

31st August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School Autumn Term Start - Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

I trust that you have all had a good summer so far and that you are keeping safe and well. On behalf of myself and the senior teaching team, we are very excited to get back to “some form of normality” this September. We are looking forward to welcoming back **all** our pupils and having a brilliant Autumn term.

I am writing to you to help ensure a smooth return to school for September 2nd 2020. The one overriding message we need to ensure all members of our community are fully aware of is that the current pandemic is a worldwide problem and until there is a vaccine and cure it is something we are going to have to manage in order to function day to day. We will be sending out a very strong message to our pupils that, even though statistically this virus does not have as big an impact on young people, it is vital that they follow all our instructions in order to protect the adults in their lives. All of us - regardless of age or any underlying health conditions - must be aware of our own personal responsibility to follow the guidance from the UK government to keep ourselves, our colleagues, and our friends safe.

Please do not send your child into school if you, or any member of your household, has any of the following 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 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 have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

I would like to remind parents about the staggered school start and finish times which were shared with all parents at the end of the summer term (July 2020). It is imperative that we abide by these timings for the health and safety of our school community. If you have any concerns please e-mail the school office at office@iqra.slough.sch.uk where your concerns can be addressed on a 1:1 basis. Siblings from the different ‘bubbles’ can be dropped off and collected from their allocated gates at the start and end of the school day. Please see the table below as a reminder of the staggered school times:

	Start of School Day	Home Time
NEW IQRA SCHOOL GATE (Entrance through Willow/Iqra School shared car park – rear of the school playground) Bubble 4 – Years 5 & 6	Gates open - 8.30am Registration - 8:40am	3.00 pm Pupils will be dismissed from the new gate
MAIN SCHOOL GATE Bubble 3 – Years 3 & 4	Gates open - 9.00am Registration - 9:10am	2.30 pm Year 3 collection from classrooms Year 4 collection from MUGA
MAIN SCHOOL GATE Bubble 2 – Years 1 & 2	Gates open - 9.30am Registration - 9.40am	2.50 pm Parents collect pupils from their classrooms
SCHOOL HALL REAR ENTRANCE Bubble 1 - Reception	Gates open - 8.30am Registration - 8:40am	2.30 pm Parents collect pupils from school entrance at the rear of the school hall

From September 2nd all parents entering onto the school playground or in the school building **will be required** to wear a face mask. The latest government guidelines regarding face masks can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>. Getting all children back to school and keeping our school open is our top priority. All adults must play their role in keeping our school community safe to prevent any further outbreaks of the virus.

The School Leadership Team has met and put together a comprehensive risk assessment to ensure we have measures in place to mitigate transmission of the virus within our community, however there is no guarantee that we will remain Covid-free. Below we have addressed some frequently asked questions and we hope this will help parents and pupils to safely return to school.

I thank all parents for their continued support through these trying times. I look forward to seeing the School community coming back together in September.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Mineza Maher
Iqra Head teacher

FAQS

How are we going to support our pupils to catch up academically and readjust?

We are mindful that remote learning and being out of routine has been challenging for some of our pupils. The school is actively planning for the return to school with teachers to support this. Teachers have carefully planned a 'catch-up' programme in reading, writing and mathematics. The school will implement individual and small-group teaching 'catch-up' sessions from September.

What will the school timetable look like?

We have planned for a full timetable from September with some minor adjustments for safety reasons and to comply with the current guidelines.

The school has adopted a 'bubble' concept with year groups. In addition, staggered start and finish times means that our classes can return as full year groups.

How are we going to avoid crowding at rush hours?

We are staggering the time our gates open at the start and end of the school day to ensure that we can manage the groups/bubbles on the site and avoid mixing where possible. Please see the latest information from the Headteacher on timings.

What if my child is feeling anxious about returning to school?

If your child is feeling particularly anxious, please contact your child's class teacher. We will be happy to discuss the best way forward to support you and your child.

We hope that through discussion and a support plan, all pupils will quickly feel confident to return to school.

How will we support pupils to adjust socially and emotionally?

The children who have returned to school have settled quickly into routines and have been happy to see their friends. We are mindful that lockdown has been difficult for some children and our staff will be at hand to support those pupils who are struggling.

Will trips go ahead?

Trips are permitted. We are consciously planning trips that can take place in open spaces. Children will be kept within their bubbles.

Will there be after-school clubs?

We hope to offer after-school clubs but within the 'bubbles'. Please look out for communication in the new term.

What will happen if there is another lockdown?

The school is proud of our online learning. If a further lockdown was to happen Iqra school will use Microsoft Teams to support learning at home. This platform will be introduced to the school community in the Autumn Term.

FAQS: Health & Safety

Can my child wear a facemask in school?

The latest government guidelines do not recommend children in primary schools to wear face masks. However, parents can discuss their child's situation on a 1:1 basis with school staff. This advice will be kept under review.

Will there be school dinners?

Catering will return to normal with some adaptations.

We will operate staggered mealtimes and have the necessary safeguards to prevent overcrowding.

Can my children bring their own water bottles?

Children will be expected to bring their own water bottles. Access to fresh drink water will be provided. However water fountains will not be usable.

How are we managing physical distancing in the school?

Break and lunch times will be staggered to avoid overcrowding in recreational spaces. Pupils will only be allowed to spend break and lunch times in their bubbles.

How will access to the school site be managed?

External visitors will be limited during the normal school hours.

Parents should only come to the school outside of drop off/collection times when strictly necessary. Parents will not be allowed into the classrooms when dropping/collecting the children. If a parent is invited to school by the school staff then parents must wear a mask and follow school protocols.

During the school day

- ✓ All frequently touched surfaces and equipment will be cleaned thoroughly everyday and at intervals during school hours
- ✓ Regular checks will be made to ensure that soap and sanitisers are available throughout the school

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We Learn, We Lead, We Inspire

IQRA Primary School
Fernside
off Wexham Road
Slough
SL2 5FF
T: 01753 520018
E: office@iqra.slough.sch.uk
www.iqraprimary.com
Head Teacher
Dr M Maher

- ✓ Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the school and will be replenished regularly
- ✓ Disposable tissues will be available in every classroom to implement the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- ✓ All surfaces and floors will be cleaned thoroughly each day
- ✓ Pupils will be reminded regularly about hand washing
- ✓ Doors and windows will remain open to allow for air flow and ventilation



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