



## FAQs for Parents

### **Should I be sending my child back to school in September?**

Yes, all year groups should be returning to school in September. Attendance is no longer optional. We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school. School attendance is important to help children learn and develop their emotional and social skills. Parents have a duty to ensure that their child regularly attends school where they are a registered pupil if they are of compulsory school age.

### **Will it be safe?**

The health and safety of children, teaching staff and their families remains our top priority. Every school has worked hard to put in place safety measures to help protect children staff and families and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus (Coronavirus) as more children return to school. Every school has completed detailed risk assessments and has used these to prepare their plans for the new term.

### **What steps has the school taken to keep the children safe?**

We have sent all parents and carers detailed letters explaining our safety measures. These include:

- Minimising the number of contacts children have in school
- Requiring people who are ill to stay at home
- Following handwashing guidance and using tissues appropriately
- Putting in place enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Actively engaging with NHS Test and Trace
- Physical distancing wherever possible
- Employing a one-way system around the school

### **What if I am anxious about my child returning to school?**

Whilst the majority of our children will be excited about the prospect of returning to school, there will be some who are anxious. Have a look on the school website at our presentation on the Recovery Curriculum and also the short film showing what the school day may look like now. If you or your child have concerns, the best thing to do is to call the school and talk things through. We will do our best to support your child and help their return.

### **What happens if someone has symptoms of COVID-19?**

Reducing the risk of a local outbreak is essential and everyone's responsibility.

#### **Do not come to school if your child or anyone in the household has symptoms.**

If your child or anyone in your household has any of the following symptoms while not at school please let us know, and keep your child and the rest of your household at home:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough

- A change to your sense of taste or smell

### **What can I do to keep everyone safe?**

Only one parent or carer should take your child to school. Please do not stay and chat at the school gates. Please say goodbye to your child and quickly move on.

### **Why are there staggered start and finish times?**

The government have produced guidance for schools which requires us to have staggered start and finish times. Please be patient as there may be initial teething problems. Bubbles will be maintained at playtimes and lunchtimes to minimise the number of contacts.

### **Should the children wear trainers or school shoes?**

We have asked the children to wear their full school uniform from September, including school shoes. They may wear their summer uniform until the October half-term if they wish.

### **Should the children bring in their P.E. bag?**

Yes, their P.E. bag should come in to school on the first day of the term and will remain in their locker.

### **Does their school bag have to fit into their locker?**

Yes. We are still wishing to minimise items coming in to school so please ensure everything fits into the locker.

### **If I order a packed lunch from ISS, what does it contain?**

A typical packed lunch consists of a sandwich, carrot and cucumber batons, a piece of fruit and a slice of cake.

### **My child has lost their jumper? Should I contact the office or write a message in the blue book?**

Either is fine, though writing a message in the blue contact book may be faster. If you need to look through the lost property box, you will have to contact the school office to make an appointment time. Please ensure all items are labelled so the owner can be located!

### **My child has a temperature. Should they return to school when it is back to normal or do I need to keep them off school for 14 days?**

You will need to follow the current government guidance. Please check the NHS website or call 111 for the coronavirus service. Do not go to the GP surgery, hospital or pharmacy.

### **My child is starting at St Matthew's in September in Reception. What day do they start?**

You will have received a letter explaining your appointment times for 'Meet and Greet' dates, 'Come and Explore' dates and their start date- which depends on the term of their birth. If you have forgotten, please either email the school office on [admin@stmatthews.rbksch.org](mailto:admin@stmatthews.rbksch.org) or call them on 020 8399 3909.

**My Reception- aged child is doing part days to begin with. What time do I need to collect them for lunch?**

The children will need to be collected at 11.30 from Kingsdowne Road entrance.

**I'm not sure what time my child is due to arrive and finish at school in September?**

We are updating our risk assessments and safety measures in light of new guidance and, with this in mind, we will continue to stagger drop off and pick up times and will ask parents to please vacate the area swiftly and not to gather at the school gates so as to avoid bottle necks. Please note that we caveat this letter with the fact that more guidance is due during August and no one knows for sure what will happen by September in terms of COVID.

Year groups		Drop off on Langley Rd	Pick up on Langley Rd	Drop off on Kingsdowne Rd	Pick up on Kingsdowne Rd
6	Amethyst	8.30	3.30		
	Garnet	8.30	3.30		
5	Sapphire	8.30	3.25		
	Topaz	8.30	3.20		
4	Opal	8.30	3.15		
	Pearl	8.30	3.10		
3	Emerald	8.30	3.05		
	Turquoise	8.30	3.00		
2	Blue			8.30	3.10
	Orange			8.30	3.15
1	Yellow			8.35	3.05
	Green			8.35	3.00
Reception	Red			8.40	2.50
	Purple			8.40	2.55

Please be aware that if you have a child in KS2 (Y3, 4, 5 or 6) we will make sure that they leave school with their younger sibling(s) in KS1 from Kingsdowne Road. If you could also ensure that the older KS2 child comes in with your younger child from Kingsdowne Road that will be helpful.

