



28th August 2020

RE : Arrangements for return to school

Dear parents and Carers

As you will be aware, current government guidelines require all pupils in England to return to full time education in September 2020. Merryfields School intend to open fully to current pupils as of Friday 4th September and to new transitioning pupils on various dates throughout September. This letter, will attempt to describe some of the changes we have made to our school day and some ways parents and carers can support us in our efforts, to increase social distancing and reduce the risk of transmission.

Start and End of Day

We have made slight changes to the schools start and end times, to prevent gatherings in and around the school reception area. The times are as follows;

- 9am - 3pm for pupils who arrive at school on local authority arranged transport.
- 9.15am - 3.15pm for pupils who are transported to school by relatives and those who walk to school.

These changes will allow us opportunities to bring pupils into school in smaller groups, to promote social distancing.

We also ask that adults who bring pupils to school, do not enter the school reception area, but queue outside the school building following the signposted one way system, until a member of your child's class comes to bring them into their classroom.

Parents or carers who drive their children to school, may wish to remain in their cars rather than queue up, in the interests of safety.

These new procedures for morning and evening transitions, will take slightly longer than usual, so we ask for your patience as we do our utmost to ensure everyone's safety.

Bubbles

Pupils will all be allocated Classroom Bubbles. Pupils will not be allowed to mix with other classes, or socialise with pupils from different bubbles/classes in the school. In addition, all communal areas of school will be accessed on a rota and resources will be cleaned after use.

Snacks/Dinner

Snacks will continue to be provided for children in their classrooms, however we are requesting that parents and carers send in a named individual drinks bottles or cups, to reduce sharing of resources. These will be returned home at the end of each day to be washed at home.

School dinners will continue to be provided for pupils in school. As a temporary measure, lunchtimes will take place in the classroom to prevent pupils from various bubbles/classrooms congregating in communal areas of the school.





School Communication

Visitors to the school must now be booked in advance. This can be done by contacting the school reception via phone or email. We are also encouraging use of the SeeSaw App, which will allow parents and carers to contact the classroom team directly. Please be aware that class staff will not be able to answer phone calls or respond to SeeSaw messages during teaching time.

All visitors to the school, will be asked to confirm they are in good health and have not been in recent contact with anyone displaying symptoms of coronavirus.

School Systems

Current recommendations, require pupils in school to socially distance where this is possible. Our implementation of the bubbles principles, will allow for different classroom groups to socially distance where possible. We are also promoting hand washing at the start of each day, the end of each day and at regular intervals throughout.

Cleaning

We are maintaining a high level of cleaning throughout the school day. Resources, books, touchpoints and items of ICT will be cleaned at the end of each day and during the school day, as appropriate.

Transport

Both Staffordshire and Stoke transport teams, hope to be running on full capacity as of next week.

Government guidance issued on 11th August, has stated that face masks are not recommended for pupils travelling on 'dedicated school transport,' nor is it needed for pupils under 11 years of age

Wearing of PPE in school

There has been a lot of discussion in the media currently, surrounding the use of Face Masks and PPE in school. In Merryfields, we will be following the government recommendations. This means, that PPE will only be used in the event of a suspected Covid-19 infection, or during tasks when it would ordinarily be needed within school.

Therefore we will not be asking pupils or staff to wear face masks. In school, we will not be assisting or encouraging pupils to wear any form of PPE that would not ordinarily be used during the school day.

Symptoms Developing

Do not bring your child to school if they or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19.

If your child develops symptoms whilst in school, they will be immediately isolated. We will then be contacting parents and carers to collect your child from school.

We also ask that you take your child to get tested as soon as possible and inform school of the result.

If a pupil in your child's bubble has suspected symptoms, we will be informing you. We will expect all pupils to continue to attend school in their bubbles, unless we are informed of a positive test result.





If a positive test result is confirmed, all pupils in this bubble, will be sent home and this bubble will remain closed for a period of 10 days.

Educational Provision

We will continue to provide full time education as of September 2020. However initially, we will be following a recovery curriculum, which will focus on PHSE and pupil wellbeing. This will be to help transition pupils back into school and routines.

Educational Visits and Swimming

Educational Visits will be limited during our reopening. Pupils will not be visiting cafes, shops or play areas. Any visits which will take place, will adhere to strict social distancing guidelines, to keep our children and staff as safe as possible.

Our Swimming Pool is temporarily closed, following guidelines from Swim England. We aim to reopen the pool as soon as possible.

School Uniform

All pupils will be expected to attend school in their school uniform from the beginning of Autumn Term.

Due to all of these changes, it is essential that we have the correct contact details for all parents and carers. Therefore, on the 4th September, your child will be bringing home a Data sheet. Please check this and return it to school as soon as possible. In addition, if any medical forms have not yet been returned, please send these in with your child on their first day back in school.

I would like to thank you all for your support and cooperation during the previous few months. I understand that the changes we have made in school may cause some disruption, but please be assured that we are committed to supporting you and your children, as we begin the new academic year.

We will be reviewing our procedures regularly throughout the Autumn Term, to ensure we are adhering to Government, Local and Trust guidance. I hope you have all remained safe over the Summer and I look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Yours Sincerely

Headteacher

