

# **The Laurels Primary School**



## **Wider opening Handbook**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**believe  
achieve  
succeed**

## **Wellbeing**



We are looking forward to seeing more families back in school.

We understand that all families will have experienced this pandemic in different ways and before children can settle to learn new things, we need to re-establish our relationships and share our experiences of lockdown.

Some children will find it hard to come back to school and will be worried about the virus.

Some will be confused about the new rules and may need reminding.

Some of our children will be used to lots of adult attention and will miss it, whilst others will be pleased to be back with their friends and teachers.

Some children will show their feelings on the outside and others will push them down and hide them away.

We will do our best to settle all your children back into life at school but it will really help if you can share any worries on their behalf.

You might notice some changes in your child's behaviour. They might regress with their development around toilet training or sleep routines. They might be reluctant to read to you or talk about their day.

Our advice would be to take it slow and listen to them. All behaviour is communicating something and all their feelings are valid.



## Food and Drink



- Please encourage your child to have hot school meal to minimise the risk of contamination from lunch boxes brought in from home. All children will be offered a free hot school meal until further notice.
- Children will eat their lunch in the classroom instead of the hall to prevent bubble groups from mixing together.
- Children will be asked to keep lunch boxes under their tables because the cloakrooms will be out of use.
- Staff will not be able to open packets for children so please ensure your child has lunch items they can manage on their own.
- Please ensure water bottles are full on arrival.
- Anyone arriving without a water bottle will be provided with one by the school and parents will be asked to cover the £2 cost.
- **SCHOOL FRUIT** deliveries have stopped so please provide your child with a piece of fruit or fruit in a container each day.
- There will be **NO MAGIC BREAKFASTS** so all children must have breakfast before attending school.



## Uniform Expectations

- Children are not expected to wear uniform. However they will need to be in different clean clothes each day to reduce infection risk.
- Children will not need PE kits or book bags. Please make sure your child is dressed in clothes suitable for active games and physical activity.
- Principles of the uniform policy remain in place and clothing should be appropriate for school. Appropriate clothing means:
  - Clothing that is not too short, low cut or seen-through e.g. no Crop-tops or exposed midriffs
  - No extremes of fashion or are worn
  - Foot wear should be secure i.e. no backless/flip flop shoes or high heels
  - Extremes of hair colour, excessive jewellery or headwear including hats and caps and/or hoods being worn also not appropriate.



## Arriving on site

- There will be staggered start times for the bubble groups - please refer to your individual timetable for your arrival time.
- You will need to go straight to your classroom as the cloakrooms will be out of use - please refer to the map.
- All the children will go through supervised hand-washing on entry to the site.
- It is important that you arrive on time at the beginning and end of the day to support us with the social distancing measures we have put in place.
- To reduce the number of people on site, **ONLY ONE ADULT** will be allowed on site to drop your child off in the morning.
- Children will have a short break in the morning, at lunchtime and in the afternoon.
- The curriculum will be adapted to help all children learn the new rules and to settle back into school life after lockdown.

## Routines and Social Distancing

- Outside the school gate there are marks to help you social distance.
- There are arrows on the school grounds to remind parents and children to walk on the left-hand side.
- Please support your children to practise hand-washing and 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin' at home.
- We are not able to accept visitors at this time. If you need to speak to a member of school staff, please call or email the school office and they will ask the member of staff to contact you.
- Online meetings can be arranged at a mutually convenient time.



## Behaviour

Good behaviour will keep us safe!

- The school's behaviour policy has been updated to reflect the current circumstances. The entirety of the policy remains in place.
- Our priority is working together to minimise risks and keep everyone safe, however if there are repeated breaches of the behaviour expectations which put other people at risk, we will discuss with you whether we need to reduce your child's timetable or ask them to remain at home.



## Hygiene and Social Distancing in the Classroom

- Staff in our school will not wear masks (with the exception of administering first aid) and we ask that you do not provide your child with a mask or gloves as they will not be allowed to wear them (see Risk Assessment Document).
- The virus can live on surfaces so it is vital that children do not bring toys, games, books or their own hand gel in to school. Please talk this through with your child and make sure they have no small toys in their pockets.
- Children are not required to bring a book bag.
- Classrooms have supplies of hand gel, tissues, lidded bins and water/soap.





