



*Loving to learn, Learning to love.
For every child a chance to shine*



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mrs A McMurrrough

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Layston team are really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school on the 8th March. We understand that some of you may be a little anxious about returning your children to school but we would like to reassure you that their well-being is at the forefront of everything we do.

We wanted to inform you of the updated safeguarding procedures for 8th March 2021 so apologies for the quantity of information in this letter, however it is all essential and your child's safety and well-being is our first priority. You will already be familiar with most of this content and once we receive any further guidance from HCC we will of course update you. We are currently in the process of updating our risk assessment and the updated version will be added to the website from the 8th March.

School Attendance:

All children will be expected to return to school on the 8th March and attendance will be recorded and monitored in line with our policy and Government and Hertfordshire guidance. People who have been instructed to shield by the NHS will still need to do so.

On the school website under Mental Health and Well-Being, you will find a social story called, 'What happens when I go back to school?' Please talk this through with your child, especially if they have anxieties. There is also more guidance on managing anxiety with children that can be found in this part of the website.

Social Distancing:

We will keep children within their year group bubbles as before, with consistent staff, where possible. Children will stay within these bubbles in their classroom each day for lessons. For lunchtime years 3 and 4 will eat in their classrooms with tables cleaned before and after eating. Years R, 1 and 2 will be using the dining room, which will be cleaned between sittings. Outdoor learning and break times will be staggered and/or zoned. There is not the requirement for children to socially distance from each other within their bubble group but they will need to keep at a safe distance from the adults in the room.

Drop off and pick up:

You will be asked to drop and collect your child promptly using the entry and exit system in the bottom playground as before. Please adhere to the one way system and maintain current social distancing measures (only one parent/carer to accompany) and keep moving. Please remember to wear a face covering unless you are medically exempt.





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If you have siblings in school then you may drop off and pick up your children at the allocated time for your eldest child. Please be aware that parents will not be allowed to walk up the pathways at the side of the school between the bottom playground and the classrooms. A reminder of the staggered drop off and collection times is detailed below:

Year group & siblings	Drop off	Pick up
Y4	8:50am	3:15pm
Y3	8:55am	3:10pm
Y2	9:00am	3:05pm
Y1 & YR	9:05am	3:00pm

We have currently allocated 5 minute slots as we are mindful that some children may be experiencing some separation anxiety and take longer to say goodbye. Staggered drop offs are recommended by the government to reduce gathering and congestion. **It is essential that you stick to your allocated time and do not arrive early.** It also allows for people to get used to the system once more. We understand that this may be difficult but we thank you in advance for your support and we will continue to review this process on a weekly basis.

If your child is upset and struggling to say goodbye, please move aside so others can enter and exit safely. Talk to your child calmly but firmly with the expectation that they will cope and enjoy the day. For further information on separation anxiety please see the school website under Mental Health and Well-being, 'Returning to school MH information'.

Covid 19:

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test. Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature (37.8 deg C or more)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste - this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

If your child is attending school please do not send children in to school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they, or any members of your household, have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 10 day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide





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If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Should there be a confirmed case of coronavirus then the school will contact the local health protection team who will work with us and guide us through the actions we will need to take.

This may mean closure for whole year groups at times.

A Reminder of Continuing Protective Measures:

- Any child or member of staff who has a cough, temperature, loss or change in the sense of taste and smell or feels unwell at school will be immediately sent home to potentially self-isolate.
- Continuing enhanced regular hand-washing.
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Enhanced cleaning, including frequently touch point surfaces.
- Avoiding close contact by all where possible and maintain social distancing wherever possible (as a result we request no unnecessary visits to the school office, please phone or email).
- Parents/Carers leaving the site immediately after dropping/collecting their child/ren.
- Parents/Carers staying 2m or 1 m plus (when wearing a face covering) apart when on site.
- Parents/Carers must not gather at the school gates.
- Parents/Carers entering the school site via the playground pedestrian gate on The Causeway, following the one-way route and exiting via the pedestrian gate on Paddock road.
- Windows being open to encourage ventilation and, where possible, external classroom doors being open. (Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing and layers as classrooms will be colder than normal.)
- Classroom tables being re-organised where possible and all facing forwards.
- No assemblies or large gatherings of children.
- PPE available.
- Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
- Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

What will my child need in school?

Children will be expected to wear school uniform. **All uniform and equipment must be named.**

Your child will need:

- Water bottle
- A healthy snack, remember we are a nut free school
- Coat
- Sun hat, weather permitting
- Correct Forest School and PE kit, this can be worn instead of uniform into school on relevant days, please include joggers because most PE sessions will be outdoors
- A small school bag, including a change of clothing
- Optional: if your child is likely to suffer from separation anxiety they may bring in a photo or small item to remind them of you, (see school website, 'Returning to school mental health information').





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What shall I leave at home?

- Bikes and scooters
- Umbrellas
- Toys

School meals:

School meals will be offered and the menu choice is available on the website under Parents, School dinners. Years 3 and 4 will be eating lunch in their classroom and all meals will be served in a take away box. Of course children are welcome to bring in their own packed lunch from home.

Recovery curriculum:

As before we are aware that children have been absent from school for a significant period of time learning from home. This is reflected in our continued use of the recovery curriculum which is available on the website for you to view. There will be no cooking or swimming sessions at the moment. PE will continue and your child will need to come into school in PE kit on their allocated day from the start of term. Forest school will continue and the days are as follows:

Year group	Forest School Day	PE day
Y4	Friday	Thursday
Y3	Tuesday	Friday
Y2	Thursday	Tuesday
Y1	Wednesday	Thursday
YR	Monday	Friday

We will continue to send reading books home at the beginning of the week and they will be collected in on Friday for quarantining. We recommend eBook's for the weekend on Oxford Owl.

We are all really looking forward to seeing all our Layston children very soon.

Best wishes,

Adele McMurrrough
Headteacher