

FAQs for Possible Return to School



Will we be getting the activities on Tapestry if parents chose not to send their kids?

The school will continue to update the school website on a fortnightly basis with a **homework poster** for each year group. Twice weekly **Tapestry challenges** will be posted for each year group. Teachers will respond to work uploaded as appropriate.

How we can help with learning of the curriculum in Reception and Year 1 in all subjects at home over the summer holidays?

As with any holiday, we expect children to take a **break from their learning**. As a school we will not be setting any further work in the holidays on our website or on Tapestry. However, we equally see that daily reading would be of extreme benefit to the children. In addition, we will be sending home our usual Summer Challenge to all children currently in Reception and Year 1 which can be completed and returned to their new teacher in the autumn term.

How it will affect the children in September as they might not have mastered their current year group curriculum?

We anticipate that there will be advice from the DfE and the CAM Academy trust to support us with this. Our main focus will be on transition and settling children into their new school life, however we will adjust our pace of teaching and content to reflect the needs of the children. We recognise that all children will have gaps in their learning and plan for this accordingly.

Will my child or the adults in school be wearing a face mask or covering?

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission **[taken from DfE guidance]**.

Will my child or the adults in school be wearing PPE?

Most staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn. **[taken from DfE guidance]**.

Will the school be cleaned regularly?

To prevent the indirect spread of the virus from person to person, we will regularly clean frequently touched surfaces, such as: door handles, light switches, taps and table tops and equipment. Many staff have been doing this over last 7 weeks anyway so have good knowledge of how to keep environment and resources clean. When cleaning, we will use the usual recommended school products, like detergents and bleach, as these will be very effective at getting rid of the virus on surfaces. We will follow the Public Health England (PHE) guidance on cleaning for non-healthcare settings. During the half term break and the week of the 1st

June, we will also carry out a 'deep clean' of the school, including carpets, ready for when the children return on 8th June.

How will you ensure there is minimal contact between staff and children?

Our school and routine will look very different to usual. We will only work in small groups of children with the same adults on a regular basis. We will call these groups '*bubbles*' and they will work together with reduced contact from any other children and/or staff from other bubbles in the school. We will alter the environment of our setting (such as classroom layout) and our timetables (such as staggered break, lunch and start/finish times), to minimise contact and mixing. Staff will endeavour to keep children 2 metres apart where possible. The Department for Education [DfE] guidance states that, 'early years and primary age pupils cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.' (DfE, 12th May 2020). Although our bubble model will minimise contact as children and adults will only mix in small, consistent groups, this is not a guarantee of social distancing .

What will happen if a child or adult in a bubble display symptoms of COVID-19?

If a child, member of staff or member of their own household develops symptoms of COVID-19, they MUST self-isolate in line with Government guidance. If a child or member of staff develops symptoms, arrangements must immediately be made for them to be tested. If the resulting test is positive, ALL CHILDREN & ADULTS IN THEIR BUBBLE must isolate for 14 days. Parents and carers are expected to inform the school IMMEDIATELY if they suspect their child may have become poorly in order to safeguard them and everyone else.

Will my child lose their place in school if they must self-isolate?

Children will NOT lose their place as a result of needing to self-isolate. However, you must notify the school immediately if a child, or member of you household develops symptoms of COVID-19, the child MUST self-isolate in line with Government guidance. If a child develops symptoms, arrangements must immediately be made for them to be tested. If the resulting test is positive, ALL CHILDREN & ADULTS IN THEIR BUBBLE must isolate for 14 days.

If we decide to send my child back on 8th June, can we then change our mind after seeing all the changes?

From a logistical perspective, it is easier for us to know who will be back and then **keep this consistent** to ensure safety for all children, staff and families. It may be better, if this is a concern, that you keep your child[ren] at home for now. We cannot guarantee what capacity we will have moving forward. Government guidance states parents SHOULD stick to their decision and not return children unless sure that they will maintain normal expected levels of attendance. Schools cannot be expected to accommodate attendance following parents' working patterns unless they are a key worker. If your child returns to school at this time, they will be expected to be in school **each day, all day**, unless they are unwell.

Can my child attend their 'bubble' for just some days of the week to fit in with my shift patterns?

Once parents make the decision to return their child to school, they are expected to continue regular, full time attendance. Although normal attendance monitoring procedures have been relaxed, inconsistent attendance will make it very difficult for the school to manage the process of returning to a fully functioning school for all children. this approach will ensure that our school is as safe as possible for all adults and children involved. We ask parents to support us while we try to do this. If you are a key worker, we can support you with shift patterns and part time school attendance by using our separate key worker bubbles.

Please note, when not in school we ask that all families follow the governments social distancing guidelines.

How do I notify you of my intention to send my child back to school or not?

Parents will receive a letter outlining our intentions for reopening on 8th June, along with a link to sign up for your child's place. Our intention is to return to a fully functioning school for all children as soon as is **safely** possible as per the government guidelines and the Cam Academy Trust advice. However, it is the school's decision about which children are offered places and from when.

Will provision still be available for 'key worker' and vulnerable children as normal?

Our provision was originally setup to support the children whose parents are in one of the 'critical key worker' groups and the most vulnerable children as well. This provision will continue from the 1st June after the half term break.

