



Zouch Academy,
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www.zouch-academy.twhf.org.uk

Wednesday 22nd July 2020

September: Frequently Asked Questions

Dear Parents,

Many of you have been asking questions about September and I understand that there is lots of uncertainty about restarting school. Below you can find answers to some frequently asked questions. Of course, over the summer holidays we will be following the latest information from the government and we will update you as soon as we know more:

Will school be open to everyone in September?

As it stands, the government have said that all pupils will be back, full-time, in September. Parents will no longer have the choice to keep children off school.

What happens if government guidance on school reopening changes?

If guidance changes over the summer, we have measures in place for a partial reopening which would involve half of the children in each class in school at any one time. The timetable would operate over a 5 day period from a Wednesday to the following Tuesday.

Will children be in 'Bubbles'?

Yes! From September, bubbles will be expanded to 30, so each class will be treated as a separate bubble. Children will only be allowed to mix with their own bubble for lessons, lunch and break times. Teachers will also remain in these bubbles.

Will my child's start/finish time change?

In September we will have staggered start/finish times. This system has been in place for Key Worker and cohort groups during the summer term and it is designed to limit the number of pupils and parents at the school gates. You will receive a separate letter explaining this. Start and finish times must be strictly adhered to – please do not come late or early. (New starters in Receptions or Ducklings will receive separate communication with their timings).





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What if I miss my child's start or finish time?

In September, it will be crucial that you stick to the start and finish times. If you miss your child's morning drop-off time, you will be asked to wait until the next safe opportunity for them to enter school. This will probably be after all of the other children have gone in. If collection slots are missed, you will have to wait until all the other classes have been dismissed.

Will parents be allowed in school?

In September parents will not be allowed into school unless a prior appointment has been agreed by Mrs Johnson. We understand that this causes inconvenience but we have to limit the number of people coming in to school. We are always happy to communicate on the phone or via email.

Will children be doing their normal lessons?

Children will transition gradually into their new year group following the 'Recovery Curriculum'. This will focus on the social and emotional aspects of learning and provide opportunities for catch-up on the previous year.

Will classrooms look different?

As far as possible, we aim to keep the children safe within their usual classroom environments. We will need to make some adjustments to ensure distancing such as spacing out seating and giving children their own equipment to limit sharing of resources. We will also remove some soft items such as cushions but there will not be lots of red tape!

Can children bring things in and out of school?

We have to limit this as much as possible! Reading books will only be sent out and swapped over once per week on a Friday and returned for the following Friday. Homework will also be sent and returned on specified days. Other items such as bags and pencil cases will not be brought into school.

Will children do Forest School and PE?

Yes! PE will be taught weekly and on that day, children will wear PE kit into school so they don't have to bring a change of clothes. Forest School is taught to half of the classes each term and you will be notified of this when school reopens.





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Will there be school lunches?

Hot school meals will **not** be provided at the start of the year. Children will either need to bring a packed-lunch from home, or book through ParentPay in the usual way – these will be free to children in the lower school and other pupils who would usually be entitled to a free meal but **you must still book**. Further information about school provided packed lunches will follow as soon as we have confirmation.

Will there be Breakfast Club and After School Club?

Because bubbles cannot be mixed, Breakfast Club and After School Club will not open until at least 28th September, although this is still to be confirmed. A booking system will be in place allowing you to book ahead. Other clubs provided by teachers (e.g. sports and crafts) will not go ahead in Term 1.

What happens if a child becomes ill?

If children have any symptoms of Covid-19, they **must** stay at home for 7 days. If a child displays symptoms whilst at school, we will phone parents who must collect them and arrange for a Covid-19 test. If any child tests positive for Covid-19, parents of children in this bubble will be immediately notified, the bubble will be closed and children will have to remain off school for 14 days.

Should children wear masks in school?

No! Government advice says that children must not wear masks in school. If they wear them to school, they must be removed prior to entering the gates.

Will First Aid still be available to children?

Yes. If a child has an accident, a trained member of staff will take care of them wearing PPE.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Johnson,

Principal

