



11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **RE: Return to School**

Our first full week has been completed at Merryfields School. Although there are a lot of changes which we have had to implement, our pupils have settled very well. I would like to confirm some of our new processes and procedures in this letter.

### **Bubbles**

I can confirm that we are maintaining the 'bubble principle' in Merryfields, whereby each classroom group is a 'bubble.' Throughout the day, no classrooms will be mixing with any other bubbles, to reduce the risks as much as we can within school.

### **Social Distancing**

Social Distancing is being practiced by our staff as far as possible. We are also avoiding any gatherings or groups of pupils/staff coming together outside their bubbles, which means that assemblies are taking place in individual classrooms/bubbles and whole school events are going to be temporarily put on hold.

### **Start and Finish Times**

We are continuing to stagger our school day, to prevent any congregation or congestion in the entrance to school. We are prioritising pupils arriving on transport and asking parents to arrive slightly later than 9am (approximately 9.15 unless alternative arrangements have been made). This week has proved the effectiveness of this new system and we will be continuing with this for the next few weeks.

As a result of the staggered start times, we are also extending our school day to ensure we are offering a full educational provision; again we are prioritising pupils on transport, who will leave school at 3pm and pupils who go home with parents or carers will be brought out at approximately 3.15pm unless alternative arrangements have been made.

### **Lunch and Snack Times**

All classrooms are continuing to have snack during the school day. We do ask that parents and carers continue to send in individual and named cups or bottles for all pupils, which can then be returned home in the evening for washing.

To ensure social distancing and reduce the possibility of bubbles mixing, all pupils are eating their lunches in the classroom.

### **If a pupil shows symptoms?**

The DfE are currently identifying three key symptoms for Coronavirus;

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of or change to their sense of smell or taste.





If your child displays any of these symptoms, please do not send them to school. We would recommend that you keep your child at home and organise a Covid Test as soon as possible. Please make sure that you inform school if this is the case and we do request that we receive evidence of a test result, before readmitting a pupil into school.

Please note that if a pupil shows any one of these symptoms in school, we will adapt a cautious approach by quarantining them from the rest of the classroom and request that they are taken home and tested.

Should a pupil within a bubble show potential symptoms, we will keep this bubble open until we receive a test result. If the pupil showing potential symptoms is confirmed as having a positive result, we will be in contact with parents and carers within this bubble and request that your child self-isolate for 14 days.

I understand the decision on whether or not your child is displaying symptoms will be a difficult one, however we do ask that you as parents and carers judge this, based on the three previously mentioned symptoms. On our school website, we have included a link to a 'Covid Symptoms Flow Chart,' which will explain clearly the process you must follow if your child displays potential symptoms.

### **Visitors**

We continue to restrict visitors to school, therefore we are requesting that parents do not enter the school premises, unless for a pre-arranged visit. Should you wish to contact school, please use SeeSaw or contact the school office.

### **Annual Reviews**

Annual Reviews will continue to take place this term, however these will take place over the phone. Your child's class teacher will be in contact with you, to arrange suitable dates and times.

### **Flu Vaccination**

The date for this years Flu Vaccination is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

I hope this letter finds you all well and I would like to thank you for helping us make the appropriate adjustments over the past week, to make our school as safe as we possibly can.

Yours Sincerely

Headteacher

