



Newsletter

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all having a good summer. This is a newsletter that I was hoping I wouldn't have to write but at the same time have been putting together since we broke up in July.

This newsletter is only focused on Covid and our return to school. There is a separate newsletter that is non-Covid related. This has been done on purpose as I (maybe naively) don't want Covid to dominate another year of your children's education.

In July, I gave you some thoughts on what September would look like. In mid-August, we had some slightly updated government guidance and, as of today, Thursday 2nd September we haven't had any West Sussex guidance.

Over the page, you will see that I have taken the main areas and shared with you the government guidance and then what this looks like at Kingslea.

I am not going to discuss every reason behind the decisions that have been made in this newsletter as it would have run to pages and pages; however I'm more than happy to discuss them with anyone who is interested or would like further clarification.

The key principles we have put at the centre of all the decisions we have made are;

- the physical safety of children and staff
- the emotional and mental wellbeing of the children and staff
- that school should be a safe place for children and adults
- normality for the school community
- that guidance aimed at 20,000 schools needs to be adapted for each school
- that parental support at Kingslea has been incredible in the last 18 months, regardless of wide and varied views
- that we have a certain physical layout of the building, for example all our classrooms have external doors and windows
- lessons we have learnt from the last 18 months

With regards to budget, we have spent far, far more money on Covid related actions than we have received from the government; for example extending the school day, online maths tutoring, extra cleaning, extra staffing including employing a speech and language therapist and teaching assistants, buying CO2 monitors and HEPA filters, and enhancing the curriculum with visitors and visits.

Please see over for more detail on actions we are taking and pay particular attention to the section entitled '**What to do if a household member is positive**' as government guidance and a suggestion what parents at Kingslea may want to do differs slightly.

One change is that we will have slightly staggered starts to the school day. We will review this after a few weeks.

Time	Surname
8.40am	A-E*
8.45am	F-N
8.50am	O-Z

*and regular latecomers

Please note it is essential that parents ensure children arrive on time. It is not fair on children to have to walk into a classroom late when the teacher has already talked through the day and learning has started. Coming to school late raises children's anxiety levels. If you are one of our regular latecomers, your start time is 8.40am. Gates will close promptly just after 8.50am so aim to be here a few minutes before your start time.

Alexis Conway and the Kingslea Team.

September 2021

In summary:

- If there is a positive Covid case in a class, Track and Trace will be responsible for contacting close contacts, and the double vaccinated and under 18s will not routinely have to isolate.
- We intend to inform you if there is a positive case in the class, as we would do with some other infectious diseases.
- The one way system through the school will continue, as the infant gate is a bottleneck. However, the path between the nursery and school will revert to two way.
- All children will be able to have a Chartwells hot lunch (Y3-6 must order from and pay Chartwells directly)
- PE kits will be worn to school on PE days (see PE timetable below). Please ensure both white T-shirts and black shorts are completely plain with no logos on them.

Year group	Day
Reception	Friday
Y1	Monday / Thursday
Y2	Monday / Tuesday
Y3	Tuesday / Wednesday
Y4	Tuesday / Thursday
Y5	Wednesday / Friday
Y6	Monday / Friday

PE kit

Plain white T-Shirt
Black shorts
Plain black jogging bottoms
Jade green Kingslea PE
hoodie/school jumper,
Trainers (not plimsolls)

No logos on T-shirts, shorts
or jogging bottoms

- Larger school assemblies will return on a gradual basis.
- We will stagger the start of the school day to start off with. As before Covid, school will finish at 3.10pm (Reception), 3.15pm (Y1/Y2) and 3.20pm for (Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6).
- We will continue to teach the whole curriculum.
- Clubs will restart, details will be sent out in the next few days.
- Rocketeers will run in the small hall.
- Rec/Y1/Y2 to bring in book bags, Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 can bring in small rucksacks.
- Curriculum meetings will take the form of a powerpoint being sent home, with parents able to email in any questions or meet the teacher to discuss any questions.

