



Ditton CE Junior School **School from Step 4 (September)** **Operational Guidance**

DfE Operational Guidance

Covid-19 is now considered to be a virus we have to learn to live with and that our main priority is to reduce the disruption to the children's education.

Main points:

- We no longer need to have bubbles
- We no longer need to avoid mixing at lunch and break
- We can have whole school collective worship
- Positive cases and close contacts will be managed by NHS track and trace, school may be asked to help with this
- After 16th August, children who deemed as close contacts will no longer need to self isolate but will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace and advised to get a PCR test.
- No need for face coverings BUT if you choose to wear one, we respect your choice to do so.
- Full programme of assessments will resume
- Remote learning must be in place for those isolating

The school will have an outbreak management plan (which may mean going back to how things were in March 2021). We will need to revert to this outbreak plan if advised by Public Health England or Kent Health Protection Team. However, the DfE are very clear that the main aim is to keep schools open.

What is staying?

- Good hand hygiene (wash hands when coming in from break or lunch and before eating)
- Extra cleaning (please continue to wipe down desks and touch points regularly)
- Good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it)
- Ventilation – doors and windows open as much as possible (whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature) – this is especially important when singing.
- Following advice on self-isolation and getting tested if you have symptoms.
- Sending home pupils with symptoms (the deputy's office still needs to be kitted out as the isolation room).
- Households and siblings of confirmed cases should follow PHE guidance.
- Staff to test twice at home again from the beginning of Term 1 (this is being reviewed at the end of September).
- There will still be a covid risk assessment in school.
- Remote learning will continue for those who are isolating.

Testing, Tracing and Isolating

Twice weekly staff testing will recommence before the beginning of term.

Positive lateral flow device (LFD) test must get a PCR test and isolate.

If PCR test is taken within 2 days of a LFD test and is negative then return to school is possible as long as there are no more covid symptoms and you are well enough.

If you choose to go abroad, make sure any travel is in line with national guidance and self-isolation due to quarantine should fall within the school holidays.

What this means in the classroom:

Desks can be in groups if you wish.

Use of books and equipment can go back to normal. Try to clean things more than you would have before covid.

Try to keep the classroom ventilated (whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature).

If you are singing or using raised voices (e.g. drama) then the room should be well ventilated or you should definitely have open windows or choose a more spacious room.

Keep class libraries for now – review at the end of September.

What this means for collective worship:

Whole school collective worship will take place four days a week: Monday (HT/DHT), Tuesday (Class), Wednesday (Ross), Thursday (Singing/Celebration? TBC) & Friday (HT/DHT). Exactly who is doing what will be confirmed in September.

What about lunchtimes and breaktimes?

Children will be back with two year groups in the hall and all playing in the playground together. Rotas for break and lunch will be shared with you very soon.

The equipment should be cleaned more regularly than it was before covid.

Staff may well be supervising and administering first aid on more than their year group.

Pick up and drop off?

In the morning, children can arrive between 8:30 and 8:50am (gates close at 8:55am).

8:30am – children can enter the site unaccompanied (teacher on duty)

8:40am – bell goes, classroom doors open and teachers stand on the door to welcome class in.

8:40am – parents can accompany children onto school site.

8:55am – gates close.

Pick up is a bit harder to change quickly so we will keep the 'one way' system and zones where the children stand for parents to pick up. All parents will be able to come onto the playground at 3:15pm when the car park gate is opened. Teachers will dismiss their classes from the playground. This will be reviewed after a couple of weeks with view to go back to pick up routines before covid (if anyone can remember!).

Parents will not be made to wear face coverings, but you are welcome to if you feel more comfortable with all the adults on the playground.

Staffrooms, staff meetings, communal areas, etc.

There is no need to have separate staff rooms in September, but please remember that there will still be cases around and the more people you have sat close to, the more people may need to isolate. Keep rooms ventilated and try to keep contact and time together to a minimum.

Staff meetings will be in person wherever possible..

Please respect people's personal space in places like the office, copier room or the corridor although there is no official need to distance.

Risk controls/assessments may be reinstated if the school or local area is deemed to have an outbreak. This will be as a last resort and will be guided by Public Health England and/or the Kent Health Protection Team.