

COVID 19 Safe return to School from September 2020



Guide for Parents/Carers

Introduction

It is our plan that all students, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term (Wednesday 2nd September 2020). We will be operating 'zones' to keep students safe and students will remain in "bubbles" whilst they are in school. This means that teachers will go to these bubbles to teach their classes instead of students travelling around the school.



Zones and tutor rooms will be published at the end of August so that students know where to go on arrival in September. It is vital that all students know where to go and once there remain in their zone.

We already have enhanced cleaning and additional measures, such as social distancing, in place and these will remain in September.

This guidance is a summary and intended to support you in getting your child/children back into school smoothly and safely. This guidance also covers the expectations that the children will follow (a separate guidance sheet has been created for students).

These procedures are based on public health advice, endorsed by Public Health England (PHE), and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Unfortunately, there cannot be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach so this guidance has been put in place for Dene Magna after conducting our own in-depth risk assessment which can be found on our website.

Please note that a more detailed plan, outlining the finer details, will be uploaded to the website and our social media pages by the end of August. Please also keep an eye on our website and social media pages for any updates that may occur prior to this.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stephen Brady
Headteacher

**If you or anyone in your household tests positive to Covid-19 DO NOT attend or visit the school.
Let the school know immediately on 01594 542030.**

You should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and you must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of your symptoms and then return to school only if you do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. The 7-day period starts from the day when you or the member of your household first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of your household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.



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Things you should be aware of

The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, and we are clear about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within Dene Magna.

Returning to school is vital for your child's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all students return in September.

Whilst the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is **very low** we have put in place measures that we feel will keep everyone as safe as possible.

With our new risk assessments now in place (available on our website to download) we are now in the position to welcome all our students back in September using the protocols outlined below.

Cleaning and keeping the school virus free.

Since the start of the Covid crisis we have stepped up on cleaning areas that students and staff use and our enhanced cleaning routines will not be relaxed in any way in September.

Students coming into and leaving the building

When students arrive they must go straight to their tutor room* which will be in their year specific zone. Zones will have access to their own toilet and handwashing/sanitizing areas. Students will remain in their allocated zones, including break and lunchtimes in order to keep them safe. We will be encouraging all students to arrive at school around 8.20 am as their tutors will be in their room by 8.25. It is vital that students then remain in these zones until the end of the day and not wander into different zones for any reason (no excuses), not even to see a brother or sister in another zone.

* Please note that these zones and tutor rooms will be published by the end of August so that students know where to go on arrival in September.

We will be using Google Meet for assemblies to avoid any large gatherings.

Students should only bring into school the equipment and resources they need for the day and these should not be lent to others.

It is essential, in order to keep everyone safe, that the following additional and existing practices are followed by students:

- Make sure they know where their zone and classroom is.
- Wash their hands (for at least 20 seconds) on entering and leaving the building.
- Use the hand sanitizer whenever they enter or leave the building or their class/zone.
- Maintain a social distance of 1m+ where possible.

Getting to and from school

If your child/children can travel by car/taxi, walk or cycle to school that is the safest way to travel. If they are travelling by school bus then students need too:

Catching the School Bus	Catching Public Transport
<p>Maintain a social distance of 1m+ when queuing.</p> <p>Use the hand sanitizer when you get on and off the bus.</p> <p>Wait patiently for your turn to get on and off the bus.</p> <p>Stick to your usual bus "bubbles" by staying with the people you usually travel with.</p>	<p>Maintain a social distance of 1m+ when queuing</p> <p>Use the hand sanitizer when you get on and off the bus.</p> <p>Wait patiently for your turn to get on and off the bus.</p> <p>Wear a face covering whilst on the bus</p> <p>Stick to your usual bus "bubbles" by staying with the people you usually travel with.</p> <p>Avoid being too close to anyone not associated to the school.</p>

We are in regular communication with all the bus companies to ensure that sanitisation and regular cleaning of the buses used by our students is in place. We ask that all students using these buses follow any additional guidance set out on the bus. We will continue to update you on the bus situation when we know more.

