

Wednesday 24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Whole School Re-opening Monday 8th March 2021

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 22nd February, the staff at Milverton Community Primary School and Pre-school are all very much looking forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 8th March. The Government has said clearly that school attendance will now be mandatory for all pupils.

Our procedures for re-opening to all pupils will be very similar to our start back in September 2020. This letter is a reminder of those procedures to help you prepare yourselves and your child or children for their return to school. Once again, the information and plans I am sharing have been drawn up based on statutory guidance from the Department for Education and Public Health England. There is up-to-date guidance from the government available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yasc7m4d> I wish to be clear that primary school pupils are not expected to wear face-coverings in school, and any that do should have their name clearly written on it, and also have a named plastic bag in which to store it.

If the return to school seems difficult after so long away, there is more help from Somerset County Council on how to prepare yourself and your child mentally here: www.healthysomerset.co.uk/covid-19/happy/cyp/

The concept of 'pods' or 'bubbles' (the terms are interchangeable) is still highly important in separating the children to reduce mixing and possible spread of Covid-19. It also enables us to understand which children might need to isolate if there is an outbreak of cases, i.e. we can shut down a bubble and keep children and associated families at home if there is an outbreak, rather than shut the whole school.

Wherever possible children will be kept in their class bubbles to reduce mixing, however we have created bubbles across classes to enable our school to function on a daily basis, especially at social times (break times, lunch times and during before and after school clubs).

Once again, there will be 5 'bubbles' of children:

- Pre-school
- Class R
- Year 1 and 2
- Year 3 and 4
- Year 5 and 6

The children will not mix with children from other bubbles whilst at school, and I would like to remind you that there should not be mixing of children from different households outside of school for casual playdates or sleepovers, unless this is done as a formal and long-lasting 'support bubble' arrangement. The adults in school may, however, work across different bubbles but this will be kept to a minimum. Handwashing will be embedded throughout the day and every time the children re-join the classroom from playtime / lunchtime.

If a child falls ill with Covid symptoms at school they will be isolated from their bubble and cared for until they can be collected, as soon as possible, from school. Public Health England's procedures for containing and limiting the spread of the virus to others in their bubble will be followed. If any member of your family who lives in your house, or with whom you have had contact recently, starts

to feel unwell with symptoms such as a high temperature, continuous or persistent cough, or loss of smell or taste, please keep your child at home and inform the school office immediately. People displaying symptoms will not be allowed to enter the school premises. Anyone displaying symptoms will be encouraged to telephone 119 to speak with medical professionals. If your household is affected, we ask that you telephone or email the school office to let us know.

To reduce the number of people congregating on the school site, **only one adult should drop-off or pick-up**. For their own safety, the less time adults spend on-site the better, and **all adults on-site must wear a face-covering**. There must be no gathering on-site. Please enter and leave as quickly as possible. Any time spent on-site (e.g. queuing to collect children) must be socially distant. Please walk or cycle to school whenever possible. Children must bring in only the bare minimum of things from home to minimise the potential for transmission of Covid-19. For example: coat with hood if wet, lunch box, water in a refillable drink bottle, bookbag (and personal reading book from home for free-readers). Please bring in only trainers (clearly marked with your child's name) for PE kit. No other PE kit is required, in the first instance, although we will keep this under review. Please do not send in pencil cases from home.

There will be no admittance to the school site for parents unless you have an appointment booked and arranged in advance with your child's class teacher. We regret that we have to do this to minimise the potential spread of Covid-19. If you need to contact the school, please email or telephone the school office.

Uniform: School uniform is to be worn when the children return, please. As before, new sweatshirts and cardigans must now be ordered from Taunton Uniforms who are our stockists. Orders can be made online from their website and they will deliver to you for a small charge. Full details of our uniform are available here: <https://www.milvertonprimary.co.uk/Parents/uniform>

The structure of the day:

Early morning club will be available **for pre-booked children only** from 8.15am every day. Please bring these children to the main school entrance. This door will be monitored by a member of the Senior Leadership Team each day. The children will then go to the correct bubble classroom where another member of staff will be on duty. The children will complete quiet activities until 8.40am when other children will begin to arrive.

Beginning of the School Day: Children not booked into the Early Morning Club can only arrive at school between 8.40am and 9am. Different 'bubbles' will again have different entrances.

- Pre-school children must be brought to the door of the pre-school building;
- Class R /1 /2 – through the main double gate on to the infant playground;
- Class 3 / 4 – through the gate at the bottom of the slope near the year 4 classroom;
- Class 5/6 - through the gate on footpath by Class 2.

Parking must be in the large parents' car park. The turning circle is for very short duration drop-off only- cars must not be parked and left there because this will cause unnecessary congestion. For the protection of everyone connected with the school, parents are not allowed on to the school playgrounds or classrooms and you must say goodbye to your children at the school gate. Parents must not linger anywhere on the school site and, if bringing a car onto the site, must exit as soon as possible to ensure that there is space for everyone to park.

For a reminder, PLEASE SEE OUR VIDEO HERE: https://youtu.be/Sud_ZlfhZcs

On arrival the children will be helped to wash their hands / use hand sanitizer by the teachers or teaching assistants in their class.

