

COOMBE ROAD CHAT

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FIRST WEEK BACK 20-21

WELCOME AND THANK YOU:

Welcome to all our new families and children in Poppy Class.

Thanks to all of you for being so flexible with the new arrangements put in place to keep everybody in our Coombe Road family safe. We are so glad to have our community back where they belong and hope that, if we all look after each other and follow guidelines, we can continue to stay open and avoid a second lockdown.

Many thanks also to all the amazing staff here who have worked so hard to ensure our children are happy, safe and ready to learn again. We've got a way to go yet – but, if we continue to support each other, together we can do this!



DROP-OFF/PICK-UP:



Thank you to those of you

who have tried to make helpful suggestions about drop-off and pick-up. I want to assure you all that we spent most of the summer holiday preparing a detailed risk assessment (which is added to as the days progress) and particularly looking at how you can bring and pick up your children safely. We cannot allow parents/carers on to the premises as the ramps into the school are too narrow for 2-way movement. We cannot have one-way systems at the gates as doing this will 'pop' bubbles because parents/carers would have to walk through the building to get to another gate. The system we have in place really is the safest possible way of preventing the risk of infection within our school and therefore we thank you all for making it work this week.

To make the systems work even more effectively, please try as much as possible to arrive at your allocated gate at the time stated. I understand that many of you are arriving early because of dropping off

siblings/parking etc. If this is the case and the queue is becoming crowded – particularly at the middle gates allocated for two classes – please keep your physical distance from others, or wait in your car/across the road.

When walking back down the hill after drop-off or pick-up (this tends to create crowding as there are also parents/carers still queuing on the same pavement), please (whenever possible and safe), cross over the road to come back down the hill. I understand that this is difficult on Coombe Road at the middle gate where we have our crossing patrol and have asked the Council to provide barriers. As a temporary measure, our wonderful new Premises Manager, Mr Rowe, has cut back the trees and debris blocking the passage ways which will help with the 2-way system. Public Health England also state that it is highly unlikely that an infectious person will pass on the virus outdoors, and when briefly passing another person. For this reason, please do not gather to chat near the gates to the school – and instead, find a bigger outdoor area where physical distancing can be followed.



SCHOOLS REMAIN OPEN:

We have also been asked why, when social gatherings of six people are no longer permitted, schools remain open. As a school, we have to follow guidelines set out by the DfE and Government. The guidance is that schools should be open and that children should be attending school unless they have symptoms of any one (or more) of the following:

- High temperature/fever (38°C or more)
- Persistent, new cough
- Loss of taste
- Loss of smell

We do not set these guidelines and I suggest you direct your queries regarding Government decisions to your local MP – found on https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-committees/your-member-parliament-mp

TESTING:

There is a link on our website – on the Home page and Coronavirus Info page – which will take you directly to the NHS website for acquiring tests if you or your child(ren) have symptoms. You can also call 119.

I received an email yesterday from Public Health, apologising for lack of tests. This is a national issue and out of our control as a school.

If your child(ren) or anybody in your household has symptoms typical of Covid-19, you must all self-isolate. The person who developed the symptoms can go back to school/work after 10 days from the first day the symptoms started. Others must isolate for 14 days, even if displaying no symptoms. If others in the household develop symptoms within this time, the self-isolation is 10 days from the first day of these symptoms.

If you are fortunate enough to acquire a test for the symptomatic person and this is negative, you can return to normal UNLESS others in the household develop symptoms. If this happens, you must follow the steps above (and acquire a test for the symptomatic person).

If you are fortunate enough to acquire a test and this is positive, you must continue to self-isolate for the 10 day period (from first day of symptoms) or 14 days if you are another member of the household (even if you do not have symptoms).

If you are unsure and we are unable to be contacted, please call 111.

If the symptoms escalate and the person has any difficulty breathing, please call 999.

HAPPY WEEKEND:

Your child(ren) will be exhausted this weekend, after such a long time out of school, so please have lots of 'down' time.

For those in isolation, please keep trying to locate tests and we hope to see you soon. Take care everybody and see you next week!



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Coombe Road Primary School Term Dates 2020-2021



AUTUMN TERM	
First Day of Autumn Term	Monday, 7 th September (INSET Thurs 3 rd and Fri 4 th September)
Half Term (1 week) (children return to school on Monday, 2 nd November)	Monday, 26 th October – Friday, 30 th October
Last Day of Autumn Term	Friday, 18 th December
Christmas Holiday (children return to school on Tuesday, 5 th January)	Monday, 21 st December – Friday 1 st January

SPRING TERM	
First Day of Spring Term	Tuesday, 5 th January (INSET Mon 4th)
Half Term (1 week) (children return to school on Monday, 24 th February)	Monday, 15 th February – Friday, 19 th February
Last Day of Spring Term	Thursday, 1 st April
Easter Holiday (Children return to school on Monday, 19th April)	Friday, 2 nd April – Friday, 16 th April

SUMMER TERM	
First Day of Summer Term	Monday 19 th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday, 3 rd May
Half Term (1 week) (children return to school on Monday, 7 th June)	Monday, 31 st May – Friday, 4 th June
Last Day of Summer Term	Wednesday, 21 st July (INSET Thurs 22nd and Fri 23rd July)

INSET Days (5 days in every academic year have to be set aside for staff training):

To try and help parents, we have attached our staff training days to existing holidays. The school will be closed on the following days for INSET:

~Thursday, 3rd September 2020 ~Friday, 4th September 2020 ~Monday, 4th January 2021 ~Thursday, 22nd July 2021 ~Friday, 23rd July 2021