

FAQ Newnham Junior School

When will the students start in September?

There will be a staggered start for lower and upper school in September.

Years 3 and 4 will start on **Thursday 3rd September**

Years 5 and 6 will start on **Friday 4th September**, joining with Years 3 and 4.

(So the whole school – which means all four year groups – will attend from Friday 4th September onwards.)

Each year group will be in a bubble with their teachers and others in their year group.

Why have you decided to put whole year groups into each bubble?

Government guidelines have allowed schools some flexibility on how to group children into bubbles. Year group bubbles gives us flexibility to teach in ability groups for Maths and English and provide small group support across classes for specific needs, all of which are successful strategies the school has used for many years to raise standards.

What will the school start times be?

Year 3 8.45-8.55 am

Year 4 8.40-8.50 am

Year 5 8.35-8.45 am

Year 6 8.30-8.40 am

Where will pupils enter/exit the school?

The lower car park has been used successfully as an entry and exit point for Year 6 children and parents returning in the summer term and we will continue to use this system for all year groups.

Will children need to wear school uniform?

School uniform will need to be worn but the children should wear trainers. This is to stop the need for children to continually change shoes in corridors, with the potential to mix with other year group bubbles, or have pupils' belongings lying around in the classroom.

What about morning drop-offs?

Parents will drop off the children in the morning during their allocated time slot and children will follow the one-way system to enter the playground and go straight into school. There will be a member of staff on duty to assist children if necessary. Parents will not be allowed to enter the school grounds when they drop off their children.

The only exception will be on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September when Year 3 parents only will be allowed to come onto the top playground. We recognise that moving to the Juniors is a huge step for some children and, as they have not had the usual transition, it is fair to let parents have this opportunity to see their children into school.

There is a slight overlap with year groups coming in, and should it be necessary, children will be encouraged to social distance from each other.

What will the school finish times be?

Year 3 3.20 pm

Year 4 3.15 pm

Year 5 3.10 pm

Year 6 3.05 pm

Where will parents collect their children?

Parents will be allowed to come and stand on the top playground to collect their children. Parents are requested to observe social distance rules. Each year group has a staggered finish and we ask that as soon as parents have their child with them they leave promptly, unless they need to wait for siblings.

Where will pupils be based to stay in their “bubbles”?

Children will in the most part be based in their own classrooms. They may need to move to other classes in their year group for Maths or English teaching and we will use the outside of classrooms, instead of corridors where possible to allow this transition.

Children will not use classrooms in other year group bubbles.

What equipment will students be asked to bring in each day?

Each year group has been given a list of equipment they will need in school. This list can be found on Frog. Pencil cases with pens, pencil, rulers etc. should remain at school in children's trays. Pupils should also bring a labelled water bottle. A healthy snack may be brought in for the morning break. We do not want to use the cloakrooms, but a small bag may be brought in to hold this equipment.

What other changes are there to the timetable?

There will be no whole school assemblies. Break times and lunch times will be staggered. We are aiming to teach all curriculum subjects.

How will technology subjects be taught?

We will use learn pads and the ICT suite to teach the Computing curriculum. All equipment will be thoroughly wiped down after each use. Most year group bubbles will enter and leave the ICT suite through the outside door.

How will PE be run?

We will be following Government guidelines and ensuring equipment is sanitised between use. There will be no changing on site, so pupils will wear PE kit to school on the days they have PE. You will be advised what days your child has PE when we return in September.

How will homework be set and marked?

Homework will be set on Frog whenever possible. Marking will be via this platform. If paper-based work is necessary, children will self-mark with the class teacher.

How will lunchtimes work?

Packed lunches will be eaten in the classroom supervised by a member of staff. Hot dinner will be eaten in year group bubbles in the hall. Each year group bubble will have a dedicated time and place for lunch, allocated by week. There will be extra cleaning between lunches where a year group bubble comes in after another year group bubble.

How will break times work?

Break times will be staggered with Years 3 and 4 separate to Years 5 and 6. Each year group will have a dedicated space on the playground.

Which toilets will be in use?

There will be dedicated year group bubble toilets.

Year 3 - lower school toilets

Year 4 - lower school toilets

Year 5 - upper school toilets

Year 6 - upper school toilets

The toilets will be cleaned and monitored regularly in the school day.

What extracurricular activities will be available?

We hope to start reintroducing extra-curricular activities and clubs later in the Autumn term once staff, parents and children have adapted to the safety measures in place. Due the guidelines we need to follow, we may not be able to offer our pupils the full range of clubs that we are usually able to provide. For example, clubs will be limited to one-year group in order to maintain year group bubbles.

Will behaviour be monitored?

The Behaviour Policy will still be in place and there is an additional section relevant to having pupils in school with new safety measures in place. The addition to the Behaviour Policy will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with the latest government guidelines. Our Behaviour Policy along with the additional section (appendix iii) can be found on our website.