## **CHILDREN MUST ONLY COME TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE FIT AND WELL TO DO SO**

If any child, or a person they live with has shown any of the following symptoms, they **MUST NOT** come to school.

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If any of the above applies please follow NHS advice - call 111.

## **Children identified at greater risk from Covid 19**

**What about children identified by a medical professional/know to be clinically vulnerable due to a pre-existing medical condition?**

We do not expect children classified as extremely vulnerable to come to school. If a child is classified as vulnerable (but not extremely vulnerable) you should follow the advice of their doctor/specialist regarding shielding/attendance at school. If unsure please check with your linked medical professional first and any specific NHS guidance.

**I am a member of a more at-risk group, should my child come into school?**

The government has issued a range of statistics relating to the relative levels of risk Covid poses to differing groups within society.

It is for the individual parent/carer to decide, based on their own personal circumstances, to decide whether they wish their son/daughter to return to school at this point. We are always happy to discuss individual situations/questions relating to this. Please contact the school and speak to Miss Bull.

## Guidance for Parents - Covid-19 Coronavirus at School

### Covid-19 Coronavirus Symptoms

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

### If your child develops Covid-19 Coronavirus symptoms at home

- Keep your child at home and follow Government guidance on self-isolation for your household.
- Inform school.
- Arrange a test for your child.
- Inform school of the test result.

### If your child develops Covid-19 Coronavirus symptoms at school we will:-

- Isolate your child in a separate room with a member of staff
- Contact you to collect them as soon as possible.
- Thoroughly clean all rooms and equipment used by the symptomatic person.
- Ask you to arrange a test for your child.
- Ask you to inform school of the test result.

### If a member of your child's small group develops Covid-19 Coronavirus symptoms

- You will be informed via text.
- You may choose to come and collect your child from school and keep them off until we know the outcome of the test.
- We will inform you of the test result.
- If the test result is positive your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days

**CORONAVIRUS  
GOT SYMPTOMS?  
GET TESTED**

**HIGH TEMPERATURE  
OR NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH  
OR LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL?**

No one in your household should leave home if any one person has symptoms.

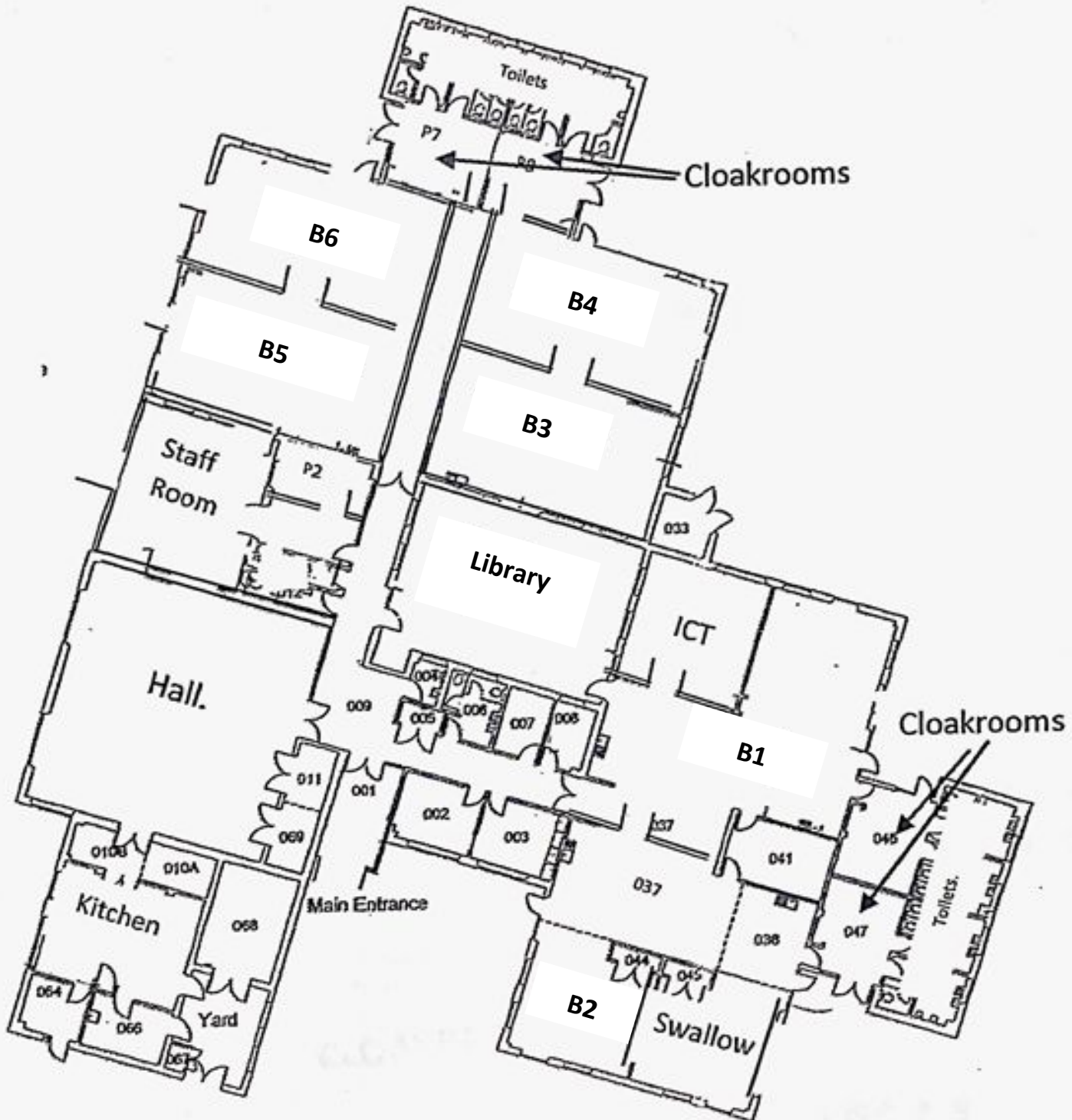
Find out how to get a test, and how long to isolate, at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

