

Welcome Back to School!

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, I would like to wholeheartedly thank all of you for your support during this latest lockdown. There has been a tremendous effort from all involved for pupils to access remote learning and the resulting learning and progress that has taken place. Our Twitter account <https://twitter.com/GreenCoton> has celebrated these achievements but I know this only scratches the surface of the amount of effort and hard work that has taken place by all involved. Thank you!

I thought that it would be useful to remind you of some of the important information for the return of all pupils next week and some aspects of the Government updates received today.

Staggered pick up and drop off at school.

In order to facilitate the safe return to schools and, in keeping with the DfE's suggestion that we can use discretion to support our wider reopening, we will be operating a staggered start from March 8th. Please see the tables for details of the organisation of our school day from March 8th. Please note this is the same format as September – December 2020. Please help us by strictly adhering to these times.

Start and finish times:

Group	Surname (child)	Approx. ch in group	Start time	Collection time	Minimum teaching time
Group a	Surname A-H	105	8:40	3:00	5 hours 20 minutes
Group b	Surname I(i)-P	105	8:50	3:10	5 hours 20 minutes
Group c	Surname Q-Z	100	9:00	3:20	5 hours 20 minutes

***Pupils brought to school by childminders or larger family groups are considered Group C children.**

BUBBLES	EXIT & ENTRY POINT
Year 5 and 6	KS2 DOOR (Yard 3)
Year 3 and 4	Class doors (Yard 2) Mrs Holbrook's (Nurture Room)
Year 1 and 2	Mrs Wesley's Class – Yard 1 Mr Birch Class – Yard 1 fence* Miss Dowsett's Class – Main office entrance
EYFS	Miss Coton's class – soft play entrance Miss Evan's Playground door.

*Mr Birch's class – children must be dropped at the fenced entrance. Parents should not attempt to walk to Mr Birch's door as the pathway is not wide enough for adequate social distancing. Staff will be on hand to meet children at the fence entrance.

IMPORTANT SAFETY MEASURES

Please can we remind you of the following safety measures that must be adhered to when on our school site:

- **children must stay with their adult when on site and should not run off ahead of their parent/carer**
- entrance to our site is through the pedestrian gates and we ask that all visitors to site follow our strict one-way system indicated on the gates
- **only 1 adult** should come onto site to drop off and collect children
- **all adults on site must wear a face covering, unless they are exempt from doing so**

- parents/carers must remain socially distanced from one another when waiting to drop off/collect children
- parents/carers must not gather to chat on school site or block paths/gateways or enter Red Box areas near entrances
- pupils and their siblings must not play on the playground/play equipment before and after school as it is assigned to specific bubbles only
- we ask that parents/carers stay back from the doors at collection/drop off times

These systems are in place to allow everyone to effectively socially distance during while on our school site. Please also be aware that, due to ongoing building works, there is no longer access from KS1 to KS2 and vice-versa.

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

- To reflect the updated guidance, teachers will continue to ensure that their classrooms have good airflow and ventilation to reduce the risk of transmission. **On cold days, children should be reminded to wear suitable layers of clothing (e.g. base layers under uniform and a school jumper) as we will still need to keep windows open.** Please note that all children will be expected to attend school in full uniform.
- Children will be asked to come to school on their allocated PE day wearing their school PE kit. This should include their family group t-shirt (available from our school uniform suppliers), dark coloured shorts, leggings or joggers (depending on the weather), their school jumper or fleece and trainers suitable to be worn outside. Where possible, PE will be taking place outdoors so children will also need a sports top – e.g. hoddie/tracksuit top.
- Reading books will be changed on allocated days. **Please can all outstanding school reading books be returned to school as soon as possible.** Due to books not being returned, we are running low in some book bands and books are very expensive to replace.
- If your child is bringing a packed lunch to school, it should be brought into school in a **plastic lunchbox** which can be thoroughly washed each day.
- Children do not need to bring large bags into school, they will only need a small drawstring bag or a school book bag (available from our uniform supplier).