If a teacher needs to talk to you about your child, they will contact you via phone or email. Similarly, if you would like to talk to your child's class teacher, please phone or email the school office to make an appointment.

How will achievements be celebrated?

Merit certificates and leaves for the 5Rs will still be awarded each week, but this will be done within the classroom, as opposed to in an assembly. We are looking into ways of sharing these achievements with parents using Frog. Pupils will still be awarded house points and pupils can share this with parents by logging into <https://www.pupilrewardpoints.co.uk/newnham/login> There is also a link to this website on Frog.

How will students be assessed in September for the need for catch up?

Our first priority will be to ensure that pupils have settled back into school and are able to follow the safety routines and measures in place. Once pupils are settled, teachers will assess them within lessons and through the use of assessment tests. The results from these will be analysed in order to identify strengths and weaknesses, to inform teachers' planning and to, where needed, put additional support and interventions in place.

How will the emotional wellbeing of pupils be monitored?

It is important to recognise that some pupils may not feel able to jump straight back into learning immediately when they return to school and so the way in which teachers plan and structure their lessons will take account of this. Whilst dwelling on the coronavirus situation may not be helpful, it is important that we acknowledge the scale of what we have all been through over these past few months. Teachers need to recognise that pupils' experiences of the lockdown will have been varied. For some it will mostly have been a safe and enjoyable time. For others, it may have been challenging or traumatic.

Teachers will monitor the emotional wellbeing of pupils and if concerns arise, parents will be kept informed and additional support will be put into place, e.g. time with a counsellor, social skills groups etc.

What about ongoing safeguarding?

The school will continue to implement our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and this can be found on the school's website.

How will pupil symptoms for coronavirus be reported?

If your child has symptoms they will need to stay at home and you must telephone the school office to let us know. They must then be tested and isolate until they are given the results of the test.

If a child experiences symptoms at school, they should inform an adult immediately and be escorted to the medical room where they will be isolated until their parent/carer collects them.

If a student shows symptoms, what happens to the year group?

Because testing is readily available, and results are usually returned within 12 hours, other parents and children will not be informed unless the test is positive. The year group will continue as normal, though teachers may begin to collect details of who the child has been in close contact (less than 2 metres) with.

What will happen if a staff member shows symptoms?

No staff members will come into school with symptoms and if they get them at school, they will go home immediately. They will be asked for a list of children and staff who they have been in close contact (less than 2 metres) with. Because testing is readily available, and results are usually returned within 12 hours, other parents and children will not be informed unless the test is positive

Will there be extra hand washing or hand sanitising stations?

Yes.

There will be hand sanitising gel in each classroom.

Each student will be encouraged to bring their own name-labelled gel which should be left in school.

Will there be fines for non-attendance?

The Government has said that all pupils should be attending from September, and we expect every child to be in school. At Newnham we try to avoid the need for fining, but it is possible.

What could pupils be doing over the summer if they and their parents/carers wish to keep up?

The majority of children will not have fallen behind and the school will identify those who have in September.

The best thing parents can do for their child will be to ensure that they are happy by spending time with them over the summer and by joining them in a mix of outdoor and indoor leisure activities as allowed by the Government.

The websites used throughout the school closure will still be available, but these should be used sparingly.

What money has the government already provided, what will they provide and how is Newnham Junior spending this?

Summer term: So far, the Government has allocated a maximum of £75,000 for our school to be applied for by 21 July. This must be spent on the following three things:

- i) Increased premises costs.
- ii) Support for free school meals (FSM).
- iii) Additional cleaning costs.

We cannot claim for extra staff costs as it is expected that we would have covered this and indeed our staff have been amazing at stepping in as needed so far.

From September, there will be £650 million of new Government money shared between all schools in England which has been designated to help the minority of children who have fallen behind. We intend to spend this money on providing extra support during school hours.

Will staff need to social distance?

Yes, from each other and also from the pupils.

Staff will need to remain at the front of the class at least 2m from the nearest students. They will have their own hand gel and may wear their own cloth mask if they wish. There will be wipes/antibacterial spray provided in each classroom to wipe down the desk and computer keyboard if different teachers are coming into the classroom.

Will my child get any extra help from learning support assistants (LSA)?

If your child has an EHC plan, then the school is still legally obliged to allocate an LSA for the designated time. This will follow the normal practice of the school. It is expected that the LSAs will work closer than the 2-metre distance from these children.

LSAs are also likely to work with certain children who are finding the work too challenging. When they do this, they will need to be closer than 2 metres. These LSAs will have been told that they will not be allowed to go closer than 2 metres to any other children apart from the group they are allocated to.

We have tried to cover as many areas as possible and hope we have answered most parents' questions. If you need any further information, please email the school office with your question. If relevant to all parents, we will add this question to this list.