

Thursday, 25th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: New announcement from the government on Monday 22nd February 2021

After the prime minister's announcement, we are really pleased that we will be able to open to all pupils again from 8th March 2021. We have really missed having everyone under one roof.

How our measures so far have kept us safe

We will use the same Covid measures that kept us safe from September 2020 to December 2020 with all of our pupils in school. There have been some changes and these measures are based upon the recent government guidelines which are detailed in the following document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Unfortunately, since September 2020 we have had a small number of pupils, staff and parents in the community who have tested positive for Covid 19. However, I am pleased to say that due to the swift and decisive action taken by the school (after guidance from the DfE and PHE), we have successfully limited the spread of the virus allowing the vast majority of pupils to stay in school.

Staff lateral flow tests

Staff in school will be using two rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) Lateral Flow tests each week at home to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission. This offers an extra layer of protection for staff, for children and their families.

Grouping children

We will continue to group pupils in class sized bubbles with the exception of all three Reception Classes, who will form one bubble. For children in the Reception classes, this means that they can access and explore all of the early years provision that they need. Children will stay in these bubbles. These bubbles will not mix during the school day. Playtime will be timetabled so that only 3 bubbles are on the playground at any time and the playground will be split to avoid mixing. On occasion a small group from within a bubble will work in a separate area with a member of staff from that bubble. The area they work in will have been cleaned before use and will be cleaned again after use. If children work with a different member of staff not in their bubble, e.g. doing an extra booster or catch up session, that member of staff will stay 2m away or use a Perspex screen.

Some staff members are classed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' and will not be able to return to school on 8th March. Supply, or cover staff, will oversee these classes until the teachers are able to return.

Drop off and pick up

Staggered times, one-way system and adult masks are really important and are possibly recognised as the biggest risks in schools in adult to adult transmission.

Request for adults to wear facemasks in the playground and close to school

Because we have many congested areas, I am asking that adults please continue to wear a face covering, in addition to social distancing, when dropping off and collecting children in the school grounds. This is an extra safeguard to reduce the transmission of the virus. Please note that this does not apply to those who are medically exempt.

Staggered drop off and pick up times

We will continue with staggered drop off and pick up times so that large amounts of people are not arriving at school at the same time. Please stick to the timings to avoid congestion in our grounds.

	Start of School Day	Home Time
NEW IQRA SCHOOL GATE (Entrance through Willow/Iqra School shared car park – rear of the school playground) Years 5 & 6	Gates open - 8.30am Registration - 8:40am	3.00 pm Pupils will be dismissed from the new gate
MAIN SCHOOL GATE Years 3 & 4	Gates open - 8.50am Registration - 9:00am	2.30 pm Year 3 collection from classrooms Year 4 collection from MUGA
MAIN SCHOOL GATE Years 1 & 2	Gates open - 9.10am Registration - 9.15am	2.50 pm Parents collect pupils from their classrooms
SCHOOL HALL REAR ENTRANCE Reception	Gates open - 8.30am Registration - 8:40am	2.30 pm Parents collect pupils from school entrance at the rear of the school hall

Our congested areas are the following:

- Coming in through the main school gate. The pavement outside this main gate is the most congested area. If you want to speak to other parents, please wait until you are off the school premises where it is easier to distance and for others to move around you.

If you prefer to wait for your child, rather than come into school playground, please do not stand on the pavement. This causes congestion and makes social distancing hard. Instead you can stand 2 metres away from other pavement users.

- Waiting for children outside the Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 classrooms. Please be patient here. Please maintain your social distance from each other. No adult is allowed into the school at any time. Your child should be able to hang up their own coats and book bags. There are always adults at the classroom doors to help your child if needed.
- Leaving the playground via the Year 5 and 6 school gate (entrance through Willow/Iqra School shared car park – rear of the school playground). Please keep your distance from the family in front of you. Please do not stop and wait on the pathway. Please do not park in front of the school gate or block another car.
- Waiting for the EYFS drop off and or collection. Please be patient and maintain your distance from each other. Please do not use this pavement area to wait for anyone as this can cause congestion.

Lastly, please try to stick to our staggered start times and not arrive too early or late. We will also try to be prompt in opening doors and letting children out at the end of the day.

Thank you for all you do to support your child and others in the school community. By continuing to work together, we have a greater chance of reducing infection rates and keeping Iqra School open for our children.

Entry to school for your child / children

There will be a one-way system at the main entry gate. Entry and exit will be from the two separate gates so parents and children do not have to cross paths. Children will be invited into school one at a time to wash their hands first. We ask that where possible, only one parent accompanies their child/children. Parents and carers will not be invited into school. Should you wish to speak to me or a member of staff, of course that is possible, we will organise a telephone call with you or arrange a meeting via MS Teams.

Staff use of face masks around school

When staff are out of their classrooms or offices, they will wear facemasks in corridors and any communal areas. As adults more easily transmit Covid 19, this is an added layer of protection.