### Frequently asked questions:

- Will children be expected to wear school uniform when they return to school? **No. Children are asked to wear clean clothes daily to reduce infection risk.**
- What should my child bring? **Children should only bring their own, full water bottle and lunchbox where needed. No bags are to be brought in. The children will not have access to their lockers during this period.**
- Will the staff be wearing masks? **No**
- Will my child be allowed to wear a mask? **No**
- Will children be encouraged to maintain regular handwashing? **Yes**
- Will hand gel be used by visitors? **Yes, we have put a sanitiser station by the front door.**
- Can I provide my child with their own hand gel? **No. We will encourage regular handwashing which is more effective.**
- Will the children have the opportunity to exercise during the school day? **Yes**
- Do children need their P.E. kit? **No**
- What lunches will be available? **Hot school dinners or packed lunches will be eaten in the classroom**
- Will parents be guided on social distancing when dropping and collecting children? **Yes. Please do not arrive earlier or later than your allocated time slot so we can ensure social distancing.**
- What will drop off and collection times look like to protect parents and carers as well as teaching staff and children? **Please refer to information for your bubble.**
- How will break times work? Will my child be able to play with their friends? **Your child will only socialise with children in their bubble. The children will be taught to play non-contact games.**
- Will children share resources as before? How will classrooms and equipment be sanitised after use? **All children will have a tray of their own resources. There is an enhanced cleaning schedule for each room in the school.**
- How will those who choose to keep children at home be supported? **Google classrooms will continue.**
- What will learning look like for those in key worker bubbles? **Children in childcare will complete the same tasks as those at home but with additional breaktimes and wellbeing activities in between.**
- How can I communicate with my child's teacher or with school? Who should I talk to if I have any concerns? **Please contact the school office by telephone or email to arrange a phone call with a member of staff.**



