



Headteacher: Andy Bowman

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to a new school year!

It is great to be able to introduce myself to you as Southville's new headteacher and I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your children in the coming weeks, months and years.

The main purpose of writing to you today is to outline some key arrangements ahead of the start of term and to share the government guidance around managing Covid. Please also see attached to this email information about the start and end of day arrangements.

Managing Covid

From 19th July the government continues 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 2 doses by mid-September.

The key messages from this guidance are:

- nationally, education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory (for schools) and strongly encouraged (at childminders, nurseries and colleges)
- the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only
- continuing to take regular rapid tests will help you to identify infections early and reduce transmission
- we will no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will still be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- children identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal
- your child does not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')
- the government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. We politely ask that if you come into the school building for any reason you wear a face covering.

Should I send my child to school?



- **All children MUST attend school unless they are ill.**
- **From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid.**
- **Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.**



- **If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and should book a PCR test, NOT a Lateral Flow test.**
- **If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test.**
- **If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.**

Uniform

We are looking forward to seeing your children in full uniform from Monday. You can find more information about this, and how to buy it, here: [Uniform](#) Please ensure that all of your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their name.

PE Kit

Last year, as part of our covid management plan, the children were able to wear their PE kit for school on their PE days. This has proven popular with the children and staff as it increases the time available for the PE lesson and it also reduces the likelihood of losing items of clothing. For these reasons we are going to continue with this arrangement. Please ensure your child wears a white T-shirt or one that is the colour of their school house. They can also wear a school colour jumper, sweatshirt or hoodie on these days.

School Meals

The dinner menus for term 1 are available to view and download here: [School lunches](#). You can order meals via Pupil Asset. Please note, if your child is moving into Year 3, they will no longer be eligible for universal free school meals. You may however still be able to claim free school meals. To see if your child is eligible click here: [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Healthy Snacks at Playtime

Children are welcome to bring a snack in for morning playtime provided it is healthy (i.e. fruit or savoury cracker).

Food Allergies

This month we will be sending you a confidential information form so that we can ensure the medical and contact information and the permissions we have for your child are up to date. If there are any updates related to medical needs and/or allergies please do not wait for that form and instead update the office via email as soon as possible.

Related to this, please ensure the food your child brings to school is **nut and sesame free**. Thank you very much.

If you have any questions about any of this, Mr Potter, Mr Commander and myself will be out and about at the start and end of each day and your child's teacher will also be available at pick-up.

Thank you and see you soon.

Best wishes,

Andy Bowman

Headteacher