



Full Re-opening of Ongar Place Primary

The government has announced all children should return to school in September. We are delighted to be able to welcome all our children and staff back.

At Ongar we have been busy preparing for the children's return to ensure they get a great experience, continue with their education and keep safe. The official guidance (7th August 2020) says:

Essential measures include:

- *a requirement that people who are ill stay at home*
- *robust hand and respiratory hygiene*
- *enhanced cleaning arrangements*
- *active engagement with NHS Test and Trace*
- *formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable*

We will be making changes to the way we organise the school and children in order to ensure that these guidelines are met. Hopefully, the information below will answer some of your questions and help you to feel confident when your children return.

Organisation – some changes:

- Pupils will be taught in their classes and remain in their class group all day. If they go for additional support (learning ELSA etc) they will only be with members of their class.
- We will reduce contact between adults as far as possible but without compromising the well-being of the children.
- Children will not be required to wear masks at any point (unless guidance changes), adults can choose to wear masks if they wish as long as this does not impede communication.
- Children attending will be full time.
- Specific adults will be associated with the pods. Additional teachers (PE, Music, Computing etc) will ensure they keep distanced and maintain good hygiene habits before teaching a different pod.
- Books and resources will be used in one pod during the week.
- Some areas in the school will be one-way only.
- The lessons in the first week back will support children in returning to school and address any worries or concerns they may have.
- Mrs Good, Mrs Pirie Mrs Gailor and Mrs Straker will be available for children or parents to talk to.

Cleaning and Hygiene – no changes:

- Teaching spaces will be cleaned following use by one group of pupils.
- Switches and other contact points will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Some of our soft resources will be put away.
- Hard toys and resources will be regularly cleaned and will be cleaned before sharing

with another pod

- School exercise books will not be taken home by teachers.
- Handwashing will be supervised for younger children and will take place as children enter school, after play, before and after lunch, after using the toilet at the end of the day and any other necessary times.

Break and lunch – small changes:

- Outdoor areas will only be used by one class of pupils at a time
- Lunch times will be staggered. Children will eat in the hall but will be seated with their class. Year 5 and 6 will eat in their classrooms.
- Our catering company will be providing hot food and will be using school plates and cutlery.
- The tables will be laid for children
- Children will bring their water bottles to lunch.

Illness – no change:

- Any child or adult who presents with symptoms of Covid 19 (high temperature, cough etc) will be sent home and given advice regarding isolation, testing and return.
- Adults and children will not be wearing masks (unless they are providing intimate care eg: first aid.)

Drop Off and Pick Up – read carefully:

- The first day back for Y1 to Y6 is Thursday 3rd September.
- No parent cars will be allowed on site.
- Only one parent will be allowed on site with their child/children.
- The car gates at the top of the drive will be opened at 8.45am. Please don't arrive earlier than this.
- Parents can walk down the school road towards the bridge with their children. Class teachers will be waiting on the grass and children will line up by them.
- Teachers will take children to the classroom using the outside doors.
- Parents will carry on down the school road to the car gate by the bridge and exit the school site there. This ensures that adults and children are only walking in one direction. During this time adults are responsible for their own social distancing.
- At the end of the day the car gates will be opened again at 3.15 pm. Pods of children will be brought out to the front and reunited with their parents. There will again be a one way system so everyone moves down the school road and exits by the gates near the bridge.
- YR are starting in three groups beginning Monday 7th September. After dropping any siblings with their class teacher parent and child should go to the front playground where they will be met by Mrs Brill and Mrs Mount.
- Teachers should not be approached by parents but Mrs Reardon, Mrs Good and Mrs Pirie will be available to talk to.
- No parent is to come into school uninvited.
- Parents of children who are late should buzz the office and children will be met at the front office.

Uniforms and Bags – read carefully:

- Pupils should wear school uniform and SCHOOL SHOES. Summer or winter uniform can be worn.
- I am hoping to have spare uniform available for those who need it.
- Children in Y1-6 should only bring trainers to school – we will not be changing clothes for PE to start with. Once children know what day their PE lessons are they can wear PE kit and jogging bottoms to school on those days.
- YR need to bring PE kit – learning to change is part of their education!
- Children should not bring book bags or rucksacks to school
- Children may bring a lunch box / snack box (tuck shop will not be open during the first few weeks) and a water bottle
- Years 3, 4, 5, 6 can bring one small pencil case to leave at school.
- Children can not share pencils etc

Homework - NEW:

- There will be no homework set, except for reading and basic maths in the first two weeks.

Attendance - NEW:

- All children are expected to attend school. If your child is ill (unrelated to COVID19) contact the school office by 9.30am.
- If you have any worries or concerns about your child returning to school don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Reardon or Mrs Good.

I realise this is a huge amount of information to take in. My hope is that children return to school, are safe, happy and can quickly resume their learning.

All evidence at the moment suggests that children are at a very limited risk of contracting COVID19. However, the guidelines we have put in place are also there to protect staff and parents. Please respect this and do not take unnecessary chances that will put any of our community at risk.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide any support or help.

With all best wishes

Mrs T L Good