

FAQs – Zone School – Parents and Students

1. Why are children being taught in zones?

The idea is that every child in the school is linked to a year zone in different parts of the school for most of their subjects to reduce the risk of transmission.

We will ensure that these zones have limited contact by operating:

- Separate entrances and exits to the school building
- Different lunch and break times from most other zones

We will also try reduce the number of staff within each zone.

In this way, if there is an outbreak of COVID 19 in the school, we are better able to isolate groups of students and staff and the test and trace system is easier to manage.

2. When do all children return full time to Park Community School?

The first day for students will be:

Friday, 4 September	Year 7 start at 8.30am
Monday, 7 September	Year 8 return at 8.30am and Year 9 return at 11.00am
Tuesday, 8 September	Year 10 return at 8.30am and Year 11 return at 11.00am
Wednesday, 9 September	Lessons to follow school timetable except where assessment activities are required

The first week will include induction sessions in to the zone school system, tests and lessons.

Staff will be in school before then making sure we are ready.

3. What time does my child have to be in school from September?

The start and finish times for the day remain unchanged, children need to be on the school site at 8.25am for registration at 8.30am. Children who are more than 15 minutes late will not be able to enter school because staff will not be available to escort them to their zone after that time. If you have a medical appointment then school should be informed and we will make special arrangements to escort the child to the zone. An appointment card should be sent in with your child when they come to school.

4. How will you keep my child safe?

We have already established our hygiene expectations; these will continue to be our main way of managing the virus:

- social distancing
- regularly and thoroughly washing hands with hot water and soap or using hand sanitiser
- avoiding touching face
- always using a tissue if sneezing and "binning it" straightaway before cleaning hands

The above, coupled with our approach to keeping students in zones will significantly reduce the risk of transmitting the virus – however, we cannot eliminate all risk.

Having said this, our experience is that children adapt very quickly to our new routines. It will be important that children expect school to be different and follow the rules and expectations of staff at all times

5. How will school communicate with me?

We will continue to send all school communications via email. It is essential that we have an up to date email address for you and that you regularly check this. These communications also appear on the INSIGHT app which allows you to see a range of information about your child, including their timetable and attendance.

For attendance, texts will be sent to your mobile number.

6. Who will teach my child?

Your child will have a group of subject teachers and the teachers will mostly go to them in their zone class. For some subjects, such as Technology, Performing Arts and PE, children will move to the specialist area.

7. Does my child have to attend school?

Yes. It is absolutely essential that every child attends school every day - unless they are ill or presenting the symptoms of COVID 19. From September, we will apply our normal procedures around pursuing non-attendance to school. If you believe your family situation is such that your child cannot attend school, for instance, they have been told to continue to shield. Then please email our attendance officer on s.powell@pcs.hants.sch.uk

8. My child has a sibling at Park. Will they be in the same zone?

No. A large number of children have brothers or sisters at the school. During school hours they will be taught in their zone and generally not mix.

9. I am a key worker. Will my child still get special provisions?

No. All children must return to school irrespective of their parent or carers' occupation.

10. Can my child bring a packed lunch in?

Yes. School meals will have a different system where some students will get food from the restaurant and some will use our catering trailer each day in order to keep year groups separate.

Please avoid sending your child in with cash where possible and upload any money required for purchasing food via Tucasi – the online payment system.

11. Will breakfast be offered?

Yes. This will run as normal from 7:45am to 8:25am for breakfast with children encouraged to sit in year group areas in the restaurant or outside.

12. What about uniform?

All students will be required to wear the full school uniform, including their blazer and black shoes; we will provide a new tie at the start of term. In September ties will be in Year colours to help ensure children are in the right zone or with the right group at all times.

13. What equipment will they need?

Students will need to bring a rucksack to school and keep their own equipment.

This must include:

- A pencil case
- Black pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Green pen

In Years 10 and 11, students will also need to provide some specialist equipment for some option subjects. Teachers will explain this in September.

All equipment should be clearly labelled and held in a named pencil case. Students in Years 7 and 8 must also bring in a reading book. We will issue a student planner to all students on their first day; this will also form part of the essential equipment.

Students will be expected to carry books back and forth. These may not be left in classrooms.

14. Does my child need a PE kit?

Yes. They should bring in their PE kit on the days they have timetabled PE.

15. Does my child need a school bag?

Yes. All students should have a sensible bag to take equipment including books to and from school.

16. My child has one to one support or attends a small intervention. Will they still get this?

Yes. If your child gets one to one support, then they will continue to get this; our normal interventions will run, although staff may deliver this from a social distance of 2 metres.

17. What will my child learn?

All students will follow their full curriculum which is broad and balanced. We have made some changes, for instance, in September:

- Assemblies will be less frequent and may be delivered virtually
- Physical Education will not involve contact sports
- Music will not involve singing or sharing instruments

18. How will homework be set?

Homework will always be set for students via Teams and this will also be visible for parents on the INSIGHT app. This means you can see what they are expected to do at home. Homework will be more important than ever as children catch up on lost learning. Please make sure you know your child's log on details.

Access to on-line learning will continue to be important in case the local area is locked down. Remote learning will be set in exactly the same way as homework.

19. Will normal school assessments take place?

Yes. We plan on running all assessments during the 2020/21 academic year.

20. My child has missed a lot of school. How will you catch them up?

The Government have allocated limited additional funds. We will be publishing details about how we intend to catch children up once we are clearer about the funding. Our focus will be on supporting:

- The most vulnerable
- Students close to an important assessment point

21. Will extra-curricular clubs or period 6s run?

No - these will not run at the start of term. We will review activities after school and period 6 lessons during the term.

22. What happens if my child misbehaves?

Teachers will use our consequence system if a student disrupts learning within a classroom and will aim to re-track the student so they can remain in the lesson and learn.

However, if a student is unable to follow school rules, or if they behave in a way that means they are not safe to be in school, the student will be isolated and you will be expected to attend school for meeting on this day.

23. What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID 19.

24. What happens if my child falls ill during the school day?

If a child feels unwell then they should ask their teacher to go to the medical room. If our staff assess that there is a risk the child has COVID 19 symptoms, then a procedure is in place to isolate them until a parent or carer can pick them up. In this case, they should undergo a test as soon as possible and alert the school of the outcome of the test as soon as this is known. We will always follow the latest guidance around managing an outbreak.

25. Will I be informed if there is an outbreak of COVID 19 in school?

Yes. We will always follow Public Health England's advice around managing an outbreak where this has been confirmed.

26. What will happen if a Year group is sent home to isolate?

We will text and email all parents a letter informing them of any need to close school temporarily for a year group or more.

Remote learning will be set in the same way that homework is currently set. Students will use their school log on to access Teams and the student shared area. Links to the work will also be on the school website, along with reminders about how to log on.

Parents will be able to see what is set for their child via the INSIGHT app.

I have a question which has not been covered here. Who can I ask?

If there is a question you think we have not covered, please email us on:

info@pcs.hants.sch.uk

or contact your child's Head of House:

Green House:	Mrs Wilson	h.wilson@pcs.hants.sch.uk
Red House:	Mr Cavanagh	s.cavanagh@pcs.hants.sch.uk
Blue House:	Miss Binns	a.binns@pcs.hants.sch.uk