

Back to School UPDATE **September 2020**



Friday September 2nd

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you have all had a good Summer and now feel ready to return to something like normality!

We've just completed risk assessment Version 3, in the light of the Government guidance issued Friday evening. There are just a few changes to the details I sent out in July so please have a careful read through. We've been working hard to make sure school is a safe environment and look forward to having all our children back next week.

New Year 3 parents, please note that your first day will look a little different, first thing, to the usual morning routine.

I haven't mentioned face masks below since the Government advises that they are not necessary in junior school. That said, please be assured that your children will not be challenged if you wish them to wear them on occasion. Equally, some members of staff may wish to wear face coverings in more crowded circumstances.

Best wishes,

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Questions you may have for September

Do I have to bring my child to school even if I'm still worried about Coronavirus?

The Government has made it really clear to us that all children must come back to school in September. We are doing everything we possibly can to make sure everyone is safe in school so everyone can get back to learning and seeing their friends.

However, if you, your child or anyone in your household displays symptoms of Covid 19, please do not come to school but inform us immediately. Where children may have flu or a cold (which may be similar to Covid 19 symptoms) it is advised that they return to school when they are better.

What day does school start?

Everyone should be back at school, after the Summer holiday, on September the 7th.

What clothes should my child wear on the first day back?

With everyone back in school, school uniform is expected. As usual, uniform can be ordered from www.price-buckland.co.uk. Whilst clothes should be clean, no specific washing requirements are expected.

How should I bring my child to school?

The best way to bring your child to school is on foot or by bike but that isn't possible for everyone. Sharing cars should be avoided wherever possible. If you travel by public transport you must wear a face mask, though children under the age of 11 are not expected to wear one. It is best if just one of you brings your child to school. If you meet other people on the way, you should practise safe social distancing. Children should avoid mixing with children from other classes.

What time should we arrive?

The gates will be open between 8.45am and 9.10 am. We won't do the register until 9.15am so you can turn up at any point in that time slot. We're trying to avoid lots of parents/children grouping outside the gates. Children should enter through their gate as soon as they arrive.

If your child is in the SRB they should aim to be here at 8.50am and will be met by an SRB member of staff.

Breakfast Club

If your child comes to Breakfast Club they will be sat with their Year Group 'bubble', away from others. All attendees must arrive via Gate 2 and come in through the main entrance between 8.00am and 8.30am. Please do not drop them off before this time. Children will be released to their classrooms at 8.50am.

What happens when we arrive?

Year 3 and 4 will come through Gate 1 and Year 5 and 6 will come through Gate 2. Don't worry, we'll always be outside to help out.

Year 4 and 5 will walk around the school, past the hall, to come in through their classroom doors. Year 3 will come in through the Quiet Area door, as shown in the Induction Video, and Year 6 will come in through the front entrance.

For the foreseeable future, you will need to say goodbye to your child at the gate.

Year 3: Just on the very first day, new Year 3 children will meet their teacher on the playground so you'll need to be here by 9.00am. Parents will be invited onto the playground to see their children with their teacher, heading into Junior School for the first time.

What happens when my child get into class?

All children will wash their hands when they arrive in their classroom. They'll still be encouraged to keep their bags and coats in their lockers. Bringing pencil cases and books is ok but, please, try to limit the amount of things brought in from home to essentials. If they have to bring a mobile phone into school, they must let their teacher look after it for the day. It will need to be switched off to avoid distraction. There'll be a quiet activity for them to do until everyone has arrived.

How will the classroom look?

The biggest difference is that the desks will be in rows. It's less safe to have children sitting face to face. Otherwise it'll be much as it usually is, so certainly nothing to worry about.

We've just ordered more Chromebooks so children should have one each at school. All Chromebooks and Library Books that were borrowed during lockdown should be returned on the first day back, please.

What will my child be learning?

We understand that some children will have missed some of what we'd hope they would have learnt so we'll be finding ways to help them catch up. This will particularly be the case with Maths and English. Otherwise, we'll be getting back to our MAKES curriculum as quickly as possible. You can read about that on our website.

