with regard to parking.

Parents and carers will not be allowed on site (except in an emergency) with the exception of parents and carers of children in Nursery and Reception. We will still aim to uphold our 'open door policy' and will be available via email or telephone until we are able to re-establish face to face contact on the playground.

Will breakfast club and after school clubs be available?

Breakfast club will be available from 7.45am for children who have allocated places. We will be minimising contact between children from different year groups and some children will have their breakfast in their learning space.

If you use one of the external after school club providers (Saplings, Happy Days, Rise 'N' Shine), please contact directly for information regarding arrangements.

Torridon will not be providing internal after school clubs initially but hope to be able to resume this service by October half term.

What will children be learning?

Most children have had a considerable time away from school, their friends, their teachers and 'normality'. Many children will have found this very challenging and their emotional wellbeing may have been impacted as a result. We will be starting the new term with a whole school topic: **'Looking After Ourselves and Each Other'**.

We will be using the book: *'Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth' by Oliver Jeffers* as the starting point to support children to reconnect with each other and to re-engage with school life. 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. We have a newly established 'wellbeing team' who will be on hand to support individuals and groups of children who may find things difficult initially.

We will also be using the first few weeks to support children to re-establish key learning behaviours, basic skills, revision and catch up of some of the missed learning from last term. Curriculum leaflets for each year group will be available at the beginning of term and will provide more information about the specific learning for each bubble.

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.

In the initial phase of opening, children will have packed lunch in their learning space. Children in Early Years and Key Stage One and those in Key Stage two who are eligible for Free School Meals will have a 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.

This arrangement will be reviewed after two weeks and we hope to be able to resume the provision of hot lunches as soon as possible.

Does my child have to wear uniform?

Children will wear school uniform from September:

- Grey or black trousers, shorts or skirt
- White short or polo short
- Purple Torridon jumper or cardigan
- Black school shoes

School PE kits (black shorts or tracksuit bottoms and white T shirt) should be worn on PE days to avoid the challenges of changing and storing PE kits in school. You will be informed of your class PE days next week.

Will children be sharing equipment?

Children will be given their own pack of stationery and exercise books 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 has been removed from the learning spaces.

We ask that children only bring essential items in from home (lunch box, hat, coat, labelled water bottle). Only children in year 6 who walk home from school on their own will be allowed to bring a mobile phone.

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 last term. Staff may choose to clean more frequently within their bubbles.

Will staff be wearing face coverings?

Under the current government guidance, face coverings are not recommended for use in primary schools. Some staff may choose to wear them 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?

In line with the latest government and NHS advice, you should keep your child at home for seven days if they develop coronavirus symptoms. Symptoms include:

- A new, continuous cough
- A high temperature
- Loss of smell or taste

Please engage fully with the Test and Trace system if you are asked to.

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, please contact us at the earliest opportunity.

If a child feels unwell at school, 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 in line with current government guidance. This will also apply to any bubble containing a sibling.

I hope this guidance provides you with the information you need to support your child's return to school and we look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 3rd September.**