



Gatten and Lake Primary School
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Shanklin
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Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Day
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Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Arrangements for school reopening to all children on Monday 8th March 2021



WELL DONE EVERYONE!! Remote Learning during lockdown 3 is complete! You have all done a phenomenal job.

Reflecting back on the last 8 weeks shows an incredible journey. Pupils have paved the way for their own journeys, supported by the amazing guidance of adults at home and in school. Thank you to all parents and carers for your patience, support and guidance and managing everything for home and work, as well as your child's education. You all deserve medals.

A HUGE thank you must also go to the incredible staff for their hard work throughout, in the classroom, via online platforms, setting tasks daily, daily videos, daily marking and feedback... remote learning would not have been as successful without you.

Following the government's announcement on 22nd February, every child will be returning to school, on Monday 8th March. The guidance makes it very clear that this is now the time for each and every child to return to school, unless there is medical evidence to suggest otherwise. Attendance back at school is a statutory requirement.

We know that school is the right place for the children. I have heard so many people say their appreciation they have for schools has grown, as they have experienced the children wanting to be back with their friends, interacting with peers and with company other than direct family. There have been some wonderful opportunities for families to spend quality time together, but space and time apart is also healthy, and this is the time for transition. It will be hard for some, I'm sure, but hopefully we are going to have a great week back in school, with fun and surprises along the way....

I really would like the school reopening to be as safe and run as smoothly as possible. This will require teamwork with the whole school community...

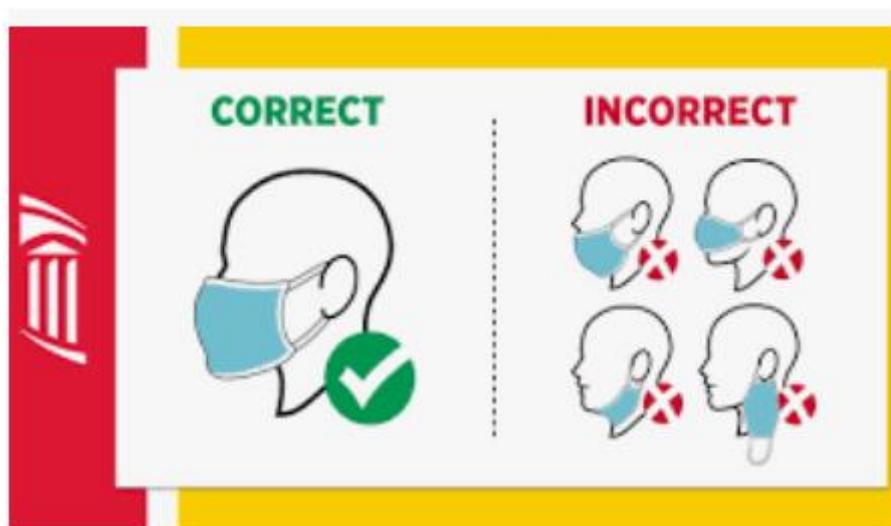




SOCIAL DISTANCING IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS YOU CAN HELP US...

Please remember to keep a social distance when:

- Entering the school site to travel around the one way system
- Waiting for your child at the front of the school
- Modelling good social distancing practices to the children



PLEASE HELP US TOO, BY WEARING A MASK WHILST ON THE SCHOOL SITE OR OUTSIDE THE GATES...

Staff will be wearing masks if they are at the gate, or outside classrooms but in school and within the classroom environment, masks in primary schools are not required. Children will not be wearing masks on the school site. If masks are worn on public transport then the children either need a sealable plastic bag to store their mask in during the day or parents can take the mask home with them. We cannot risk masks being left unattended as it poses a health risk.



Arrangements for the start and end of the school day

The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place, maintaining safe distances within normal arrangements can be a challenge. We have maintained a one-way system right from the start, unlike many, many other schools that do not permit adults onsite, however, they can then have gatherings of families outside the school gate! It is a really difficult part of the day to manage, especially, as we all appreciate that the number of minutes of learning must remain the same, as directed by the Government, and staggered times over a longer period causes issues for families with children in multiple year groups.