Of course, we know that being away from school will have affected children in many different ways so we're ready to respond to that with care and understanding. Games will still take place, pretty much as usual.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to do our usual residential visits or perform for an audience until further notice.

Children should wear their PE kit to school on Mondays, from September 14th. This will reduce changing times and proximity. They will not need PE kits for the rest of the week but should have trainers at school.

Where will my child eat lunch?

All children will eat lunch in their classroom. Hot dinners will be provided in containers (think takeaway!) and can now be booked and paid for in advance on ParentMail. Within the ParentMail App, please go to Accounts>School Dinners, select a day and book choices. Free school meals are booked without payment in a similar way for those eligible. For the time being, until the system is fully up and running, teachers will also take orders for lunches, as usual, at registration. Children will play with their classmates in a prescribed zone in the playground.

Please note: the kitchen cannot provide mid-morning snacks until further notice. Please provide something for your child if required.

Are there any special procedures put in place to keep everyone safe?

We've completed a thorough risk assessment and follow the DFE guidance for re-opening schools in September.

Children will be kept in classroom 'bubbles' most of the time. Sometimes they'll be a little closer to the other children just in their year group but that won't be often.

The corridors are marked with 2 lanes which children will be taught to follow and to start off with, they'll be accompanied around school by a teaching assistant or their teacher. They'll still be allowed to go to the toilet when they need to.

All 'touch-points' and toilets are cleaned regularly throughout the day. Desks and shared resources are disinfected whenever necessary. Children will be provided with their own stationery.

Handwashing will be frequent.

Whilst social distancing is more difficult, adults will be teaching more from the front of the class than they usually would.

Parents evenings will be by telephone and any unavoidable face-to-face meetings with Head or Deputy will have to be made by strict appointment only.

What happens if my child is ill at school?

We'll call you the moment your child shows symptoms of Covid 19 and keep him or her safely away from others. We're following DFE and Local Authority guidance closely. Detailed plans are in place to manage any suspected Covid 19 infection in school. We'll even have some simple to use home testing kits in school, should one be needed. CJS has to work with Public Health England (PHE) to manage every case and cooperate with the Government's Track and Trace operation fully. You will be aware that families may be advised to isolate for a period following suspected infection. The DFE has supplied us with a small supply of home testing kits if it is not possible to be tested elsewhere.

Otherwise, for any other illness or First Aid, our procedures will feel familiar and we'll get in touch as quickly as possible. Please help out by making sure all contact numbers are up to date and accessible.

Where do I pick my child up from at the end of the day?

School finishes at 3.20pm. All children who are picked up by an adult will be taken out to the playground and lined up with their teacher. Parents will come onto the site through Gate 1 and walk, via the path, to the playground. You'll see a sanitizer station near the gate. It will be clearly signed so you can see where to stand and we'll expect everyone to practise social distancing according to latest advice from the Government.

When your child is released (it will be one class at a time) we'd like you to leave promptly via the quiet area and foot path beside Cromer Academy's field.

As you can imagine, this will be a really busy time so conversations with class teachers may be difficult. Unless extremely urgent, a phone call or email is safer and easier to manage.

SRB children can be picked up at 3.20 prompt from the SRB outside door.

Leicester had a local lockdown: what do we do if that happens in Cromer?

If there is a local lockdown, the Government's current position is for schools to be the very last places to close. In some cases it may be a single 'bubble' that is closed.

Plans for intensive home-learning are already in place, should this happen.

Chromebooks will be on loan to help out and all hardcopies of work to be completed will be sent by post, weekly.

What about when the school day has finished?

We are sorry that we cannot provide any after school clubs until further notice. CJS will have tried hard all day to keep your child and every other child and adult safe. We hope you will continue this after school by encouraging your children to keep within their class or Year group bubble. If your child attends an after-school club (outside of school), I am asked to ensure you are happy with the safety procedures in place.

How long will these procedures be in place for?

We will continue to be directed by the Government guidance we receive.