

26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

We want to thank you and your children for your hard work and support over this last period of lockdown, since 5 January 2021, and give you as much information as we can at this time on the return to school.

We know how hard our pupils and families have worked to engage with learning at home and we are so grateful to all of our pupils and families for their amazing effort, hard work and determination and for doing their very best. However, we know home learning is not the same as being in school and we can't wait to get back to life in the classroom together!

Following the Government announcement on February 22nd, that schools will reopen from March 8, all primary age pupils are now expected to return to in-school learning on that date.

We are now half way through the school year and we are confident our students can look forward to a positive experience over the coming months.

Masks

There has been no change to the Government recommendations for face coverings in primary schools. The Government recommends that face coverings are worn in early years and primary schools for staff and adult visitors where social distancing between adults is not possible, for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Please can we also ask you to continue to wear them when coming onto site.

Mandatory attendance

We understand that some pupils, parents and households may be reluctant or anxious about pupils returning. This may include:

- pupils living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable; and/or
- those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

We would like to reassure you that we are here to support all our pupils and families and will do our utmost to help your child return to learning on the school site and to enjoy being with their friends again.

The usual rules on school attendance will apply from March 8, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

As usual, schools are responsible for recording attendance, following up absence and reporting children missing education to the local authority.

We want our pupils to attend school every day, unless they are really not well enough to. We believe that children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel settled in school, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning and gain the greatest benefit from their education.

If you have any questions or worries about your child coming back to school due to the risk of COVID-19, please contact us as soon as possible. We want to listen to any concerns you may have and do our best to help.

Start of day

Due to having the benefit of multiple entrances, we will maintain a start time of **8.45** for all. Below are the entrances and waiting zones for all classes:

Reception – main hall door and carpark – please stay in this zone and do not allow children to run to the tree area.

Year 1 – ramp in main playground. Please wait in zone 3 on the crosses.

Year 2 – classroom door entrance. Please wait in the small playground on the crosses.

Year 3- main entrance and space in front. Please wait on the crosses

Year 4- KS2 entrance. Please wait in zone 2 on the crosses. Please do not play on the equipment

Year 5 – KS2 entrance. Please wait in zone 4 on the crosses. Please do not play on the equipment.

Year 6 – KS2 entrance. Please wait in zone 5. Please wait on the crosses.

End of day.

The end of the day will finish at 3.30, except for reception class who will finish at 3.15pm. We will continue to use the same exits.

Please can we politely remind you to leave site immediately.

What the provision on site will look and feel like

As was the case in September, we will reimplement the following:

- Each of our classes of children (bubbles) will be kept separately, when learning, eating lunch, or playing.
- Children will be encouraged at all times to maintain social distancing.
- We appreciate it will be very difficult for them, but children will be discouraged from having any physical contact with each other or the school staff.
- Children will be allocated their own set of equipment to use, they will not be allowed to share or bring in anything from home
- Handwashing and hand gelling will take place regularly and particular at break and lunch times
- Children will not be allowed to go other parts of the school, except for the toilet, which is monitored for its use
- There is cleaner on site all day who regularly cleans specific zones
- There is an arrow system to allow children to maintain social distances
- Children will not access books from the school library, and any literature used for learning will be removed from the classroom after use and will be kept out of circulation for a minimum of 72hrs.
- Rooms will be regularly ventilated with open windows and doors.

To support with this, please can we ask that you help your child with the following:

- No pencil cases or other items of stationery to be brought from home.
- No toys or teddies to be brought from home unless this is essential for child's wellbeing and has been agreed with the teacher.
- Please bring clearly labelled water bottle – cups will not be available.
- Uniform can be worn, but we require your child to wear freshly laundered clothing each day.

Lateral flow tests for Primary school staff

All staff are being tested twice a week to monitor for people who may be asymptomatic and therefore potentially carrying the virus.



“We aim to develop citizens of the world by providing opportunities to embrace diversity, develop positive values, teach life skills and love learning, to enable personal achievement.”

Frenchay Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 2QS

Telephone: 0117 3532902

Email: school@fva.cabot.ac.uk

Principal: Dr. Janet Saunders

In-school learning

Our priority on your child's return will be to ensure that they quickly remind themselves what it is to be a Frome Vale Citizen at school. We will do this by revisiting our values and learning behaviours and ensuring that our routines and expectations are clear. We will also ensure that your child continues to be given a rich, broad and balanced CLF curriculum and that we support them to ensure that they continue to progress well. We will update on this during parents meetings which will happen during week commencing 29th March. Details to follow.

If your child or their class has to work at home again, we will follow our distance learning policy and make sure that work is provided on our Word Press page.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

The Department for Education has said that all pupils should return to school on Monday 8 March unless they have a letter to say they are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and should continue shielding, or they are one of the very small number of pupils under paediatric or other NHS care who have also been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend school.