Hand and respiratory hygiene

Each class bubble has access to their own sinks for their class base and we will have additional temporary hand washing solutions on top of this. Hand washing and sanitising hands will happen regularly throughout the day but especially before starting new activities, before eating, before and after using the toilet and on leaving school. Children will be reminded to not touch their face, to 'catch it, bin it, kill it' if they use a tissue. School will provide tissues.

Classroom layout

The classrooms will be laid out to maximise individual space. Desks will be in rows so children are not face to face. Children in rows will be allocated their own personal stationery so they do not have to share. Not all learning will be formal - there will be plenty of opportunity to learn and play outside. I am always thankful for Iqra's amazing grounds, but now in this crisis I am especially grateful for this. Weather permitting, the children will be able to go outside frequently without mixing bubbles as we have such large grounds. Hopefully, the weather will improve to allow us more time outside from March.

Cleaning

The school will continue to be carefully cleaned each night and it will also have a brief clean at lunchtime. As well as this, staff in each group will be cleaning surfaces, handles and equipment with anti-viral spray. Cleaning products will be stored out of reach of pupils. Products that can be cleaned after use will be cleaned each day. Products that cannot be cleaned after use will be quarantined for 48 or 72 hours depending on what they are made of before being available to others.

Lunchtime

Children will continue to have their lunch in their classrooms to maintain social distancing across the school and to avoid mixing in the hall. When the weather gets warmer, class bubbles will be allowed to have their lunch outside in the playground.

Uniform

Uniform is a requirement. Please wear freshly washed clothes each day or have a 3 day cycle to allow for a 72 hours gap between wears. While it is cold, please bring extra layers. It is fine to have a fleece on top of uniform or a polo neck underneath. It can get cold in school with our windows open to provide necessary ventilation. Always bring a coat as we intend to spend as much time as possible outside.

PE kits and What to bring to school

On PE days, pupils will be able to wear their PE kits to school. This is to allow the children to bring as little as possible each day to school. Please make sure school PE uniform is adhered to (see the school website) and sweatshirts and not covered in large logos.

Your child will need a water bottle freshly cleaned and filled each day, a coat and a lunch box if they are not having a school meal.

What would happen if a case of Covid19 was suspected in school?

All people who develop Coronavirus symptoms, however mild will be sent home as soon as possible and they should then follow government guidance on self-isolating and testing. They should self-isolate for 10 days and their fellow household members should self-isolate for 10

days. All staff and pupils will be directed to have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

The government have advised schools to take *'swift action when we become aware that someone who has attended the school has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) having developed symptoms and taken a PCR test outside of school'*. Based on their advice, Iqra school must send home those children/people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate immediately and for the next 10 full days counting from the day after contact with the individual who tested positive. The school will send a text message and an e-mail, via ParentPay, to parents requesting them to collect their children as soon as possible. Please can all parents ensure that we have your up to date contact details by contacting the school office at office@iqra.slough.sch.uk. To keep all children, staff and the wider community safe we ask parents to continue to work with us in order to ensure that systems run as efficiently as possible.

While awaiting collection, a child will be isolated *outside* if possible. If the weather does not allow isolating outside, then your child will be kept in a separate area with a closed door and an open window for ventilation. The child will be supervised by a staff member. The staff member will wear PPE if this supervision cannot be of a 2 metre distance.

Where the child /children, or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class bubble, or in upper KS2 the row which your child is seated at, will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

If a child tests positive but has not been in school for over 48 hours, we will obtain advice from Public Health England and Slough Health and Safety team whether it is necessary for all pupils in that class / bubble to isolate.

Do we 'have' to send our child back to school?

The government has made school attendance *mandatory* again from 8th March 2020 for all pupils unless they are categorised as clinically extremely vulnerable.

If your child is ill, please ring in school to let us know as normal. You must let us know if symptoms are Covid related or not. For sickness and diarrhoea, please leave 48 hours after symptoms before returning to school. If your child / children have to quarantine, learning will be made available again on MS Teams or learning packs will be made available.

If you are worried about your child's particular health needs, we should have already created an individual pupil risk assessment (IPRA) with you. If you have new medical concerns, please let us know and we will create an IPRA with you with advice from your child's medical practitioners. If medical advice is for your child to be away from school, remote learning will be made available.

**Pupil Premium
Awards 2014
Regional Winner**



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

Risk Assessments

Our Covid Risk Assessment is on our website: <https://www.iqraprimary.com/about/policies/>. It is a working (live) document which is edited as soon as we have any new information from our own staff, The Government of the United Kingdom, Public Health England or Slough Borough Council's Health and Safety team.

Questions from you and your children

Please let me know if you have any further questions via e-mail and I will produce a Frequently Asked Questions document for you all to read. If your child/children have any particular worries, their class teachers are available on MS Teams to allay their fears and work with them to make their start back to school as happy and successful as possible.

We are all really looking forward to seeing your children again on Monday 8th March.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr M Maher
Iqra School Head teacher

