

Long Down Avenue
Stoke Gifford
South Gloucestershire
BS16 1GE
Web: wallscourtfarmacademy.org.uk Tel 0117 370 9860

25th February 2021

Dear Families,

We want to thank you and your children for your hard work and support over this last period of lockdown, since 5 January 2021, and give you as much information as we can at this time on the return to school.

We know how hard our pupils and families have worked to engage with learning at home and we are so grateful to all of our pupils and families for their amazing effort, hard work and determination and for doing their very best. However, we know home learning is not the same as being in school and we can't wait to get back to life in the learning zones together!

Following the Government announcement on February 22 that schools will reopen from March 8; all primary age pupils are now expected to return to in-school learning on that date.

We are now half way through the school year and we are confident our learners can look forward to a positive experience over the coming months.

Masks

There has been no change to the Government recommendations for face coverings in primary schools. The Government recommends that face coverings are worn in early years and primary schools for staff and adult visitors where social distancing between adults is not possible, for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas. **We still request that you wear a mask when on the school site at drop off and pick up.**

Mandatory attendance

We understand that some pupils, parents and households may be reluctant or anxious about pupils returning. This may include:

- pupils living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable; and/or
- those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

We would like to reassure you that we are here to support all our pupils and families and will do our utmost to help your child return to learning on the school site and to enjoy being with their friends again.

The usual rules on school attendance will apply from March 8, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

As usual, schools are responsible for recording attendance, following up absence and reporting children missing education to the local authority.

We want our pupils to attend school every day, unless they are really not well enough to. We believe that children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel settled in school, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning and gain the greatest benefit from their education.

If you have any questions or worries about your child coming back to school due to the risk of COVID-19, please contact us as soon as possible. We want to listen to any concerns you may have and do our best to help.

Staggered drop off and collection

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
School day starts	8.50 a.m.	8.40 a.m.	8.40 a.m.	8.45 a.m.	8.45 a.m.	8.35 a.m.	8.35 a.m.
School day ends	3.20 p.m.	3.10 p.m.	3.10 p.m.	3.15 p.m.	3.15 p.m.	3.05 p.m.	3.05 p.m.

We will call the Year groups in this order: **Year 6, Year 5, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4, Year 3, Year R**

Please be at school just before the drop off time and observe social distancing whilst waiting. It is really important that children arrive at their allotted time.

Contact with Learning Zone teams

If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please either email info@wfa.cabot.ac.uk or phone and ask for a member of the team to call you back.

Family Learning Conferences

We will be holding Family learning Conferences during the first week of Term 5 – week beginning 19/04/2021. These will be held via TEAMS and we will offer both daytime and evening appointments. If you feel you need to discuss your child with the class teacher prior to this time, please contact the Welcome Zone.

What the provision on site will look and feel like

WFA will feel very similar to how it was in Term 2. Children will be in their class groups with their class teacher. Year groups will be 'Year group bubbles' and will have lunch and outside times together. They will be kept separate from other year groups.

Lateral flow tests for Primary school staff

As you may be aware the government have asked staff at primary schools to begin routine lateral flow testing. The academy has been working with staff to understand what they need to do and how testing will add to our current safety measures such as social distancing, regularly washing hands, one-way systems, staggered starts etc. Staff will be taking test kits home and will test twice a week before coming to work.

The tests are designed to find people who have Covid-19 but are not displaying any symptoms (asymptomatic). This allows them to immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test at their local test centre. This reduces the risk of them unwittingly transmitting the disease.

It is not compulsory for staff to take the test. If they choose not to they will still attend work, however the other mitigations in place will keep the risk of transmission low.

The tests do not replace the need for staff to self-isolate and get a PCR test if they are displaying symptoms and will not stop any identified close contacts having to self-isolate (including other staff).

In-school learning

As a team, we have crafted a rejoining curriculum based on our CLF Trust wide curriculum and an increased emphasis on well-being. There is a balance of structured and unstructured opportunities for reconnecting and learning together. We will be offering a joy-filled curriculum as well as focusing on key skills to ease children from learning remotely to learning in school. We will support you and your child over the coming months. We are focusing on moving forward from where children are, not catching up.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

The Department for Education has said that all pupils should return to school on Monday 8 March unless they have a letter to say they are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and should continue shielding, or they are one of the very small number of pupils under paediatric or other NHS care who have also been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend school.

We are really sorry that some of our pupils may not be able to return to school straight away because of their health needs. We will continue to work with any of our pupils who cannot return yet, to ensure they feel as involved in school as possible and we will continue to provide remote learning.

