

Dear Parents and Carers,

DfE 26.2.21 'Face coverings and testing guidance in primary schools

Anyone experiencing the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) should be advised to follow to the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

The schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance provides information on the use of face coverings and asymptomatic testing in primary schools from Monday 8 March. The guidance is clear that face coverings are only necessary for pupils in year 7 and above.

A Department for Education spokesperson has said: "Children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings when they return to school from 8 March."

The guidance on asymptomatic testing confirms that staff in primary schools will continue to test with LFDs twice a week at home. Primary age pupils will not be tested with LFDs.

Public Health England has advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow devices. Primary age pupils may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab. We will review this approach in the light of any emerging evidence.

All primary school pupils are expected to return to school on Monday 8 March.'

We are very much looking forward to fully reopening Claygate Primary School to all children on Monday. Please do help to prepare your child for their return mentally by reinforcing the positive learning they have achieved to date, how flexible, resilient and amazing they are. Equally, remind them of the positives of school and that there is lots to look forward to, like catching up with us and friends.

Our rules have not changed and we would like children to refrain from bringing non-essentials.

When our children returned after the last lockdown, we noticed they were hungrier as they were used to grazing throughout the day; we would recommend they bring a snack and of course their water bottle.

They will need their coat, bag and reading books. No earrings on PE days.

No fitbits or watches as these trap germs and make thorough hand washing more difficult.

Y1-Y6: Pencil cases with colours, pens if they have a pen licence, ruler, pritt stick, scissors and a sharpener (ideally which catches sharpenings). Please avoid expensive items, smelly or distracting items or anything with difficult to clean surfaces or fiddly bits which may trap the virus!

Children may also bring tissues and a small sanitiser for their desk if you wish.

Please ensure everything is labelled clearly with their name.

Start of the day

- 8.45 am Reception and siblings enter via the carpark gate, followed immediately by
- Any KS1 children with siblings then KS2 with siblings (8.50am approx..)
- Followed immediately by any children without siblings or who have missed previous slots (8.55am approx.)
- The gates will close at 9.00am however **for the first week we will keep the gate open an extra 5 minutes to assess people flow and to support everyone in returning to morning routines!**

*Year 6 nothing has changed

Newsletter



This trial is the final phase of our people flow system and we hope that this keeps waiting to a minimum.

On arrival, children will have a temperature check and hand sanitise.

We are all looking forward to reopening the school gates to everyone and it will be lovely to see each other again. Please do not pause to catch up and chat, please leave the area immediately.

As this is free flow of children who will enter and then follow the routes they are familiar with, signs will not be used and are no longer needed.

As before, the children will have a staggered finish:

3.05pm	-	Reception & Y2
3.10pm	-	Year 1 & Year 3
3.15pm	-	Year 4 & 5

Masks: we would encourage all parents to wear a mask. To maintain the safety of staff and hence our bubbles, please DO NOT approach staff without a mask. For our protection, staff will not engage in conversation with you if you are not wearing a mask. Staff will wear a mask.

INSET 2021: these dates have not yet been set with governors, however we will have one INSET day on Wednesday 1st September and children will return to school Thursday 2nd September.

Our Year 6 children have now received their secondary place offers and seem delighted! As usual, many are going to Esher High and Hinchley Wood. The year on year increase in children opting for Chessington School continues. However, despite being oversubscribed, I believe everyone who put this as their first choice was offered a place. Equally, we always have some who will be going to Tiffin, Whitgift, RGS, Claremont, St John's and Surbiton High. Once parents accept places we will be given a full break down and we will then update our website accordingly. Of course, they will be sad to leave us and we will be sad to lose them but, as always, the team will ensure a smooth transition to all of their schools.

Wild Challenge - Gold Award



We are delighted to add the Gold Wild Challenge award to our achievements this year! Well done to all the children, including those at home, for participating to help us achieve this.

The RSPB said "we are really impressed with the beautiful wildlife area you have created. What a fantastic effort you have made to complete the award. Every action you take makes a real difference. We hope you are inspired to continue to learn through nature now that you have achieved your Gold award and that you will continue to take action to help save it."

ELSA – Back to School after Coronavirus

Mrs Evans has signposted us to a revised 'Back to School PowerPoint which may be useful for you in prepping your child(ren) for the return to school.

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/back-to-school-after-coronavirus-story/>



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Newsletter

Doodle Maths

This week's winners on Doodle Maths are:



KS1 – Emily (Chestnut)



KS2 – Ellie (Rowan)

Class – Chestnut & Oak
Joint winners!



Congratulations to all of you!

Let's talk about life online – Childnet

Childnet has put together a useful guide with advice and conversation starters for supporting your child to stay safe online which you can access below.

<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Let's-talk-about-life-online.pdf>

Jammie & Dodger



If you would like to look after our lovely guinea pigs one weekend – or even over the May half term break – please do let us know!

Please email gill.kosbab@claygate.surrey.sch.uk and she will put you on the rota.

Thank you!

PE Timetable – Spring 2021

Please find below the PE timetable. Children should wear their full PE kit all day on their Full PE Session day.

<i>Class</i>	<i>30 Minute Fitness Session (Your child should change into trainers at school)</i>	<i>Full PE Session (your child should come to school in full PE kit on this day)</i>
Year 1 Alder	Monday	Wednesday
Year 1 Oak	Monday	Tuesday
Year 2 Chestnut	Wednesday	Friday
Year 2 Elm	Monday	Thursday
Year 3 Sycamore	Thursday	Tuesday
Year 3 Hazel	Friday	Tuesday
Year 4 Aspen	Tuesday	Friday
Year 4 Pine	Tuesday	Friday
Year 5 Beech	Thursday	Monday
Year 5 Rowan	Friday	Monday
Year 6 Cedar	Monday	Thursday
Year 6 Hawthorn	Wednesday	Thursday

Countersigning Forms, Passport Forms and other I.D. Verification

We have always done this willingly and have been happy to help. Recently, CPS staff have been inundated with passport application requests as we approach the end of lockdown. Staff are currently finding that the volume of requests for parents and for children is such that we can no longer sustain this offer. In many cases, finding staff who can honestly declare that they have known the parents for two years is often difficult and places staff in a quandary.

In addition, the passport office are increasingly following up with further verification work for us to complete, and this combined administration is taking from the main work of the school. We have decided that whilst we want to support our community and parents in this, our current focus must be teaching and learning and my focus is understandably to protect and facilitate staff well-being. Consequently, we will no longer act as counter signatories for passport applications, I.D. documentation and similar requests. Fortunately the rules have relaxed a little and you no longer always need a professional as a counter signatory. For example, we understand counter signatories for passports can now also be a friend or colleague.

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to Carys (Beech) who has passed her Grade 1 cello exam. Her achievement is even more amazing because she has only had one face to face lesson this year! Well Done Carys!

