



Maryport Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher Mrs J Ormond

'Learn, achieve, shine'

9/7/20

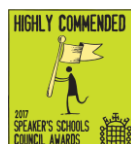
Dear Parents/carers,

Last week, the Government published the latest set of guidelines for the full re-opening of schools in the Autumn term. The guidance document can be found at -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

The document sets out a number of control measures that schools MUST adopt in September along with guidelines for schools to consider adopting in their planning and risk assessments. Having taken all of this on board, we have put together a provisional plan of how we can open to all of our pupils in the Autumn term. **This is, of course, still subject to any further changes the Government may make on 11th August.**

- As a school we must try to minimise the number of contacts a pupil has during the school day and groups of children should have, if possible, no contact with other groups. Staff though can move between groups as necessary to ensure the curriculum is being delivered effectively. We are therefore proposing to split the children into 4 groups – 2 year olds; N/R/Y1; Y2/3/4; Y5/6 with staggered lunch times and breaks so these groups do not mix in the cloakrooms, toilets, yard or dining room.
- In the Autumn term we cannot have our whole school collective worships. We will however continue to worship daily in our classrooms and have our usual focus on the Christian values that underpin our school ethos.
- We must ensure that robust hand washing and respiratory hygiene is promoted. Everyone in school will need to wash and/or sanitise their hands on entry, at break and lunch, after using the toilet and if they move to another room. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' routine for coughs and sneezes will be constantly reinforced with a ready supply of tissues and sanitiser in every room.



- Schools must provide enhanced cleaning routines. As we have done since June 1st, we will continue to have a member of our cleaning team on site for 2 hours during the day to provide extra cleaning of the toilets and main touch points. The dining room will be thoroughly cleaned between each sitting.
- For those children who have their lessons at desks, the tables will all be forward facing and children will sit side by side rather than facing one another. Where the children have more 'free flow' around the room, there is no expectation that the children will need to socially distance so long as robust hygiene routines are in place. There may still be some restrictions on the use of some shared resources eg sand and play-doh.
- In PE lessons, contact sports have been temporarily put on hold. We will continue to have twice weekly PE sessions in other ways and children will be able to come to school in their kits on their PE days to avoid bringing additional bags into school.
- Visitors to school will continue to be restricted although we are ok to welcome back our sports coaches and Mr Clarke, our music teacher.
- To avoid large numbers gathering in the school grounds, we will be introducing staggered drop off and collection times which will be confirmed towards the end of the summer holidays. Other than for our EYFS children, parent will be asked not to enter the building if at all possible.
- For the first part of the Autumn term we will not be offering any after school provision except for that provided by our sports coaches. This will be offered only to one group of pupils initially.
- Breakfast club will be available from Monday 7th September but will be moving into the school dining room where we will be able to keep children from different groups in separate zones. Details of how to access breakfast club will be sent out nearer the time.
- School starts back for all children on Wednesday 2nd September, although our Y3 are invited in on Tuesday 1st at 2pm to meet staff. Children in Nursery and Reception will be having a staggered start to the new school year and a letter has already been sent out about this.
- Our Little Acorns 2 year old provision will resume on Monday 7th September – again we will be in touch nearer the time about the routine for this.

CURRICULUM AND LEARNING

We recognise that the last 3 months will have been, for some children, a very frightening and uncertain time where they may have had lots of anxieties from watching news reports, having ill relatives or even some family bereavements. We know that many of our children have been apart from family and friends for a long time and as such, during the first few



weeks back, we will adopt a 'recovery curriculum' approach looking to build back up relationships, friendships, routines, structure and our identity as a school community again. There will be lots of opportunities for the children to talk about their feelings and experiences of lockdown as well as reflecting on the fantastic efforts of key workers and community volunteers.

Mrs Bell is taking up a new position in September as our Learning Mentor and her role will be to support children who are struggling more than most with their emotions, anxieties or any other barriers to learning. If you feel your child has been particularly affected in any way and may benefit from additional support, please contact us to discuss this in a confidential manner.

We are also very aware that a lot of parents are very anxious about 'lost' learning during the lockdown period. A key thing to remember is that all children have been in a similar position and our job in September is to recognise where the children are and then plan to move them on from their 'new' starting points. The focus will, quite rightly, be on building back up the basics – reading, writing and maths – but we will still offer a broad curriculum to stimulate and enthuse the children to get them back into their learning.

Finally this last few months have been probably the most challenging times anyone has faced in their lifetime. The worry and uncertainty of the effects of the virus on every aspect of life has been enormous. For us as a school, we have tried to maintain some sense of stability by providing the online work and the catch up calls. I would like to publicly pass on my heartfelt thanks to all the staff who have made this possible and to all our parents and children for your continued support, commitment and understanding. As we move into a still uncertain future, I can assure you we will continue to do all we can to make the 'new normal' as happy and rewarding for the children as we possibly can in the circumstances.

I wish every one of our families a lovely summer (hopefully with the sun making a comeback!) and will keep you updated later in August about the new procedures and timings for September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Joanne Ormond