Return of loaned devices:

Please return any loaned devices to school by dropping into the school office so that the necessary paper work can be completed and devices utilised by pupils in school. We would appreciate if these are returned by Thursday 11th March.

Additional Updated Guidance from DFE

Guidance on the use of face coverings in primary schools and early years settings

From Monday 8th March, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and students in schools and further education in England. Further information can be found in the [guidance for schools](#), [guidance for further education providers](#) and [guidance for early years and childcare providers](#).

In primary schools and early years settings it is recommended that staff and visitors wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained between adults. These measures will be in place until Easter. As with all measures, we will keep this under review and update guidance as needed.

Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering and they should not be asked to wear one. Dr Susan Hopkins, the Chief Medical Adviser for NHS Test and Trace, has said that “the consensus among educationalists, public health and clinical specialists is that it is not advisable for primary school children to wear face coverings. That is why Public Health England has not recommended to the Department for

Education that they should be worn by primary pupils in the classroom. Children need to see facial expressions to develop their communication and language skills and practically, they can have difficulties keeping them on all day.”

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. Please share the information below with your parent networks to help answer any questions they may have.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Travelling to school safely

Please share the following messages on how pupils can travel to and from school safely:

- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
- when you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:
 - wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
 - social distance where possible

- wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

Further information can be found in our [guidance on transport to school and other places of education](#).

ATTENDANCE

Usual rules on school attendance will apply including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school, and they are of compulsory school age
- parents' duty to inform school on the first day of absence the reason for the absence; this is all the more important in the current climate
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- holidays will not be authorised within school term time.

We would ask that you do not send your child to school if they become poorly especially if they or a member of their household has symptoms of the coronavirus.

Please also note that our scheduled INSET for Monday 15th March has been postponed until 21/2/21, as this would disrupt pupils return to school.

We can't wait to see our whole school back on Monday – the incredible work completed by teachers and pupils (supported by parents) has left our children well placed to make great progress on the return to school. I think this picture encapsulates the ethos we must all be mindful of in supporting our children on return to school.



Alice Khimasia



Mr R Osborne, Headteacher.

Thank you!

We have been overwhelmed by the recent generosity of local businesses. Without their kind donations, our forest school development would not have been created so successfully.

Our new outdoor classroom will provide: child-led learning opportunities, hands-on experiences and of course lots of fun! On behalf of our learning family, please allow me to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported our forest school venture so far.

Miss Palser



R H Tree Surgery
Tamworth



Name		Class			Week 1
<i>Monday</i>	Hot Option Cheese and Tomato Pizza With Dough Balls (v)	Hot Option Burrito (v)	Hot Option Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Cold Option Ham or Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Sticks Tray Bake	
<i>Tuesday</i>	Hot Chicken Sandwich With Potato wedges	Macaroni Cheese (v)	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Ham or Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Sticks Tray Bake	
<i>Wednesday</i>	Roast Chicken With Roast Potatoes, Vegetables & Gravy	Quorn Roast (v) With Roast Potatoes, Vegetables & Gravy	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Ham or Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Sticks Tray Bake	
<i>Thursday</i>	Pasta Bolognese	Veggie Hotdog (v) with Potato Wedges	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Ham or Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Sticks Tray Bake	
<i>Friday</i>	Golden Fish Fingers and Chips	Quorn Nuggets (v) and Chips	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Ham or Cheese Sandwich Vegetable Sticks Tray Bake	
Subject to availability					



10am-12 noon on:
Tuesday 20th April 2021
Thursday 29th April 2021
Tuesday 11th May 2021
Tuesday 25th May 2021

*New
dates!*

**Focus on
CYP Autism
Services**

TALKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

Working together to improve services

Talking together for change is an approach, designed in partnership with parent representatives to collaborate with those who receive our services to improve them.

We are seeking parents in South Staffordshire whose children have recently received services from the Children and Young People's (CYP) Autism Service to join our conversation via a series of 4 online 2 hour events held on Zoom.

We are looking for parents who can commit ideally to all four sessions to help us understand what is important to them and how we can improve our services, together.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
INVOLVEMENT@MPFT.NHS.UK**