



Torridon Primary School

Guidance for Parents and Carers Returning to School March 2021

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

Introduction

The Prime Minister has now set out plans for schools to reopen and on **Monday 8th March** we are looking forward to welcome all children back to Torrington.

Lots of preparation has been taking place in order to get ready for children returning. This has included the consideration and implementation of a wide range of health and safety measures in response to our updated risk assessment. It should be noted that the risk assessment is a **live document** and will be reviewed in an ongoing way and updated as necessary.

As a result of our updated 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 for the remainder of the spring term and beyond.

Does my child have to come back to school on March 8th?

From 8th March, 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. If your child is absent due to illness or is self-isolating, please contact us to let us know.

How will children be grouped?

One of the protective measures advised by the government 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 continuing to offer a soft start and staggered finish times and to use all entrance and exit points available with a one way system for Reception and Nursery.

Drop off and pick up times were running very smoothly in the autumn term. We will be using a very similar system this term and arrangements will be as follows:

We will be using the following entry and exit points:

GATE A: double gates on Torrington 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 Torrington Road (Nursery and Reception entry only)

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

Start of the day	GATE A	GATE B	GATE C	GATE D	GATE E
8.45am – 8.55am	Year 1 Year 2	Year 3 Year 4 Resource Base	Year 5 Year 6	Reception and Nursery Entrance	Reception and Nursery Exit

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. Class teachers and support staff will remain in their classrooms to greet children on arrival.

END OF THE DAY

At the end of the day, pick up time will be between 3.00pm 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. Siblings in Years 1 to 6 will be dropped off and collected at the designated time and gate allocated to the **oldest sibling**

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.

End of the day	GATE A	GATE B	GATE C	GATE D	GATE E
3.00pm	Year 1 and Saplings	Year 3 and Resource Base	Year 5	Reception Entry	Reception Exit
3.15pm	Year 2	Year 4	Year 6	Nursery Entry	Nursery Exit

PLEASE WEAR A MASK OR FACE COVERING AT PICK UP AND DROP OFF TIMES.

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 aiming to minimise contact between children from different year groups but it may not be possible to maintain the bubble system at all times.

If you use one of the external after school club providers (Saplings, Happy Days, Rise 'N' Shine), please contact directly for information regarding arrangements. Please be aware that children from different bubbles will be allowed to mix with each other within these provisions. We request that you are cautious if you use multiple providers for before and after school childcare provision as this can increase the risk of infection spreading between settings.

Torridon will not be providing internal after school clubs at the current time but will keep this under review during the summer term.

What will children be learning?

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent weeks have been for all of us and we all will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise the need to focus on children's emotional wellbeing as well as their return to learning. Please talk to your children about coming back to school in positive ways. It is inevitable that they may be feeling a bit nervous but we have planned lots of ways to support them with a successful return to school. Some anxieties will diminish just by the fact that children are back with some of their friends, their teachers and a structure to their day.

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 building on the 'Recovery Curriculum' which we introduced in September 2020 and using 5 levers to underpin daily PSHE lessons for children:

1. Relationships
2. Community
3. Transparent Curriculum
4. Metacognition
5. Space to rediscover

We will be introducing *Reflection Journals* which will provide children with another way to explore and express their feelings and to raise any questions, concerns or anxieties they might be feeling.

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. Our 'wellbeing team' 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 this term.

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.

Initially we will be limiting the number of year group bubbles who are accessing the dining hall, which means that some children may be eating lunch in their classrooms. We will review this system at Easter and hope to be able to allow more children to access the dining hall once the government recommendations allow. We will continue to provide hot meals for all children who usually have a school lunch.

Does my child have to wear uniform?

Children will wear school uniform on their return to school:

- Grey or black trousers, shorts or skirt

- White shirt or polo shirt
- 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.

Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on the following days:		
Year 1	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 2	Monday	Wednesday
Year 3	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 4	Tuesday	Friday
Year 5	Thursday	Friday
Year 6	Wednesday	Thursday
Resource Base	Monday	Friday

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, book bag). 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. 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 general use in primary schools. It is recommended that staff members wear them when social distancing between adults is not possible (e.g. in corridors and communal areas). Some staff may choose

to wear face coverings at other times. 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 at school and displays coronavirus symptoms, 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. They will remain at home and be advised to get a COVID test. They will isolate until the results of their test is known. If a case is confirmed, all the contacts of the case will need to isolate in line with current government guidance.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should get a test and remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days, unless the test result is negative. **Please inform the school of any symptoms and test results.**

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/>

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

covid@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk or 07376358065.

We 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 **Monday 8th March.**