Dear Parent/Carer,

RE- September 2020 - Full Opening of School

Everyone at Meanwood is really looking forward to welcoming all of our families and children back into school on Thursday 3rd September with the exception of some Nursery children who are having a staggered start and have been informed separately of their starting date.

I write following the guidance released by the Government on 2nd July 2020 and updated on 7th August regarding Full Opening of Schools from September 2020 (please see link below for specific details):

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

A copy of our risk assessments will be available to view on the school website.

**Transition and New Classes 2020/21**

You should have received details regarding your child’s new teacher in their end of year report before the summer holidays. Because of the current situation, we were unable to hold transition events and for children to meet their new teacher and become familiar with their new classroom as we normally would have but we hope that coming back into school on Thursday 3rd September will be an exciting rather than daunting prospect. Staff will be outside ensuring that children are going into the right doors and are with the right teacher – please try and stick to the times below so that we have a smooth transition on the first day.

**‘Bubbles’**

I am sure that you will have heard the Government/ news broadcasters use the term ‘social bubble’. A ‘bubble’ in school is defined as a group of children who have a ‘closer’ physical ‘relationship’ i.e. they spend more time together in the same parts of the school, such as a classroom, canteen or playground. As all schools nationally, Meanwood will be operating a ‘bubble’ system in the new school term. The ‘bubble’ system is essential to identify ‘close contacts’ in the event of a positive test and will be used to inform track and trace, if required.

However, I must stress to parents/carers now, the ‘bubble’ system will result in some changes to how the school day operates both the start/finish of the school day for some children and during the school day. The ‘bubble’ system will require a slightly earlier start time for some pupils and a slightly later finish time for other pupils (based on school year, 2019/20). If you have children in different year groups this may result in a longer waiting time to drop-off and collect but we have tried to minimise this as much as possible. Please see the table on the next page for details – it is really important that you stick to these times; if your child is late being dropped off or collected we will be compromising the bubble system. Please do not arrive too early as we do not want lots of parents or children congregating – one parent/carer per family please to minimise congestion.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year group | Current Class | New Class | Drop off time | Collection time | Door |
| Nursery |  | Nursery | 8:45, 12:30 | 11:45, 3:30 | Nursery door in Surestart entrance |
| Reception | Mixed Nursery Class 2 | RW | 8:50 | 3:15 | RW classroom door on the EYFS playground |
| Mixed Nursery Class 1 | RJ | 8:50 | 3:15 | RJ classroom door near Surestart |
| Year 1 | RBF | 1M | 8:50 | 3:15 | Year 1 door on the playground |
| RJ | 1S | 8:50 | 3:15 | Main entrance to KS1 building |
| Year 2 | 1P | 2P | 8:50 | 3:15 | 2P classroom door (round the back of the KS1 building) |
| 1M | 2BM | 8:50 | 3:15 | 2BM classroom door (round the back of the KS1 building) |
| Year 3 | 2C | 3SCD | 8:45 | 3:10 | Year 3 entrance facing Churchill Street |
| 2H | 3C | 8:50 | 3:15 | Year 3 entrance facing Churchill Street |
| Year 4 | 3S | 4H | 8:45 | 3:10 | KS2 boys entrance up the ramp facing the treehouse |
| 3SH | 4C | 8:45 | 3:10 | Year 6 entrance at the front of KS2 building |
| Year 5 | 4S | 5HF | 8:50 | 3:15 | KS2 boys entrance up the ramp facing the treehouse |
| 4P | 5S | 8:50 | 3:15 | Main entrance to KS2 building |
| Year 6 | 5R | 6Q | 8:50 | 3:15 | Year 6 entrance at the front of KS2 building |
| 5CDF | 6R | 8:55 | 3:20 | Year 6 entrance at the front of KS2 building |

I ask in anticipation, please be patient- school will be working to stringent guidelines to ensure the safety of the whole school community. The ‘bubble’ system will also be used to organise playtimes and lunchtimes.

**The School Curriculum**

The school curriculum (age specific) will be modified slightly in the first half of the autumn term. Pupils’ will be assessed upon school return to inform any necessary changes. It may mean that some subjects are ‘suspended’ until after October half term to focus on early reading and phonics, writing and mathematics.

