



Mereside Primary Academy
 Langdale Road,
 Blackpool,
 FY4 4RR
Phone: 01253 761531 (School)
Email: admin@mereside.fcat.org.uk

Head of School: Ms S. Upton

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may have seen on our Facebook page, we are delighted with the announcement this week that ALL children will be returning to school on Monday 8th March. School hasn't been the same without everyone and we can't wait to see everyone again. We are also looking forward to welcoming back our Nursery children who have not accessed our provision through lockdown. For those families who borrowed a school device for remote learning and access to Google Classroom further information about how to return these will be sent out next week.

School Reopening:

All Covid related measures which were put in place for the Autumn Term will continue when school opens fully on the 8th March. Please see below key questions and answers...

What time will my child start and finish school?

It is important that children arrive and are picked up at their allocated time and that parents leave the site as soon as their child has entered school. Please remember that school is compulsory again from 8th March 2021 and Blackpool authority, through our allocated Pupil Welfare Officer, will monitor attendance closely. Please make sure all children are back in school, and on time from Monday 8th March and remember that nationally all children are expected to achieve an attendance of 96% or above (excluding lockdown periods).

Class:	Start Time and Entrance	Finish time (Exit through the same door they entered)
Reception	8.45am – Classroom door	3.10pm
R/1P	8.45am – Classroom door	3.10pm
1M	8.35am – Classroom door	3pm
2R	8.40am – Classroom door	3.05pm
3/4 P	8.40am – Classroom door	3.05pm
3/4 SP	8.45am – Classroom door	3.10pm
3/4 KR	8.35am – Classroom door	3pm
5/6 C	8.35am – KS2 Playground	3pm
5/6 B	8.40am – KS2 Playground	3.05pm
5/6 M	8.45am – KS2 Playground	3.10pm

Will there be before school and after school provision?

Yes, before school and after school provision will resume from Monday 8th March. After school club runs from 3.15pm-5.30pm and is £5.50 per child per day and £8.75 per child per day for nursery aged children. Breakfast club runs from 7.35am-8.35am and is £3 per child per day. We can only accommodate 8 children maximum at the moment for Breakfast club, so if you require a place, please let us know in advance. Fees are added into Parent Pay and must be paid for on a weekly or monthly basis. If fees have not been paid for at the end of each month, you will lose your child's place until fees have been

paid. If you have not yet set up your parent pay account, please contact us next week and we will be able to help you.

If you require a place for either of these provisions please contact the office on 761531.

Will my free school meal vouchers continue?

Free school meal vouchers will **not** be sent out after next week as these will come to an end when children return to school on the 8th March.

Will parents be allowed in school?

We will unfortunately have to continue to close the school building to parents. Hopefully this won't be for long. Therefore, there will be no assemblies as we can't hold whole school gatherings and it also means you will be unable to pop in to speak to staff. However, we are here for you so please don't sit at home and dwell on things if something is worrying you or you have information you need to pass on. We can still use the phone and write an email so make sure you stay in touch!

Will different classes have different playtimes?

Lunchtimes and playtimes will be staggered for each phase. Therefore, school will remain in the same bubbles which were in place in Autumn Term. These different groups will have different times and areas to play within the school.

What will happen when eating their lunch?

Nursery and Reception will eat their Lunch in the hall as usual. However, all other year groups will be served in their classrooms so we don't have children walking around school and all visiting the hall etc.

Does my child have to wear a face mask?

No. The Government advice is that children of primary school age should not wear a face mask. However, as a school we have decided that it is your individual choice if you wish your child to wear a mask. However, if a mask is worn this must be washed each day before they wear it for school the following day to ensure additional germs are not brought into school. All staff will continue to wear a mask in communal areas. All parents when dropping off or picking up should also wear a facemask once they enter school grounds.

What additional hygiene procedures / cleaning will take place?

- All children will be provided with their own equipment that they may need during the school day. They will not be sharing resources.
- Equipment used by children will be cleaned frequently.
- Children will be supervised to wash their hands regularly, hand sanitiser will also be provided.
- Classrooms will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Children will be working in the same place for the days they are in school and will not be moving around, unless to go outside.
- Soft furnishings have been removed where possible to aid cleaning.
- No more than one child at a time will be able to access the toilet blocks to ensure social distancing at hand basins/travelling to/from the toilet blocks.

