



Writtle Infant School

A very special place, where learning has no limits.

Headteacher: Mrs. Helen Castell | Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. Tracey Wilson

Writtle Infant School, Lodge Road,
Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3HZ
admin@writtleinfantschool.com
www.writtleinfantschool.com
01245 420963

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Dear Parents,

As we approach the beginning of term, you will have seen much in the news about reopening schools. Teaching is a vocation and every member of staff at Writtle Infant School will be delighted to welcome your children through our doors once again.

We are acutely aware of our responsibilities to the children in our care and to the wider community. However, we all have a role to play in keeping the virus at a low level, to help schools to stay open. Though we long to return to normality, this September's "back to school" season is unlike any normal year. We recommend that all parents read this week's [joint statement from the UK's Chief Medical Officers](#), which gives evidence of the risks and benefits to health from schools reopening and explains how parents' behaviour might affect what happens in school: *"Opening schools may be as important in linking households indirectly as through direct transmission in school. For example, allowing parents to go back to work, or meeting at the school gates, on public transport or in shared private vehicles, via after school social or sport activities or wrap-around care may be as important as what happens within the school."*

We are aware that many in our school community, both within school and connected to the school, may be particularly vulnerable to Covid-19. With this in mind, we urge you all to follow these vital measures:

- Stay at home and get a test if your child or anyone in your household feels unwell.
- Observe social distancing on school premises, just as you would anywhere outside your own home.
- Stick to the set drop off and pick up times for your child's bubble.
- Ensure you are available to collect your child quickly if they become unwell at school.
- Consider your interactions with fellow parents and other children outside of school very carefully.
- Follow the government guidance on [staying alert](#) and [staying safe outside your home](#).

Keeping our school as safe as possible is a joint effort. All staff will ensure that procedures in our risk assessment are scrupulously observed, which include helping the children with additional hygiene routines. This is understandably an anxious time and none of us can be sure what the next few months will bring, but we can reduce the risk for everyone by working together. We understand that the pandemic may have caused significant additional stress for your family, so please talk to us in confidence if you have been affected by changes in physical or mental health, behaviour, welfare or financial concerns. This will enable us to offer discreet help and also to support your child in the classroom with any individual circumstances that might be affecting them.

Finally, after months of being at home with your children, we don't want you to feel disconnected from what they're doing at school. For the time being we won't be able to welcome you into the building, but we will introduce new ways of keeping in touch, right from the start of term, so that you know how they're getting on.

We all wish for a safe and happy return to school and are looking forward to seeing you from Thursday 3rd September. In the meantime, have a restful Bank Holiday weekend.

Warm regards

Helen Castell