

# COVID-19

## FAQs



Dear Parents and Carers

Unsurprisingly there continues to be a lot of media attention around the potential for the reopening of primary schools for all year groups and therefore the implications this will have for parents who are not currently able to send their children in to school. Alongside this is the genuine concern about the sustainability of home schooling as the situation will remain unchanged until at least September. With this in mind we have produced this leaflet in order to address the questions that the school has received recently and to provide as much clarity as possible under the current circumstances.

### **Can my child return to school at the moment?**

Yes if they are in year 6 or you qualify as a Key Worker.

### **Will my year 3/4/5 child return to school before the end of the academic year?**

No. Unfortunately the government had not considered the practical implications of this proposal but this week have recognised that due to social distancing measures this is not possible.

### **Will we be getting another phone call from the teachers?**

Your child will receive another phone call before the end of term.

### **Will the VLE continue to be updated?**

Yes if your child is in years 3, 4 or 5. There are allocated teachers who have this role. No if your child is in year 6 and therefore can return to school.

### **How often is the work changed on the VLE?**

Work is uploaded weekly, so that there are new activities every Monday including White Rose Maths as well as reading, writing, science and mindfulness activities provided by Twinkl. BBC Bitesize is updated daily through their website. Please note that due to the nationwide demand on learning platforms they can often be slower to update on a Monday.

### **How much time should my child spend on learning at home?**

Home schooling is a matter of parental choice. We would recommend that this is led by your child and their individual needs. Ideally this should incorporate some maths, reading and writing daily. Cooking, gardening and other valuable life skills are strongly encouraged. We also recognise the value of daily exercise for mental well-being.

### **What if I am concerned that my child is falling behind academically?**

We recognise that this is a national concern. When schools are eventually able to open to all pupils teachers will be addressing this as a matter of priority.

### **Why is the school not offering virtual teaching?**

Now that the school is fully reopened for year 6 pupils, in addition to the requirement to open for key worker children and those deemed vulnerable according to DfE criteria, all of our teachers are now working full time in a classroom. Six teachers are currently teaching the six year 6 bubbles. Four teachers are teaching our key worker children. We are in a fortunate position to have three teachers who are shielding at home whose specific role is to maintain the VLE and respond to children's uploaded work. They are also uploading quizzes

and stories for our ongoing and popular YouTube channel. Our VLE provision is enabling the vast majority of children to access learning.

#### **What if I do not have internet access at home?**

Please contact the school and alternative provision can be arranged to help you.

#### **How can we get in touch with the class teacher?**

Class teachers are available to respond to emails. The email address for each teacher is [class@southwayjunior.co.uk](mailto:class@southwayjunior.co.uk) e.g. [rowling@southwayjunior.co.uk](mailto:rowling@southwayjunior.co.uk) – please feel free to contact them with any queries you may have. You will receive a response either from your class teacher or one of our three home based teachers within 48 hours. If the class teacher feels your enquiry needs to be passed on to Mr Newbold or Mrs Denison they will do so. Parentline is always available for general enquiries at [parentline@southwayjunior.co.uk](mailto:parentline@southwayjunior.co.uk)

#### **What advice and support can the school offer to help with my child's mental health and well-being and/or behaviour?**

We recognise this is a very difficult time for many parents and children. Should you find yourself in a position where you need advice please contact Mrs Denison at [sen@southwayjunior.co.uk](mailto:sen@southwayjunior.co.uk)

#### **What if I have safeguarding concerns about a child?**

You will find all the information you need under the safeguarding tab on our school website. Alternatively you can contact Mr Newbold on [head@southwayjunior.co.uk](mailto:head@southwayjunior.co.uk) If you feel a child is at immediate risk phone 999.

#### **Am I entitled to receive free school meal vouchers?**

You are entitled to receive the vouchers if you qualify. If your child is in year 6 the free school meal is now available every lunchtime in school. If you think you might qualify and would like to make an application please contact Mrs Frost at [admin@southwayjunior.co.uk](mailto:admin@southwayjunior.co.uk) for further information.

#### **Will I receive an end of year report on my child?**

Yes.

#### **When will we find out about our child's new class teacher / classroom?**

You will be informed about your child's new class teacher on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Will my child have an opportunity to meet their new teacher?**

It is not possible for your child to come in to school. Therefore all teachers are in the process of creating 'meet the teacher' videos which will be available on our YouTube channel.

#### **Will transition booklets be available?**

Transition booklets are currently being created for every year group. This will include information about your child's new class, classroom, teacher and teaching assistant, along with other useful information. These will be sent out after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **What will happen in September?**

We are currently receiving important updates and guidance from the government at the same time as you. Headteachers are in weekly communication with the director of education at West Sussex who will advise us if and when it is safe to open.