We will be continuing with the one way system around the school and promoting, as much as possible, children coming into school independently, especially in KS2. Children in Y3 to Y6 have the growing confidence to walk around the school site to enter school and many have the permission to walk out of school to meet parents and carers. If you would like to give permission for your child to do this please complete this link <https://forms.gle/XJ8BmxmohSzXJkdT8> Children who have already given permission this year, do not need to do this again. Thank you

We do feel it is important for the parents/carers of the youngest children to drop them to school and maintain visual contact while their children enter school safely, etc... especially as we return to school, but this may change over time.

There will be a slightly staggered start to the school day to ensure we can safely get all children onto the site, maintaining **as much social distancing as possible, by family groups and adults as well as children.**

It is essential children are brought to school by **one adult only** (including any older siblings). This is not a family meeting place, at present, and only one parent/carer at any time will be welcome on the site, which I strongly dislike saying, as we know family involvement is important to your child's education. However, safety must be of paramount importance in the present times. **Face coverings must be worn please, unless exemption is displayed.**

The gates will open at **8:40am and entry is during a flexible 20 minute window**, all children need to be in their classroom by 9am. It is preferred that the eldest children arrive earlier and then slightly later for KS1 and YR children.

Collection arrangements – KS2 children who have permission to leave the school site on their own, will be released from class at 3pm. **From 3pm until 3:10pm** the gates will be open for children to be collected from classrooms. Children will be ready for you to indicate to the teacher and leave from the classroom. This will keep the flow on people around the school site.

PE Days

PE days will be changed to take into account the PE Coach who will now teach Y3 on a Monday.

The following PE Days will apply for this half term:

Day of the Week	Class	Class
Monday	Year Three	
Tuesday	Year Six	
Wednesday	Year Five	Year Reception
Thursday	Year Four	
Friday	Year One	Year Two



Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will continue to be offered from 8am, this is now open to any families needing this provision. Please book in advance, as the children in breakfast club are socially distanced and we need to prepare the workstation for them, as we can't mix classes during this time. Please make bookings by calling the school office or by booking via email admin@gattenlakepri.iow.sch.uk

After School Club

Pre-school, will be continuing to run the after school club provision – please contact them to book spaces.

Arrangements for Breaktimes and Lunchtimes

Break and lunch times will continue to be staggered to allow children time to eat lunch and play.

Handwashing

- Encouraging and ensuring good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
 - Before a change in activity
 - Before leaving school

It is essential that children wash their hands regularly. Alcohol hand gel is not a substitute for this, but will be used where water is not available, under supervision.

Illness and Absence:

If your child feels ill and displays and symptoms of COVID, then testing is essential and in the meantime, self-isolation MUST be adhered to.

The NHS and Government guidance on Self-isolation can be seen at this website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

This was last updated on 4th March 2021 and is due the next update on 18th March 2021. Any new cases, will need to be checked via the website for the most up to date information.

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, please contact the school on **01983 869910** at the earliest opportunity or out of school hours, please email admin@gattenlakepri.iow.sch.uk

Please also contact at your earliest convenience if your child is ill for any reason. An email is best as this provides the written evidence for school absence.

Remote Learning:

If your family is self-isolating, a pack of work will be sent home to complete.

There is the risk that a class could close if there are any confirmed cases, which many schools have already experienced. In this case, we will revert to home learning for the period of self-isolation. All information about Remote Learning is on our school website. Further information would be received if this was the case, once we had sought advice from Public Health England.



Support for pupils and families

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent lockdown has been for everyone, on top of the impact the pandemic has had in the last year. Many of us will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise the significant need to focus on pupils' emotional wellbeing as well as their learning. Next week, in school we have planned a really engaging, fun and creative week... with plenty of surprises too... starting with a 'No pens and pencils day' on Monday ☺

We are supporting many children and families in many different ways. If you feel you or your child need support please do speak to us, by emailing, telephoning, or briefly catching me at the gate, to book a more suitable time to talk.

The arrangements outlined are an update to the extensive details you have received previously in the year and are not exhaustive. As I am sure you can imagine, there are continuous updates, amendments, guidance and documentation to read and this is likely to continue as we follow the road map to the end of the school year. However, I hope that these arrangements provide you with the majority of information you need to support your child to return to school on Monday 8th March 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the school over recent weeks and months. Please do continue to feedback to us. We will be sending another questionnaire out very soon, to capture your thoughts and feelings on the experience of remote learning during Lockdown 3.

I will be in touch soon,

Enjoy your weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Day – Headteacher