Whilst in school

- Our normal outstanding behaviour expectations will be expected. Including compliance with any new safety guidelines. Students will be reminded of this on a daily basis. These instructions are non-negotiable and if asked students must comply as asked.
- Students will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands regularly especially on leaving or re-entering their classroom. Students will also be asked to wipe down their working area and items of equipment.
- Full school uniform and PE kit will need to be worn. Please note that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.
- Face masks do not need to be worn in school.
- Students need to bring in their own set of equipment as guidelines state that this should not be lent or borrowed. All students need to bring in the following items *every day*:

Pen*, pencil*, ruler*, rubber*, sharpener*, protractor*, compass*, calculator (Casio FX 85GT+ or Aurora AX-595TV)*, scissors, a non-toxic glue stick, coloured pencils, highlighters all in an easy to clean pencil case.

Items marked with an * can be purchased as a "Maths Pack" from the school over the summer break at the cost of £6. Additional pens and pencils are recommended if you purchase this pack of items. If you would just like the calculator it can be purchased, again from the school, at the cost of £5. All payments should be made via the Parent Pay system over the summer break. Please note that students should bring in at least one pen and pencil on the first few days of term as these items will be ordered and delivered during the first week of term in September.

- Students should stick to their allocated desk in their class and not lend or borrow equipment.
- Students shouldn't be offended if their teacher doesn't come over to them – they also have to maintain the 1m+ social distancing guidance.
- We are working on a way for our TAs to support any students with SEN needs. Please bear with us.
- At break and lunchtimes students must:
 - Stay in their zone (outside space will be available). Students should not wander into different zones (not even to see or speak to their brother or sister).
 - Follow the social distancing guidelines.
 - Wash and sanitize their hands before eating food, when asked and before going back into their classroom.
- Students should not leave their classroom unless they have permission from the teacher. Once permission is obtained, if students leave the classroom for any reason they must:
 - Wash and sanitize their hands before coming back into the room especially after using the toilet.
 - Remain in their zone.
- Any messages to go to your children should come via Reception for each child in your household. Please don't expect one of your children to pass it on to their brother/sister as they may be in different zones.

Attendance

As you know attendance matters, it still matters! School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from September, the usual rules on school attendance apply:

- "It is a parents'/carers' duty to secure that their child attends regularly." Should unauthorised absence be apparent sanctions and penalty notices have to be served in accordance with the LA regulations.
- We want all students and staff back in school, and believe the conditions are right for this, but understandably a few of you will have worries. If you are shielding or are anxious about sending your child back to school, please let us know so that we can address your concerns.

If your child feels unwell during the day they should follow the following guidelines:

- Your son/daughter should **NOT** contact you directly and follow this procedure:
 - They should inform their teacher that they are feeling unwell.
 - They should keep their distance from others.
 - Their teacher will send them to Reception to let them know that they are going to the medical room.

- They should then go directly to the medical room and wait for someone to come up and see them. A first aider (with PPE) will go and see them to find out what the matter is and phone home if appropriate.
- If your child has normal cold-like symptoms or other conditions such as hay fever that makes them present with a runny nose, sneeze, cough etc they should:
 - Wash their hands more often.
 - If they sneeze, cough or blow your nose remember to use a tissue and “catch it, bin it and kill it”.

It is vital that if your child feels unwell prior to coming to school then you should call the absence line 01594 542370 opt 2 for advice.

If you have a Covid-19 test, please inform the school of the outcome, even if it is negative.

If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating and return to school, if well enough. Other members of their household can also stop self-isolating.

If you or anyone in your household tests positive to Covid-19 do not attend or visit the school. Please inform us on 01594 542370. See front page for further guidance.

Where a student is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, remote learning will continue and students will be expected to log into every lesson.

Please note that any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any student who has been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.

Catering

Lunchtimes will be staggered. We are looking into ways for students to pre order food and for our catering team to bring the food to the different zones at the appropriate times. Please note that the cash machine will not be in use for the time being, so please make sure your son/daughter's account is topped up online to keep us all safe.

If you need to visit the school

If you need to visit us, please telephone for an appointment (01594 542370) and be prepared to wait in the foyer until called. You will also need to use the hand sanitizer before entering the building.

Outside of school

Please remind your child/children that even though they are back at school, social distancing continues even outside of school hours!

Contingency planning of local outbreaks

We are in the process of creating our contingency plans should our area see a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread. Should this happen remote learning will resume and any additional measures will be sent out to parents/carers.

Have a lovely, safe summer and we look forward to seeing everyone back in September.

This guidance is correct at the time of writing, please keep an eye on our website and social media pages over the summer in case we have more updates for you.

Our more detailed guidance will be published by 21st August 2020.