**September 2020 Reopening Information for Parents/Carers**

We are looking forward to welcoming you back from Thursday 3rd of September 2020.  We have collated information, frequently asked questions and resources to prepare your child for their return below. If you need any support or have any questions please email**deputyhead@smithdown**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What time does my child start school and which entrance do they use? What time does school finish and where do I collect my child?**

We are staging an open gate system at the start of the day on Smithdown Lane. All three gates will be open for pupils to reduce the number of children entering school at the same time and the number of parents in the immediate area around school. Parents will drop their child at the gate and not enter the playground. Reception parents only should use the Reception gates. Your child will then be escorted to class.

Children will be allowed to enter their classroom and will immediately wash their hands. School staff will be positioned at all entry points to guide the children and welcome them into school. Staff will be in classrooms 15 minutes before start times. (During these 15 minutes there will be basic skills activities available for children to complete).

For safety reasons it is imperative that you make sure that your child enters school between 8:45am to 8:55am on time.

Please do not congregate outside of the school gate at drop off or on the playground at pick up. Please adhere to social distancing rules.

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|  | Start Time | End Time | Entry/Exit Gate | Play ground pick up |
| Nursery | 9 am | 3pm - 3:15 pm | Nursery main door | Nursery |
| Reception | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Reception gate | Reception yard |
| Y1 Miss McConnell | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS2 Yard |
| Y1 Mrs Power | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS2 Yard |
| Y2 Miss Hathaway | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | Side – near bike store |
| Y2 Miss Dudley | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS1 Yard |
| Y3 Mr Davies | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS1 Yard |
| Y3 Miss Ansell | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS1 Yard |
| Y4 Mr Ma | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS1 Yard |
| Y4 Mrs Kelly | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS1 Yard |
| Y5 Mr Smith | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS1 Yard |
| Y5 Miss Alt | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS1 Yard |
| Year 6 | 8:45 am – 8:55 am | 3:15pm | Smithdown Lane | KS1 Yard |

\*KS2 (Key Stage 2 – junior playground Chatsworth Drive side)

\*KS1 (key Stage 1 – infant playground Smithdown Lane side)

**I have a child in Reception, which gate should I use?**

In order to reduce the number of parents waiting on the main playground at the end of the day, the Reception playground gate can be accessed from Smithdown Lane by the pedestrian area.

**Does my child have to wear uniform?**

Children must be in full school uniform when we return in September, we have a small stock of jumpers, cardigans, ties and book bags available to purchase in school.  All uniform must be clearly labelled with their name and class. Uniform must be clean and changed frequently.

**Will my child be in a bubble?**

All classes from September will be in year group ‘Bubble’ format. Where possible, each Bubble will be isolated from children and staff in other Bubbles during lesson time.

**What will the classroom look like?**

Classroom layouts will be similar to that of the summer term 2020. Tables will be set out, where possible facing the front of the class for year groups 3-6. It is expected some children will need to sit alongside other pupils. Children will be provided with individual resources where possible. Teachers should aim to keep a distance of 2 metres from them for the majority of the day; although it is acknowledged that there will be isolated times within the day when this is not possible. In Early Years, Y1 and Y2, classroom layouts will remain similar to that before Covid-19; although staff need to maintain a distance of 2 metres from pupils whenever possible. A rigorous daily cleaning routine will be in place.

**Can my child bring in their own equipment?**

Children can only bring coats, PE Kits, water bottles and packed lunch bags into school (please make sure packed lunch bags and water bottles are cleaned at home daily).  Classroom equipment will be provided for each pupil.  Items such as pencil cases, pads etc. from home will not be permitted in school.

**What will happen at break and lunch times?**

Lunch times and break times have been carefully worked to ensure that limited mixing between bubbles happens. At lunch time, children will eat in the dinner hall in their bubble. Tables and chairs will be thoroughly cleaned between each sitting. Lunches will be provided as usual. If a child has a packed lunch they can bring it into school in a lunch bag/box. This must be taken home daily and thoroughly cleaned. Toilet areas will also be thoroughly cleaned throughout the lunch hour.

**What can the children have for lunch?**

When we return to school in September, lunches will return to normal, children have the option of bringing their own packed lunch or having a school dinner.  To assist with admin we ask that children stay on their chosen food choice for the duration of a half term.  If you pay for your lunch please place payment in an envelope with your child’s name and class and give it to your child or one of the members of staff at the entrances.