## Bubble groups



School	Parent	Child
<p><b>The school will do its best to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an environment which has been risk assessed in response to the COVID-19 infection and guidance from the Department for Education and Local Authority.</li> <li>• Adhere to the social distancing rules as set out by the government as much as we reasonably can;</li> <li>• Provide a curriculum that meets the needs of your child's well-being, mental health and academic needs;</li> <li>• Contact parents/carers if your child displays symptoms of COVID-19;</li> <li>• Inform you if staff or children in your child's 'bubble' test positive for COVID-19 as this will mean you will all need to self-isolate for at least 14 days.</li> <li>• Continue our clear and consistent approach to rewards and sanctions for children as set out in the behaviour policy as well the expectations outlines in this agreement;</li> <li>• Communicate between home and school through notices, newsletters, text, email and the school website.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To help my child at school, I know and understand that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If my child, or anyone in my household, shows symptoms of COVID-19, I will not send them to school, I will get them tested and I will let the school know the result.</li> <li>• If my child shows symptoms of COVID-19 at school, I will collect my child from school immediately.</li> <li>• When dropping my child off and picking them up, I will adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rules.</li> <li>• I will need to remind my child about social distancing rules but accept they are difficult to follow and that my child may not always do this successfully.</li> <li>• When dropping off and picking up, I will strictly follow the school timings for my child.</li> <li>• My child will not bring any items into school with them or take items home from school.</li> <li>• I will not be allowed into the school without a pre-arranged appointment; I will make an appointment using email.</li> <li>• I need to support all staff in their efforts to create an 'as safe as possible' environment.</li> <li>• I will read all letters/emails that are sent home.</li> <li>• I will inform the school of any changes to parents/carer and emergency contacts details.</li> <li>• If my child is deemed unsafe, he/she will be sent home and cannot return to school until they can be safe.</li> </ul>	<p><b>I will do my best to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the bubble rules that keep me safe.</li> <li>• Wash my hands as soon as I go into school.</li> <li>• Tell an adult if I feel unwell.</li> <li>• Not bring things into school from home, or take things home from school.</li> <li>• Only use the equipment in my pack.</li> <li>• Stick to the social distancing rules in the class and in the playground.</li> <li>• Only enter and exit the school building from the designated door.</li> <li>• Follow the <b>catch it, bin it, kill it</b> rules coughing and sneezing into elbow or tissue.</li> <li>• Regularly wash my hands using soap and water for 20 seconds.</li> <li>• Follow the rules at all times to maintain the safety of myself and others.</li> <li>• Follow these expectations and know that if I don't, I may be sent home and will not be able to come back into school until I can be safe.</li> </ul>



## Preparing your child for coming back to school

We are really looking forward to seeing you all again soon but we understand that coming back to school after lockdown is going to be a big adjustment for families.

**Here are some tips for preparing your children, and the wider family.**



### Talk Time

Talk with your child about what they have enjoyed and what has been hard about lockdown. They might have very different feelings from the adults in a household. This is a very good starting point for working out how to support them.

### Bedtime routine

Establish a good bedtime routine again so that your child can prepare for getting up early and being ready to learn.



### Mealtime Routine



Some children have been used to having lots of snack food throughout the day so begin to set mealtimes so they are ready for the school routine.

### Independence

Provide them with opportunities throughout the day to be independent again as they may have become used to people doing things for them.

### Understanding the Pandemic



Use social stories to explain what has happened and why life at school is going to be different. When children understand the reasons for changes in their lives, they are more accepting of them. This is also an opportunity to remind them of the new routines which will keep them safe, such as handwashing and social distancing. (social stories available on the school website)

## Preparing your child for coming back to school

Although there will be lots of change at school, there will also be a lot that is the same and it is important to remind children of this. Talk these ideas through with your child:

What will be the same	What will be different
The building	Some of the furniture, the layout and the displays around the school
The teachers will all be teachers from the school	You may not be with your teacher or TA but you will be with someone you know
The children will all be children from the school	You may not be with your usual classmates and there will be fewer children
Break times will still take place	Your breaktime may be at a different time to the one you are used to and there will be fewer children playing
You will still do learning	The timetable will be different and you may use different ways of learning eg. you may use a learpad more than you are used to.
There will still be school rules	There will be some new rules to keep us all safe.
As always, you will need to wear safe, sensible shoes have long hair tied back, and jewellery will not be allowed.	You will not need to wear school uniform. You can wear your own clothes everyday.



Take a minute to think about how you are feeling about this phase of lockdown ending for your family. What are you going to miss? What has been good but what have you found hard? As always, looking after yourself is the first step towards looking after your child.

**One thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to doing the best we can for our school community, and we will try our hardest to make it a smooth transition for everyone!**