We are really sorry that some of our pupils may not be able to return to school straight away because of their health needs. We will continue to work with any of our pupils who cannot return yet, to ensure they feel as involved in school as possible and we will continue to provide remote learning.

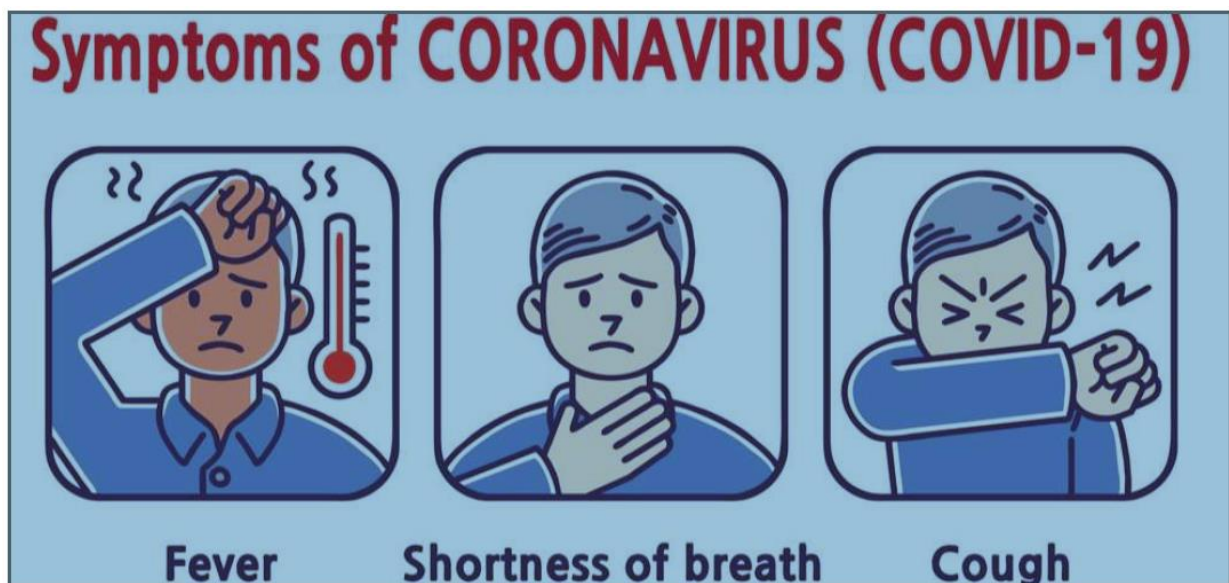
If your child is too ill to attend school

If a pupil is too ill to attend school, parents/carers should notify the office before 8.00am on the first day of absence. If your child is ill for more than one day, you will need to call on each morning of the absence, unless otherwise agreed by the school.

To report an absence, please contact the school by calling the office on 0117 3532902 or by emailing info@fva.clf.uk

Please clearly explain the symptoms your child has, when the symptoms started, and when you expect them to be well enough to return to school.





If your child shows following Covid 19 symptoms:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature). A normal temperature is 36.5 -37 degrees centigrade.
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Please **do not** bring them to school. Please let the school know, saying they have Covid 19 symptoms. Anyone in the same household will need to self- isolate.

If your child shows these symptoms in school, we will call you to pick them up immediately. Your child will be isolated until this happens.

Next steps:

1. Book a test on the NHS website

2. Wait for result before talking to us about a return to school.

Test result:

- If the test is negative (your child does not have Covid 19) and they feel well, **talk with us** about a return to school.
- If the test is negative but they feel unwell, your child must stay at home until they feel better.
- If the test is positive (showing your child has Covid 19), inform the school **immediately** as the school will need to take appropriate action.

Colds and upset tummies:

- If your child has an upset stomach (sickness and diarrhoea), please do not bring them into school for 48 hours after the last symptom is shown.
- If your child has a cold, but you feel they are well enough to come to school **and they do not present any of the symptoms above**, they are able to attend.

Breakfast club:

Breakfast club will continue to run from 8am each day.

Laptops:

If your child was loaned a laptop, please can you ensure it is returned during the week of 8th. Please leave it with me or Miss Cerepanova to avoid coming into school.

INSET day postponed

In light of this government update, and our intention to commit fully to supporting the return of all learners, we have postponed the trust wide INSET day that was planned for 17th March until Friday 28th May (the final day of term 5). This is so that we can dedicate our time to supporting our children to re-engage with learning and with their peers.

We look forward to welcoming all children back on Monday 8th March.

Dr. Saunders