**Can my child wear a mask in school?**

Government guidelines states that children do not need to wear a mask in school. However, there may be a particular reason for some children, such as medical need where this would be permitted. If there is a change in government guidance, parents will be notified immediately.

**Is Breakfast Club open or are there any After School Clubs?**

Breakfast club is on hold at the moment as the school settles back. Updates will be sent to all parents when we have an opening date for breakfast club. After school clubs will return in year group bubbles by October at the latest.

**How will my child stay safe?**

As a school, we will adhere to the Risk Assessment for the safety of all staff, children and parents. Children will wash/sanitize their hands regularly and follow all Covid advice that they are taught to keep them safe. They will remain in their bubbles throughout lesson time and not wander around the school. We will promote the use of tissues to, ‘Catch, bin it, kill it!’ if they are going to sneeze or cough. They will be education in how to keep safe with good hygiene.

**Does school have a risk assessment in place?**

The current Risk Assessments that have been devised for the return of pupils and staff for the summer term, will be adapted in accordance to the wider-opening of school in September. Individual Risk Assessments will be in place for pupils and staff as necessary.

[September 2020 Covid Risk Assessment](https://pleasantstreetprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/September-2020-Covid-RA.pdf) - https://smithdownprimary.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Risk-Assessment-September-2020.pdf

**What happens if my child displays COVID symptoms?**

If your child becomes unwell in school and displays COVID symptoms we will ask you to collect your child and book a COVID test.

If your child displays COVID symptoms at home/at the weekend we ask you to book a COVID test and inform us straight away via a phone call or via email out of hours.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

* **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
* **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

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms. Please use this link for further information.

**Attendance and Reporting Absence**

From September our usual procedures for reporting absence are back in place.  If your child does not attend you must inform us by 9:30am on the day to explain why your child is off by calling the school office on 0151 709 6229. This is to ensure we are fully aware if they are off with Covid-19 symptoms so that we can support you in next steps and put our Covid-19 risk assessment process into action.

**Does the school expect anything from me as a parent?**

The safety for both children and adults is paramount.  It is important that you follow the school on Twitter and check the website for the latest updates.  You must also make sure we have your most up to date contact information if we need to call you in an emergency or if your child is unwell.  We have devised a code of conduct that explains the changes below.  One of the most important expectations is the information listed above about reporting absence.  There are also details on the slight changes that have been made to our behaviour policy on the link below.

* Please remember to treat all members of staff and other parents and children respectfully and leave as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child.
* Results from the test are to be shared with school, whether positive or negative. Until the results have been shared, the child must isolate at home with all members of their household.
* If a child starts to develop symptoms whilst at school, they must be collected within an hour of notification being received
* If your child is not attending school, please call the school or email by 9:30am
* Personal belonging such as pencil cases, ‘fluffy’ pencils and pads should be left at home as we will provide all resources.
* Following Government and medical advice, your child will be expected to adhere to social distancing at school and wash their hands frequently, using soap and water/sanitizer to reduce the chances of transmission of the virus. We expect your support and understanding for this.
* If any member of the household is displaying symptoms of Covid 19, the child is not permitted onto the site and the school must be kept informed of test results, prior to them being allowed back
* Parents are to adhere to the social distancing rules laid down by the Government at all times and not gather on the play ground
* On arrival back at home, wash hands with soap and water and wash the clothes the child has been wearing all day.
* Your support as we work our way together through this is appreciated as is your co-operation and understanding at this difficult time.

Behaviour Policy - <https://smithdownprimary.com/about-us/policies-key-documents/>

**How do I speak to a member of staff?**

Parents will not be permitted to enter the school building without a pre-arranged appointment, if you need to speak to a member of staff please call 0151 709 6229 so we can assist you.  As it is likely to be busy at start/end times please use this method instead of talking to school staff outside as they may not be able to give you their full attention/privacy whilst dealing with the children.

**If we are returning from holiday/a trip abroad do we have to self-isolate?**

You must follow the guidance from the government when you return from another country.  The most up to date guidance can be found by clicking here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk>

If your return is going to be delayed because of self-isolation/travel please contact us via email or by calling school.

**Is there anything I can do to help my child prepare to return to school?**

We understand that you or your child might be feeling anxious or worried about returning to school.  Those pupils who returned before the summer holidays settled in quickly and enjoyed being back into their usual routine and surroundings.  We have attached some links that you might like to share with your children before they return which may help to put your minds at ease.

[BBC Bitesize – Helping your child to feel better about being back in school](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zcs9vwx) – A fantastic article that could be used to support your child before their return to school.