If your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

- Inform school—via phone or email (at the weekend via email on office@kingslea.org.uk).
- Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result.

Informing you if there is a positive case in the class.

- **Government Guidance:** If there is a positive Covid case in a class, Track and Trace will be responsible for contacting close contacts. There is no mention of schools contacting parents.
- **Kingslea:** We will inform you if there is a positive case in the class. This is so you can take precautions if you feel you need to, e.g. if you are visiting elderly relatives or if you live with someone who is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. However, all children (excluding the infected child) will be expected to be in school.

Context

Whilst we read about national Covid figures I thought you might be interested in the figures for Kingslea.

Between March and the end of July (including the week after school finished) we had 10 children who tested positive for Covid (from 8 families), with nearly all of these cases in the last two weeks of the Summer Term and the first week of the summer holidays. This reflects the national picture of the prevalence of cases in schools.

Where there has been a positive case in a household and a child has had to isolate, in total 102 days of school have been missed. Where classes have had to isolate due to a positive case in school, 645 individual days of school have been missed, all in the last two weeks of term.

CO2 monitors

Government Guidance: On Saturday 21st August the government announced that it would start the procurement procedure to buy CO2 monitors for schools and that all school should receive part of their allocation at some point in the Autumn Term. Whilst the CO2 is not an issue it is believed that carbon dioxide levels in buildings correlate strongly with the airborne spread of infection and poor quality ventilation.

Kingslea: We have had six CO2 monitors (including two donated by a parent) in school since March 2021. These are spread throughout the school to measure air quality and adapt ventilation if required.

Ventilation

Government Guidance: The guidance is to 'ensure classrooms are well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained' (i.e. have doors and windows open but don't let classrooms get too cold).

The government has also launched a trial of air purifiers in 30 schools in Bradford (out of 20,000 or so schools in the country), which is designed to assess the technology in education settings and whether they could reduce the risk of transmission. I believe this is a year-long trial but with initial results out at in December.

Kingslea: Rather than wait for the outcome of the trial, we have spent a considerable amount of money and bought an air purifier for each classroom. These large air purifiers have a 3 stage HEPA filtration systems, include air quality sensors and will also help with allergies, hay fever and other airborne bugs. The filters will be kept on all day.

What to do if a household member is positive

Government Guidance: If there is a positive Covid case in a household, children can still come to school, but it is recommended that the household members take a PCR test. However, the government also recommends if you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the guidance:

- take a PCR test,
- limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- limit contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- take part in twice weekly LFD testing

Kingslea: As a school, we have to follow the above guidance. However, as a parent community you may wish to work together to protect the physical safety of your children and lessen the negative impact on their education, for example if their teachers catches Covid. If there is a positive case in your household, you may want to get a PCR test for your child and keep them at home until the result comes through. If the test is negative and they return to school, you could do a lateral flow test twice weekly for the period of time that the household member who is positive is isolating for.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS—A REMINDER

Despite many thoughts and beliefs regarding varying symptoms for different variants of the virus, the Government guidance remains that the 3 main symptoms of Covid-19 are as follows:

- **A high temperature, over 37.8°C**

If you do not have a thermometer, this can be judged if you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back.

If your child has had a raised temperature we will require them to return a negative PCR (not lateral flow) test before they can return to school.

- **A new and continuous cough**

This means coughing a lot for at least an hour or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours

- **A change or loss of 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 your child displays any of these 3 symptoms, even if they are mild, you must inform the school and book a PCR test (test that is sent to the lab) for them. They must remain at home and not have visitors until you receive the result.

If a **negative test result is returned**, the child/dren can return to school immediately (even if it is half way through the school day).

If a **positive result is returned**, please inform the school immediately (either by phone during the school day or by emailing office@kingslea.org.uk out of hours). Your child will then need to isolate at home for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms or 10 days from the day of the test if they did not display any symptoms.

