

# King Edwin Primary School



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Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

## WELCOME BACK KINGEDWINNERS

*Appologies for the length of this communication but needs must I'm afraid!*

Dear Parents,

We are really looking forward to welcoming our children back to school on Monday 2nd November. The ongoing challenge of the pandemic continues to surround us all and after last night's announcement of a further lockdown, our KingEdwinner community needs to stick behind each other and remain strong.

I have deliberately held off in writing this 'welcome back' communication as everything changes so rapidly and information becomes outdated very quickly. Please remember to keep a check on your emails, website, school comms and social media posts for all of the latest information related to school.

As previously communicated, we have had a couple of confirmed cases in school over half term however, we are fortunate that nobody was impacted as a consequence and both people that tested positive are now well. We are aware of at least 10 families that are in isolation due to a household case. We also have several members of staff that are not able to attend due to being traced as a contact of someone with COVID. Sadly this is becoming more and more frequent within our community.

### Parents Evening

Our parents evening will go ahead as planned with the exception of Foundation 1. Due to reasons unrelated to COVID we must delay F1 parents evening appointments for a few weeks. All other appointments will go ahead as planned. Please ensure you have an appointment and remember that each consultation is deliberately short due to the current constraints we are under.

### Lunches

The school kitchen will be fully open again from Monday serving hot packed meals such as baguettes and warm rolls. Please ensure you book your children's meal on the gateway as we are working on limited capacity and do not have the time to chase families to do so.

### Coronavirus Symptoms

I'm sure you are all very familiar with the symptoms of coronavirus by now. They are currently defined as:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If your child or anyone in their household has one or more coronavirus symptoms, or have tested positive for coronavirus, unfortunately your child **must not** come to school. Please follow the stay at home guidance found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> Children must also stay at home if anyone they have been in close contact with has tested positive for coronavirus. You may be unsure as to whether you should send your child to school or not, the document attached gives you further information on knowing when to send your child to school.



## Dropping Off/Collecting Children

Please remember that we do have strict guidance that we ask you to abide by for dropping off and collecting your children. These are to help keep everyone safe. Each class has their own drop off and collection time. Please do not come to school before this time unless you have a prior arrangement. We are not giving late marks for up to 15 minutes after your child's start time in order to support you with not coming to school too early. All start/end times can be found here by clicking here: Our School Day <http://www.kingedwin.notts.sch.uk/our-school/our-school-day/>

## COVID Guidance Information

If you have more than one child to drop off/collect, be aware that class teachers open their doors earlier to account for this in order to avoid congregations on the playground. It is important that this is not abused by families simply choosing to drop off for other reasons not associated with multiple child drop off and collection. Unfortunately, **only one adult** may accompany children to drop off/collect unless in exceptional circumstances.

## When on the school premises, please support us by:

- Keeping socially distanced at all times
- Follow signs
- Give way to others
- Remain 2m apart from other households
- Children must not play on the playground before or after school
- No congregating is allowed - straight in and straight out please
- All adults are asked to wear a face covering at all times on the playground

## Contacting School - Teachers and the Office

You can contact us by telephone or email or by texting us on your gateway app. *Please only use the school office in person where absolutely necessary.* All visitors to the office must wear a face covering. Class teachers can be contacted by their personal school email. If you would prefer a telephone call, please leave us a message and we will get back to you. We would like to keep our TEAMS platform free of parent contact where possible although we know that this may change in instances such as parent evenings, sharing movie files and remote learning communication. Please also understand that we cannot respond immediately to all communication. Teachers have their children to teach and support... they will do their best to respond to parents within a suitable timeframe (usually 24 hours).

## Revision of our school guidance on the use of face coverings on the school site.

Current government guidance on face coverings in education can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

We are still very clear that face coverings **will not** be worn by school staff when working with children. The only exception to this is when a child is showing coronavirus symptoms and a 2m distance cannot be maintained. However, face coverings are becoming a much more normal part of everyday life for everybody and, as cases continue to rise in our area, the use of face coverings in certain situations will give us an extra control factor in keeping our school community safe.

From **Monday 2nd November**, face coverings will be worn by adults in school

- When visiting the school building (including the office)
- When using the school site for drop off/collection
- When waiting with children that are showing symptoms and need to go home
- In communal areas such as foyer, staff room, corridors and reprographics area unless working with a child

The above measures are for staff, parents/carers and visitors. **Children are not required to wear face coverings.** Please talk to your children about this change in order to prepare them as you think necessary - they are already familiar with midday supervisors wearing masks and visors. We also understand that some adults will be exempt from wearing face coverings.



### **Birthday Parties**

We have seen a wonderful idea from another school about putting on birthday parties at the end of the month in each class. We think this is a brilliant suggestion, so we're going to introduce this here at KEPS too. We will share the specifics on how these parties will be organised in a few weeks. Essentially we will have the final hour of the last Friday of each month to celebrate birthdays with the class. The school will ensure that any food consumed at this point is safe according to our COVID guidelines.

### **Nativity Performances**

We are looking at opportunities to create Nativity Performances in school but this has many complications. We will require consent for almost all children to be on a 'nativity performance movie' to be able to make this work. Further details to follow later this term.

### **Free School Meals**

Finally, I'm sure you will have seen the news regarding the government's decision not to provide free school meals over half-term and Christmas to some of our most vulnerable families. Thankfully, the local council has now stepped in to provide free school meal vouchers to these families for half-term and Christmas. This is a fantastic result. Over the next couple of weeks, our office team will be sending out the relevant (back-dated) vouchers to families for half-term. The vouchers for Christmas will be sent out before the end of term.

Keeping schools open and delivering such a comprehensive service to our community is a mammoth task during such challenging times. Every member of staff including myself, have their own families and their own worries regarding this national pandemic. Please be mindful of this fact. Obviously we will do all that we can to 'get it right' but everything will not always go as planned. There will be significant changes that everyone must work with and we will all have to adapt accordingly.

Please also remember to keep the school informed as much as possible during this challenging time. We want to know about any household cases and also of any possible hardship caused by this pandemic. We are here to help and want to do anything we can to keep our KEPS family safe and supported.

You can contact us via [helpandsupport@kingedwin.notts.sch.uk](mailto:helpandsupport@kingedwin.notts.sch.uk) \*All communication will remain confidential

Stay safe and take care everyone,

Mr Callaghan-Wetton





# Guidance for parents and carers



For further guidance, visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>