



Return to School - Frequently Asked Questions for Parents/Carers

How can I help to prepare my child before coming back to school?

Children are likely to be both excited and anxious about coming to school. It is therefore important to talk positively about the experience and to explain how you and the teachers will help them to come into the class independently. Please be assured that our staff will do their very best to provide a warm welcome and to ensure that your child's transition is as smooth as possible.

Will my child need to bring in their own equipment?

Learning equipment be provided to each child children. This equipment must not be shared with other children and will be typically stored in trays or plastic containers. Where resources are shared e.g. construction toys in the infants, these will be regularly cleaned and disinfected. We will also expect children to wash /sanitise their hands before and after using shared resources. Children will still need to bring in their book bags and packed lunches for those who do not opt to have a school dinner.

How can I contact the Class Teacher if I have a concern or important information to share?

It is very important that you contact us as soon as possible if you have any concerns or information you need to share with us. You can do this by emailing the school via office@cavendish.hounslow.sch.uk or by calling us on 0208 944 3568. We will do our very best to ensure that a member of staff gets back to you as soon as possible. Due to the coronavirus restrictions at pick-up and drop-off times, we ask parents/carers to please avoid having conversations with the teachers at this time.

What is the procedure if my child is unwell and is unable to attend school?

If your child is unwell, please ensure you call the school office (you can leave a message) on the first day of absence so that your child's absence record can be kept up to date. If your child is showing any signs of Covid-19, it is also essential that you contact us as soon as possible and make arrangements to enable them to undertake a test <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>.

Any parent/carer wishing to make a term time leave request, must complete a form which can be emailed via the school office. Please understand that these requests will only be considered if the circumstances are exceptional and that we are unable to authorise any term time holidays.

What is a Learning Bubble?

A Learning or Protective Bubble is a defined number of children. The Learning Bubbles are kept separated from each other in order to minimise risk, help to keep pupils safe and limit the scope of a potential closure should a pupil or member of staff test positive for Covid-19. At Cavendish the Early Years (i.e. Reception and Nursery), Years 1 and 2, Year 3 and 4, and then Years 5 and 6 are all designated Bubbles.

What will be the routines to promote personal hygiene and ensure the school is clean?

The school will undergo a thorough deep clean of all areas during the summer break. All the areas being used will also receive a rigorous clean at the end of the school day. This will include disinfecting any shared resources e.g. games equipment and construction toys. In addition, surfaces, door handles and toilets will be cleaned at regular intervals i.e. at least twice during the school day.

As a minimum, time will be allocated for all children to wash /sanitise their hands as follows:

- On arrival to school and before they leave at the end of the day
- Before and after eating lunch
- After going to the toilet
- Before and after playtimes and using shared resources

Children will also be reminded to catch any coughs or sneezes into a tissue, to bin it and then wash their hands. In the immediate absence of a tissue, they will be told to sneeze or cough into their sleeve/elbow and then wash their hands.

Each Year Group will have its own supply of tissues, paper towels, soaps, hand sanitiser, wipes, cleaning cloths and personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff. Typically, PPE will be used when social distancing is not possible e.g. if a child requires medical attention. However, some members of staff may choose to wear PPE at other times such as masks or visors.

How will lunchtimes and breaktimes be organised?

It is important that children continue to have regular exercise and can access the outdoor areas safely. Learning Bubbles will be timetabled to play in separate areas. Where necessary, the timetables will be staggered so we can avoid close contact with other Learning Bubbles. Each Learning Bubble will have their own games equipment e.g. bats and balls. These will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day. Our caterers Chartwells will be providing hot meals although the menus will be more limited. Our Reception children will eat in the school's Community Room, our Year 1 and 2 and our Year 3 and 4 Bubbles will eat in the dining room and our Year 5 and 6 Bubble will eat in the main hall. Strict hygiene routines will be in place including the cleaning of tables and chairs between sittings. Children who usually bring in their own packed lunch can continue to do so. These will be stored separately. We advise parents/carers to put a plastic 'ice block' in their child's lunchbox to help keep the food fresh in the warm weather.

How can I support my child's learning and the school more generally?

Please be assured that we highly value our partnership with our parents/carers. We would therefore strongly encourage you to take an active interest in your child's learning. We will do our best to keep you informed about the curriculum and your child's progress. It is especially important for parents/carers to find time to read with their child each day. Further guidance and recommendations can be found on the school's website.

We have an active and supportive PTA (Parent/Teacher Association) which under normal circumstances provides much needed support and additional funds for the school. In addition, the school has a system for regular meetings with parent representatives from each year group. This provides the opportunity for parents/carers to receive information from the school and contribute by sharing ideas and suggestions and raising general issues or concerns. Although the coronavirus situation is likely to continue to restrict the scope of these groups, if you are interested in contributing, please email the school office and we would be delighted to hear from you.

Will the school be running Breakfast Club and Aftercare provision?

In order to support working parents, Cavendish will do its best to provide Breakfast Club and Aftercare provision. This will operate from 8.00am in the mornings and until 5.45pm in the evenings and strict health and safety and cleaning and hygiene routines will be in place. The running of this provision will be subject to financial viability which is dependent on the numbers of pupils registering. Please note that Breakfast Club and Aftercare will not be available in the first week of term. If you are interested and have not yet registered your child, please contact the school office.

If you have any other concerns or questions, please email office@cavendish.hounslow.sch.uk