If your child is too ill to attend school

If a pupil is too ill to attend school, parents/carers should notify the Welcome Zone before **9.00 am** on the first day of absence. If your child is ill for more than one day, you will need to call on each morning of the absence, unless otherwise agreed by the school.

To report an absence, please contact the school by calling the office on **0117 3709860** or by emailing **info@wfa.cabot.ac.uk**.

Please clearly explain the symptoms your child has, when the symptoms started, and when you expect them to be well enough to return to school.

Coronavirus Symptoms and how to book a test

If your child, or anyone else in your household, has any symptoms of coronavirus (fever, a new cough, loss of smell/taste), your household must isolate and anyone who has symptoms should get a test as soon as possible. Please contact the school by 9.00 am on the first day of absence to let us know. To book a test online go to: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If you cannot book a test online, you can book a test by telephoning the NHS on 119. If the test result/s are negative, your child should return to school as soon as they feel well enough.

You can find more information here, including information about the isolation period if your child or someone else in your household tests positive for coronavirus: <https://clf.uk/covid-19-related-pupil-absence/>

If you have any queries about symptoms, call 111 or go to: <https://111.nhs.uk/service/COVID-19/> or call 111 to speak to an operator.

Mental health and Well-being

Through this period children have learnt many skills, resilience, independence and flexibility but we also know that some children may have experienced anxiety and may be needing more support than others. We have a range of provision in place to support children in this area if required. If you feel there is anything you would like us to know before your child returns please email the school requesting a phone call and we will arrange for a member of the Leadership Team to call you back.

OOH – Breakfast and After School club

OOH will begin from Monday 8th March. The provision will be run in the same way as Term 2 and will reflect the current health and Safety requirements. There are a limited number of places per year group. All places must be booked and paid for in advance. In the first instance, priority will be given to existing users of the OOH provision. **Booking for provision starting 8th March is now open to all existing users.**

Breakfast club will run in the studio/café but children will sit in year groups. We will only be serving toast. Children will need their own water bottle. The cost remains £2.50 per child.

At After School, club children will be grouped into consistent OOH bubbles located in demarcated zones as below. Adults will be linked with one bubble. The Superclassroom will be divided into two separate zones.

	Year R and year 1 Bubble	Year 2 and 3 Bubble	Years 4, 5 and 6 Bubble
Location	Studio/Cafe	Zone 1 Superclassroom	Zone 2 Superclassroom
Timings	3.15-5.30 p.m.	3.15-5.30 p.m.	3.15-5.30 p.m.
Collection time	3.15-4.30 p.m. <i>From Welcome Zone</i> 5.10-5.30 pm Studio/Café via side gate	3.15-4.30 p.m. <i>From Welcome Zone</i> 5.10-5.30 pm Superclassroom via main gate	3.15-4.30 p.m. <i>From Welcome Zone</i> 5.10-5.30 pm Superclassroom via main gate

We apologise for restricting collection between 4.30-5.10 p.m. The Welcome Zone is shut from 4.30 p.m. and, for Safeguarding reasons, we cannot leave the gates open whilst children are playing outside.

If you are collecting from the studio/café and need to also collect from the Superclassroom, you will need to exit via the side gate and re-enter the site via the main front gate. The Superclassroom will not be accessible via the side gate. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes. When collecting, please wait outside and your child will be sent out to you.

We will not be providing a snack but children can bring their own snack and their water bottle. Because of the changes to the session, we have reduced the cost to £7.00 per session.

Uniform

From the 8th March, children will be required to come to school in their WFA school uniform except for their Athletes' session when they can come to school in their P.E. kit – black shorts/joggers/leggings and a white T-short. Please check the rota below your child's Sports session as some of these days have changed.

Term 4	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Year 1	Oak & Year 4	Year 3 & Year 2	Year 5	Year 6

Due to Covid restrictions, please do not send anything from home except a book bag, water bottle and packed lunch if needed. If your child does bring a backpack, please make sure it is as small as possible as the bags on the pegs limit access for other children when getting their coats.

INSET day postponed

In light of this government update, and our intention to commit fully to supporting the return of all learners, we have postponed the trust wide INSET day that was planned for 17th March until Friday 28th May (the final day of term 5). This is so that we can dedicate our time to supporting our children to re-engage with learning and with their peers.

Finally, I would like to say how much we are looking forward to welcoming you all back.

Sue Kelham and the WFA Team