**Breakfast Club and Tea time club**

We will still continue to operate breakfast ad tea time club (7:50 – 8:50 and 3:15 – 4:30) but due to the need to maintain the ‘bubble’ system we are going to relocate both clubs to the canteen. If you require a place at breakfast club or tea time club, please contact school if you have not already done so to book a place. Breakfast club children will still need to sign in at the office and then will need taking to the canteen by a parent/carer. Tea time club children will need collecting from the canteen.

**Contact**

We very much want to welcome all of our pupils and parents back to school in September but have to be mindful of ensuring the health and safety of our staff. If you need to speak to a teacher you can email them on [home@meanwood.rochdale.sch.uk](mailto:home@meanwood.rochdale.sch.uk) and emails will be forwarded to the correct member of staff. If you need to speak to someone in the office you can phone 01706 648197 or email [office@meanwood.rochdale.sch.uk](mailto:office@meanwood.rochdale.sch.uk) . We will only allow people into school in an emergency and will be encouraging the use of face masks in the reception area – we hope that you understand this position.

**School Uniform**

The school uniform policy has been relaxed to children of key workers and vulnerable pupils over the period of school closure to most children. However, from September, we would like pupils to return to school wearing Meanwood school uniform – white polo shirt/shirt, grey trousers or skirt and a navy blue jumper – this can have the school logo on or be plain. Due to cross contamination of bringing things from home, we request that on PE days your child wears trainers to school (the rest of the time they need to wear black school shoes please) – a PE kit is not needed for at least the first half term. Can I please request that uniform is labelled with your child’s name – we do not want cross contamination from the wrong jumper/coat going home? Children can wear face masks/coverings on the way to school but we would request that they take them off and put them away in a small plastic bag whilst in school. This guidance may change as it has for secondary students in the last 24 hours but we will keep you up to date if things do change.

**School Attendance**

School attendance will again be mandatory in September. School has been instructed to ‘follow up’ on any and every pupil absence. The Local Authority (in liaison with school) will once again be issuing warning notices and fixed penalty fines where applicable, as directed by the Department for Education.

Further information for parents/carers from the DfE re- whole school return in September:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

**FAQs**

Meanwood Primary School is committed to keeping both children and staff members safe once they have returned to school. We would like to inform you about what our school will be doing and what we ask of you as parents or carers if your child or any member of your household shows symptoms of coronavirus (COVID19).

**The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID19) are a recent start of any of the following**

* A new continuous cough
* A high temperature (feel hot to touch on the chest or back
* A loss or change in your normal sense of taste or smell

A **well** child/young person feels 100% well, seems themselves and not displaying any changes in behaviour or their daily routines. .

An **unwell** child could be a possible case of COVID19. Other symptoms that have been linked to COVID are vomiting, diarrhoea, sleeping more than usual, agitated, cold, headaches **-** anything that may indicate they are not feeling themselves.

**Please DO NOT send your child into school if:**

* They are unwell in any way
* Anyone in the household is unwell, awaiting testing or their result, or has been tested positive.

**What happens if a child/young person or member of staff becomes unwell at school?**

As soon as the school is made aware, the child, young person or staff member will be sent home and advised to isolate until the result of the COVID test is known. The school will arrange any necessary cleaning.

**How do I get a test for my child?**

If your child is displaying symptoms of coronavirus, your school will give you details of how to book a test at the local walk-in testing site which is located at the sites below,

To book a test at one of the local walk-in testing centres below call free phone **0808 1964 100** or visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cDovL25ocy51ay9jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cw%3d%3d&r=12900376923&d=11956906&p=1&t=h&h=3adecc8923595f3c364f6f5eaaf39efc) to book)

* Rochdale Town Hall, Packer Street.
* Market Place Car Park next to Middleton Arena, Old Hall Street, Middleton M24 1AG.
* Heywood Civic Centre

The sites are open **from 8am to 8pm seven days a week** and you must arrive on foot, by bike or in a car. – Please do not use public transport to get to the site. Face coverings are mandatory for ages 3yrs and above, and must be worn at all times during visit to testing site.