What will happen at drop off and pick up times?

- Start and finish times will be staggered to prevent too many parents being on the playground at one time.
- Different year groups will have a different entrance into school.
- School ask that children arrive/leave school promptly to prevent too many adults/children gathering at any one time.

- School ask that where possible only one adult pick up/drop off.
- Please do not arrive earlier/be later than your designated time.

What should my child bring into school? What if they have an inhaler etc?

- A packed lunch if they are not on school dinners.
- A coat if needed.
- Your child will not be allowed to bring anything else into school. Unfortunately there will initially be no reading books to be able to sent home but this will continued to be reviewed as it is important to get children reading.
- If your child has an inhaler or other medication please make sure this is labelled with your child's name and hand this to the class teacher.

What happens if my child is ill?

- In line with government guidance if your child or any one in the household shows signs of COVID-19 they must self isolate. Symptoms are high temperature and/or a new persistent cough or a sudden loss of taste and smell.
- If anyone tests positive for COVID-19 Public Health England will be immediately informed and necessary steps taken. Parents will be informed.
- You must inform the school that your child will be absent.

What happens if a child can't follow the new guidelines and doesn't follow instructions?

- Any incidents of unsafe or high level behaviour/ refusal to do as asked in a situation that goes against government guidelines will result in an immediate phone call home and consequences put in place.

So, what are the main procedures in place for whole school opening?

A quick summary of the key points:

- All children are expected back into school on March 8th. **This is compulsory again.**
- Bubbles will continue to be in place.
- Only 1 adult to drop off wherever possible to reduce the number of adults on site
- The increased cleaning regime will continue with all classrooms, communal areas, handrails, toilets etc having additional cleaning during the day. This is on top of the normal deep clean at the end of each school day
- Staggered drop offs, pick-ups, playtimes and lunchtimes will be in place
- Increased hand washing and sanitizing for all through the day including every time you enter the building
- No whole school gatherings, assemblies etc until further notice
- Parents and visitors will be unable to enter the building. We are still here for you though so please email or phone the office
- No after school activities, hopefully it won't be too long before we can start these again!

Where can I find the full risk assessment for school?

Please find the complete risk assessment on our website.

Competition Winners:

We hope you enjoyed your virtual school trip on the last day of term. We have had many entries into our competition and I am delighted to announce the winners as...

Nursery – Tine P
 Reception – Ese E
 R/1P – Kian P-R

1M – Charley H
2R – Jasmine S
3/4P – Liam M
3/4KR – Victoria K
3/4SP – Amelia H
5/6C – Liam B
5/6M – Jenny H
5/6B – Summer P

Well done to all of our winners, there will be a little surprise for you when you all return to school!

World Book Day:

Next Thursday (4th March) is World Book Day. We have many fun activities planned for the day and these will be shared with you by your teachers on Friday morning. We can't wait to see some brilliant photos of your work!

Stars of the Week:

This week's lockdown stars are...

Early Years bubble:

Remote Learners – **Tine** for putting an amazing effort into everything she does and **Hunter** for working so hard. You've been a star!

School based – **Alyssa** for being so independent and being a superstar with her toilet training and **Joshua** for approaching everything with enthusiasm and a smile to light up the room!

Year 1/2 bubble:

Remote Learners – **Tilly** for always handing in her work and accessing google classroom independently and **Connor** for working hard every day and with beautiful presentation. You've both got a super attitude!

School based – **Alfie** for being a maths whizz and creating a super silly scene in literacy and **AJ** for having such a positive attitude and working hard in school.

Year 3/4 bubble:

Remote Learners – **Jack** for some amazing Wellbeing Wednesday work and **Harlee** for some brilliant work about Jesus. Well done both of you!

School based – **Noah** and **Kasey** for both working so well with their peers in group tasks and being so enthusiastic all week. You were both stars!

Year 5/6 bubble:

Remote Learners – **Jazmine** for an amazing titanic themed project. We have all been so impressed and **Robbie** for an outstanding piece of Pablo Picasso artwork on jam board. Again, we were so impressed! Also, to **Daniel** for always being so organised, he certainly keeps everyone else up to date!

School based – **Ruby** for trying so hard to have super attitude to learning and wanting to achieve well in all subjects – Well done!

WELL DONE to all our stars this week. We have so many more that it could have been though so look out for your name next week!

Stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Ms S Upton
Headteacher