However, **places will continue to be severely limited** in order to operate as safely as possible. In order to secure a place, parents/carers must provide reliable information to be **classed as a key worker**, the following list is our guidance from the DfE:

- NHS staff
- Teachers and support school
- Police and community support officers
- Frontline civilian police staff
- Prison officers and staff
- Probation officers and trainee prob officers
- LA officers and LA/ NHS social workers
- Uniformed staff in fire and rescue services
- Armed forces personnel and some civilian MOD personnel (ie clinical staff, MOD police, uniformed fire and defence) and some discharged personnel
- Highway agency traffic staff
- LA environmental health officers/practitioners
- Care workers
- Supermarket workers and their delivery drivers

Vulnerable children have been defined by the Local Authority (LA) in conjunction with the Government's Department for Education (DfE) as:

- Those children with an Education, Health & Care Plan
- Children who are currently receiving support from a Social Worker i.e. those officially designated as a Child In Need (CIN), a Looked After Child (LAC) or those subject to a Child Protection (CP) plan

What times will you be open, and where do I bring them?

We plan to be open every day with staggered start and finish times to ensure social distancing whilst parents/carers drop off and collect their children. Timings will be confirmed once everyone has requested their child[ren]'s place, but at this time we anticipate they will be like our current start and finish times. We will be operating a strict one-way system to enter the school site for drop off and collection of children. Please allow plenty of time to get children into school calmly and without the need to rush!

A site plan detailing the gates and entrances you can use will be made available shortly. Parents collecting their children **MUST** wait on the playground (maintaining 2m social distancing from others). Where possible, please drop off and collect your child alone. If you must bring siblings, they must always remain with you. Failure to follow these rules may result in children's places being forfeited for the remainder of this school year.

Will Treehouse Club be open again in the mornings and afternoons?

Unfortunately, we do not have the staff capacity to begin the club again currently. As soon as we can, we will look to re-open this provision.

Will my child need to be in normal school uniform?

We will **NOT** expect families to follow the uniform policy. We understand that many children will have begun to grow out of their school uniform and parents may be reluctant to purchase new items this late in the school year. Some parents will also find it difficult to wash all uniform items regularly enough to satisfy the strict hygiene requirements of returning to school this term. It will be very important that clothes are washed properly in order to minimise the risk of germs being spread. Children **MUST** be sent to school with **freshly washed clothing and hair every day**. All clothes and footwear must be suitable for a school environment (including being outdoors).

What will my child need to bring with them?

Children will need:

- a named, freshly washed and filled water bottle
- a healthy morning snack e.g. a piece of fruit - we will not receive our normal fruit deliveries
- a healthy lunch [no fizzy drinks or chocolate and sweets]

Will my child be looked after by their usual teacher and teaching assistant?

Many of our teachers and teaching assistants are still required to work from home due to the risks to them and their families so will continue to support with home learning. Therefore, we only have a skeleton staff able to take responsibility for a bubble of children in one of the designated year bubbles. This means that it is highly unlikely that your child will have their usual teacher and/or teaching assistant to support them. We have made the decision NOT to use unfamiliar adults from neighbouring schools to support our children as we believe that it is inappropriate and potentially detrimental to the well-being of our youngest children. Instead we have further reduced the bubble sizes and number of children that we are prepared to safely accommodate initially.

Will my child be in their usual classroom?

Unfortunately, in order to reduce bubble sizes significantly, it will NOT be possible for all children to be in their usual classroom. Many are likely to need to use different classroom spaces to normal. Classrooms are also likely to look and feel VERY different to 'normal' as furniture, toys, resources and 'special areas' [e.g. reading corners and role play areas] will need to be removed or adapted to help maintain as much safe space as possible. As bubbles will need to be kept apart as much as possible, children will remain in their designated spaces for most of the day, including whilst eating snack and lunch. Our research centre, nurture room and other communal spaces will not be in use. Children will have access to a shared playground space, with each bubble allocated a designated time to keep them separated from others.

I want my child to get back to proper lessons again - will this happen?

'Proper' or 'normal' lessons will not be possible for the foreseeable future. Children are likely to have different members of staff to normal, in VERY different classroom environments to normal and unable to interact in a way that promotes quality teaching and learning. Most children will still be at home and therefore staff will still be expected to provide learning tasks, communication and feedback for those children as well. They will not be able to do that AND plan for bubbles in school and so intend to make the same material available to both. We will use the **homework posters** posted fortnightly on the school website and the twice weekly **Tapestry challenges** as a basis for the work we deliver in school. The Government's guidance makes it clear that certain resources, activities and spaces around school cannot be used in order to avoid cross-contamination of the virus between bubbles. Bubbles will be expected to remain in their designated spaces which may not be appropriate for certain activities. In addition, much of our equipment cannot be effectively cleaned and so cannot be used. 'Proper' or 'normal' lessons will not be possible under these circumstances.

I want my child to see and be with all of their friends again - will this happen?

Many children will still be at home and bubble sizes will be kept very small initially in order to adhere to as much of the Government's guidance as possible. It will NOT be possible for children to choose their bubble and they will NOT be able to change bubbles later. We will try to ensure that children are in a bubble with some of their peers wherever possible. Please support us and know that we will always think about children's health and wellbeing under the new guidance but can take no requests or make any guarantees at this time. Bubbles will be kept isolated from each other, in different classroom spaces and with different break and lunchtimes. Children are unlikely to see their siblings at any point during the school day.