**A regional testing site** is situated at Manchester Airport Staff South, Altrincham WA15 8XJ.

To access test site the person must drive. There is no option to use public transport, walk or take a taxi. If you can’t drive you can arrange for a household member only to drive  through the test site and person to be tested should sit in the passenger seat behind the driver

**Home testing**

Home testing is aimed specifically at people who cannot get to test sites and can be arranged at <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>

A test can also be booked on the NHS website using the link below which provides you options for either a drive-through test, for which you or someone you live with must have a car to get to a regional test site or you can request for a home testing kit for yourself and anyone else you live with who has coronavirus symptoms. There is an identity check for home test kits.

[**https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test**](https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test)

Please ensure you inform the school when you have the test result, whether positive or negative.

**What happens if a child, young person or staff member at the school has symptoms?**

If anyone in school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste of smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and book a test.

* The person should isolate for a minimum of 10 days, or until the test
* Members of their household should self-isolate for 14 days. The 14 days is the time it takes for symptoms to show if you have been infected.

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. The rest of the bubble need not be sent home unless the child or adult has a positive test result returned.

**What happens if a child, young person or staff member at the school tests positive**?

Guidance states that:-

*Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms*. Therefore, children/staff in their bubble need to be sent home only if the child/adult has a positive test result.

* The person should isolate for a minimum of 10 days, or until the test
* Members of their household should self-isolate for 14 days. The 14 days is the time it takes for symptoms to show if you have been infected.
* The rest of their bubble/class/group within their school (children and adults) will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days (and offered testing if symptoms develop).
* The other household members who live with the contacts in the bubble/class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms

**If my child tests positive, do I need to tell people they have been in contact with?**

Yes. You need to log onto the NHS Test and Trace portal <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk/> and share details of all their close contacts. All close contacts (household, school related or any other close contacts) will receive a letter, a phone call or a text to advise them to self-isolate. Please also ensure that the School Head has been informed.

**What happens if my child tests negative?**

Your child can return to school when they are 48 hours symptom free. Household members can end their isolation straight away following the negative test, unless someone else in the household is waiting for the result of their test.

**What do I need to do if either myself or my child has been in ‘contact’ with somebody who has tested positive**

A ‘contact’ is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others).

For example, a contact can be:

* People who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
* Close personal relationships/partners
* A person who has had face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), including: being coughed on, having a face-to-face conversation within one metre, or having skin-to-skin physical contact, or any contact within one metre for one minute or longer
* A person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) for more than 15 minutes
* A person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

In a schools/setting context, all children/staff in the classroom ‘bubble’ will be classed as a close contact and others will be assessed on a case by case basis. If you or your child falls into one of the categories above of a contact, they must self-isolate at home because you are at risk of developing symptoms in the next 14 days and could spread the virus to others before the symptoms begin. If you have concerns for your health, contact your GP or NHS 111 online. In an emergency, contact 999.

**What happens if somebody in the wider school community tests positive?**

If a member of the wider school community (e.g. a parent/carer, a member of our cleaning staff, a governor) tests positive, they should let the school know immediately to identify if the confirmed case attended the setting in the 48 hours before the onset of their symptoms (or the date of the test). No further action is required in the school/setting if the person did not attend during that time when they could have been infectious. Contact tracing will take place with the person testing positive to understand the other types of contact the individual may have had both in school and out of school.

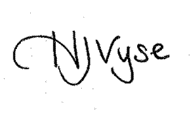
We would like reiterate ways to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease and the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

* Maintain physical distancing and to stay 2 metres from apart from others (except family members)
* Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gathering
* Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
* Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
* Wash your hands as soon as you get home
* Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
* Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
* Keep your hands away from your face (eyes, nose and mouth)

Please keep this letter for future reference. We would like to reassure you that we are doing all we can to keep your children safe and we thank you in advance for following this advice and guidance.

We hope you have had an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing everyone back in on 3rd September. Stay safe.

Kind regards,



Mrs HJ Vyse

Headteacher