



S I N G L E T O N



CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher:
Mrs. A Clayton

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Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to outline the changes that will be implemented from September 2021 providing the Government road map follows its anticipated path.

On 19 July the country is expected to move on to Step 4 of the Government's roadmap and further restrictions will be lifted, the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

As the Prime Minister set out, this means that from that point most of the restrictions we have faced as a society in the last year-and-a-half will be removed, helping to minimise disruption to education.

Many schools, colleges and universities will have started their summer breaks by then but it means the return to education in the autumn will feel very different as a result.

One of the key changes is that pupils or students will no longer be required to remain in year group or classroom bubbles and children will be able to mix freely in the early years. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended in any setting and social distancing will no longer be necessary.

This will mean in our school that 'normality' should resume, there will be no more staggered drop off and collections, or one way system and the children will not be in bubbles. However, there will still be a requirement for all schools to comply with Health and Safety law and put in place proportionate control measures and complete a risk assessment at this time. This will include an 'outbreak management plan', where it may be necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period to reduce the mixing of groups. Any decision to reintroduce a bubble would not be taken lightly by the governing body and any measures implemented in school would only be considered as a last resort.

The following control measures will continue to be implemented in the autumn term

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

This means that we will continue with:-

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitizer

- We ask that you continue to send in hand sanitizer with your child in September

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

- We ask that you continue to send your children in with their own packet of tissues in September

We will send out a copy of the full Drop off and Collection Policy in September to all families as a reminder of the protocols and procedures that will be resumed at this point. Please note that all classes will return to their normal classrooms from September – so Year 5 /6 will no longer be in the hall and Y1/2 will no longer be in the Y5/6 classroom. The table below explains where you will drop off and collect your children from.

This is a summary

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION SEPTEMBER 2021	AM - DROP	PM - COLLECT	Collection points (these are all located on the playground)
Foundation Stage	Between 8:45am and 8:55am	3:00 pm	Foundation stage double doors – located next to the New Hall
Year 1/2	Between 8:45am and 8:55am	3:00 pm	Year 1/2 double doors located next to the old Hall
Year 3/4	Between 8:45am and 8:55am	3:00 pm	Classroom door
Year 5/6	Between 8:45am and 8:55am	3:00 pm	Classroom door
Additional information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please note that doors are shut promptly at 8:55am and entry after this point is via the school office whereby parents will need to sign their children in• Please note there is an expectation that the children will be collected promptly at 3:00pm• The drop off and collection policy guidelines will be implemented at all times• Children are provided with a morning maths / literacy activity as soon as they arrive• Children must not be left unattended on the playground			

Extra-Curricular Clubs	PM - COLLECT	Collection points (these are all located on the playground)
Miss Ashworth (Learning Mentor) will release the children from the Y5/6 classroom door.	4:15 pm	Y5/6 Classroom door
Additional information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please note there is an expectation that the children will be collected promptly at 4:15pm• The drop off and collection policy guidelines will be implemented at all times		

Of course, it is still necessary to be careful and that's why it remains essential that secondary pupils, teachers, staff and their families continue to test themselves for the virus and isolate if positive or if they have been in close contact with a positive case – but we will hopefully be able to see the back of the wholesale isolation of groups of pupils from 16 August in time for the autumn term.

GOV.UK – frequently asked questions

Early years

What will happen if there's a confirmed case in an early years setting?

We're removing the need to limit mixing between groups and contact tracing conducted by staff in the early year's settings, schools and colleges. NHS Test & Trace will now oversee contact tracing in all education settings.

Settings should continue to report cases to the DfE as previously.

From 16 August, the legal requirement to self-isolate for contacts of a positive case will end for everyone aged under 18 but children should stay at home if they have symptoms of COVID or a positive test result.

Primary schools

Will children have to stay in bubbles at primary schools?

No. Primary schools will no longer be expected to keep pupils in bubbles

Are there any other changes for primary schools?

Not significant ones. Primary school pupils don't have to regularly test nor have there been any expectations for them to wear face coverings. Teachers and other staff will no longer have to wear face coverings in communal areas. But this will be down to individual staff choice at this stage as to whether they wish to continue.

From 16 August, school children will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case. Close contacts should take a PCR test and only need to isolate if they test positive.

Teachers and staff should keep on testing twice a week even if fully vaccinated.

What things will be staying the same?

Guidance on hygiene measures, cleaning and keeping classrooms well ventilated will remain, as will **local contingency** measures if there are significant outbreaks. These may require greater levels of isolation, the reintroduction of face coverings and community testing.

What will happen if there is a positive case in a primary school?

From 16 August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test & Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test & Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

If you have an outbreak in your school, a director of public health might advise you that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms

Will remote learning still be available if my child has to self-isolate?

Where appropriate, schools should support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so.

Other information

We intend to resume the following from September

- Full extra-Curricular programmes for sport – these will start mid-September and information will be sent out in September
- Hot school meals – information will be sent out separately
- Assemblies
- Open days
- School Trips
- Face to Face parenting courses and workshops

School uniform

- It is an expectation that children will have full school uniform from September including P.E. kits and shoes. Please look on the website for more information if you need a reminder.

Fingers crossed that the 'Road Map', continues, however, if there are any changes announced in the summer holidays we will send out further information if required in September prior to school opening to clarify the impact of these changes for school.

On behalf of the Singleton Staff team I would like to thank you for your ongoing support over the last 20 months, they most definitely have been the most challenging and difficult time for us all and it is wonderful to have a light at the end of the tunnel. We wish you all a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in the new school year when hopefully the majority of the restrictions will have been removed an our little school can gain some sense of normality!