

Answers to frequently asked questions

1. When will the school reopen?

St Christopher's has never been closed! We have been open for the last 8 weeks to the children of our keyworkers and a few of our more vulnerable children.

The Government has outlined a plan that from the 1st June onwards, schools should try to bring children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back in. We are currently planning for that to happen.

Unfortunately, because we will be following social distancing guidelines and in line with government instructions, the small groups in each room will mean that we cannot accommodate Years 2,3,4 and 5 at this time. We are still waiting for further guidance about these year groups. We are also currently unable to accommodate any nursery children due to lack of appropriate space and insufficient staff to enable enough social distancing.

We are planning for Year 6 to return on Wednesday 3rd June, with Y1 and Reception returning 8th June. However, as guidance and information from Government changes daily, I must stress that these dates are provisional and may still change.

2. Will the online learning still carry on?

Yes, there will continue to be home-learning provided for all children in Nursery, Years 2,3,4 and 5 at the level you have been accessing for the last 8 weeks. There will be some activities still provided for YR, Y1 and Y6, but with teachers busy in school to teach these children, the online work will be less for these groups.

3. How can I feel confident that school will be clean?

We have been planning and risk assessing all the possible issues around safe reopening.

There is a clear plan for extra cleaning, and we have brought in extra cleaning and sanitising products. Our team of cleaners will be cleaning on a rota throughout the day, to ensure that toilets, door handles etc are cleaned frequently. There will be far fewer children in school, and only small numbers using each toilet. The classrooms will have hand sanitiser, anti-bac spray and plenty of tissues, paper towels and soap. Every lunchtime, each classroom will be sprayed with air-drying disinfectant.

4. What will the day look like for children in YR, Y1 and Y6?

- The children in these classes will be placed into 'bubbles' of no more than 10 children per classroom. There will be 3 for YR, 3 for Y1 and we are currently planning 4 for Y6. These bubbles will be known as RA, RB, RC, 1A,1B,1C, 6A,6B,6C,6D. Each bubble has a teacher and a teaching assistant for the whole day.
- Because of the need to have small groups, children returning to school will not necessarily be taught by their normal class teacher and may be in a bubble group with children from a different class.
- The bubbles will be timetabled to start and finish school at staggered intervals, with staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes, to enable us to socially distance and have no contact between bubbles. The earliest start time will be 8.30am, followed by 8.45am, 9.00am and 9.15am if necessary. End times will be 2.30, 2.45, 3.00 and 3.15pm. Parents will be asked to stick closely to your given times, which will be communicated once we have a clearer idea of which children to expect.
- All classes will finish at lunchtime on Fridays to allow time for teachers to plan for the following week (this does not apply to the keyworker children, who will be able to remain in school until 3pm on a Friday).
- Entrance to the school will be through the front pedestrian gate (rear entrance will be closed). Parents will be asked to wait with their child on a yellow marker by the

gate and children will be allowed to enter once they have sanitised their hands. Year 6 children will be required to enter alone. One parent may accompany the Y1, YR child to the classroom then please leave the site. Exit from the site will be one-way, up through the car park entrance gate.

- NO parents may enter the school buildings. Any communication will need to be through email, or phone call, unless an absolute emergency.
- Children will be allowed into their bubble classroom one at a time. They need to wait outside the external door on one of the footprint markers until the teacher calls them in. They go straight to wash their hands, and then sit at their table.
- We will ask that children bring nothing with them from home except for their packed lunch and a water bottle.
- Lessons will take place in the classrooms or outdoors if the weather is fine.
- Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms or outdoors. We will not be using the school hall during this time. Packed lunches will be provided by our school kitchen for all YR and Y1 children if required, and for free-school meals children in Year 6. Any other child in Y6 may purchase a school packed lunch at the usual lunch rate.
- There will be regular handwashing and hand-sanitising through the day
- The teaching will focus on key skills of reading, writing, phonics and maths with personalised education to enable teachers to fill any gaps caused by time away through lockdown. There will also be creative lessons and outdoor learning.
- Children in reception will have access to a limited selection of classroom toys, and will have more formal learning than their normal play-based activities

5. How will you keep everyone apart?

It is very difficult, but we will make every effort to keep 2m apart. The tables and chairs in the classrooms have all been spaced to 2m distance, and there are plenty of markings around on the ground to show what 2m looks like. The children need to understand the importance of staying apart, and this will be regularly repeated to them. Unfortunately, if a child is unable to maintain this rule, or shows other behaviour that could put others at risk, we may have to ask that you keep that child at home.

All corridors and communal areas in the school have one-way signs.

6. What if my child is ill?

If your child shows ANY symptoms of ANY illness, please do not send them to school. If your child has symptoms of Covid-19, they may now be tested, and this should happen immediately.

If a child falls ill during the day in school, they will be isolated immediately away from others and parents will be called to collect as soon as possible.

7. What happens if I don't send my YR, Y1, Y6 child into school?

There are no consequences if you choose to keep your child at home. Our usual absence policy is suspended during this time. We would, however, ask you to tell us either way if you are sending your child, or keeping them at home. Also, please call the school if your child is ill any day and would have been attending school.

8. Is there still provision for keyworker children?

Yes, we still expect quite a few children of keyworker children (from ANY year group) to attend, and we have set aside the Year 4 classrooms for these children. We are still able to take more children into these groups, so if you are on the list of keyworkers and needing to return to work from 1st June, please get in touch with the school office as soon as possible to find out if we can take your child.

9. What should my child wear when they come to school in June?

We appreciate that some children may have grown out of their uniform! Your child should wear whatever they feel comfortable in and is suitable for school. This could be their uniform. However, it is really important that whatever they do wear for school is WASHED every day as soon as they return home. This is a recommendation from the government.

10. What will be happening about school in September?

At this time, we have had no guidance about what school will look like in September, and whether we will be back to normality. We are waiting for the guidance from the Government.

11. Will breakfast club and after-school club be running during June and July?

No – we are not able to run breakfast club and after-school club at this time because that would mean the children from the different ‘bubbles’ would be mixing with each other.