Playtime:

The children will have playtimes according to their bubbles, and playtimes will be staggered to reduce the amount of mixing between the bubbles.

Lunchtime: All classroom tables will be cleaned at the end of the morning session.

Pre-school children must bring a packed lunch that they will eat in the pre-school building.

Class R, Class 1 and Class 2 will have their lunch in the hall and will have a designated area for their lunch table(s). Class R will be separated as much as possible from the other bubbles to keep their distance. **Hot school lunches or packed lunches will be available from Kingsmead kitchens by order, in advance, for these classes.**

Children in classes 3, 4, 5 & 6 will eat their packed lunches in their classrooms. **ONLY packed lunches will be available to order from Kingsmead by these classes because hot food cannot be served in the classrooms. A separate email regarding lunches will be sent to you.**

Lunchtimes will be broken down into 2 half hour sessions – 30 minutes to eat and 30 minutes play. The children will be separated into their bubbles and playtimes outside will be staggered to avoid mixing.

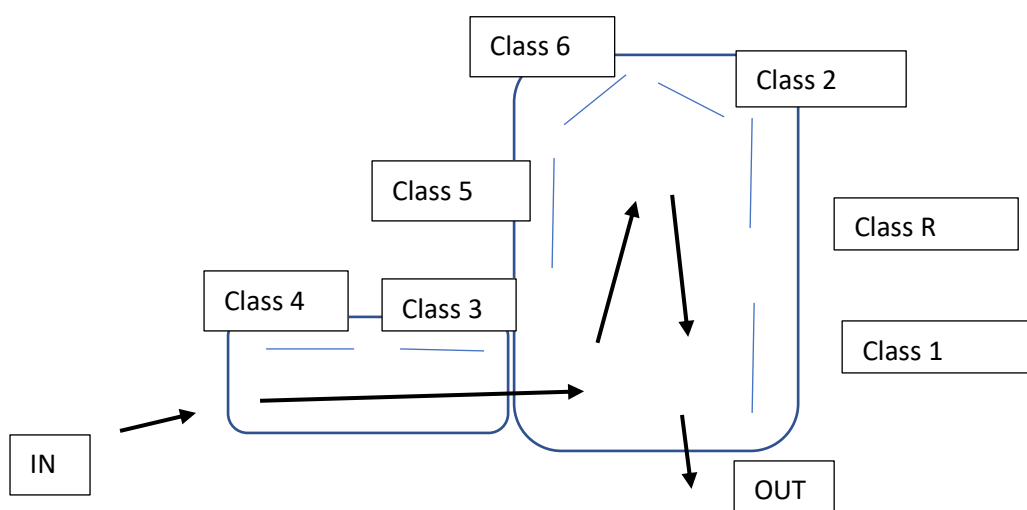
The Curriculum: We will endeavour to deliver as broad and balanced a curriculum as possible, whilst also adhering to important guidelines to clean shared equipment between use by different bubbles. This will naturally take longer to do and mean we have to work differently. There will be no swimming for the rest of the spring term. We are unlikely to return in the summer term either unless there is further safety guidance enabling us to do so safely.

End of the day:

PROCEDURES WILL BE THE SAME AS IN THE AUTUMN TERM - PLEASE SEE OUR VIDEO FOR A REMINDER (as mentioned previously) HERE: https://youtu.be/Sud_ZlfhZcs

We would be very grateful if you could communicate these arrangements to other carers (e.g. child-minders, grandparents etc) to save them from embarrassment and confusion.

We will maintain the one-way system for pick up. Parents will line up on foot in a snaked line around the staff car park, staying socially distant. You must enter via the gate by Class 4, pick up your child/children who will be ready for you on the playground, and exit quickly via the double gate at the top of the slope on the infant playground. Entry will only be via the Class 4 gate, and **exit only via the double gate.**



Pre-school parents will collect their children from outside pre-school and, if necessary, join the queue to collect schoolchildren.

Parents / Children will continue with the collection time based on the letter at the start of your surname so that whole families can be collected at once and leave rapidly:

Surname starts with:	Pre-school	School
A – G	2.50pm	3pm
H – M	3pm	3.10pm
N – Z	3.10pm	3.20pm

Where there are families with children with different surnames, please collect at the time of the earliest child (i.e. the first occurring surname in the alphabet).

After-school Club (Bubble Club):

These will again be available only if booked in advance. Children who have a pre-booked place will be able to stay at school in their bubbles at the end of each school day until 4:30pm. There will be a range of play, craft and sports activities available to them. Children should be collected at 4:30pm from the double gate that leads onto the infant playground. An online clubs booking form will be sent to you.

School staff were delighted with the teamwork and co-operation from you, the parents, when we reopened in September. Thank you! Once again, we will need your co-operation to make this work well, for everyone's safety.

We politely request that you keep changes to the end of the day routines to an absolute minimum to help staff keep your child safe. If you have to make changes, please phone or email the office as soon as you can to give us maximum notice.

As you would expect, we will keep these plans under review; the only real certainty over this last year is that things are likely to change suddenly! However, I know that the staff are all very keen to see our school come back together again – this time for good, we hope – and we are looking forward to welcoming you all again on Monday 8th March.

Even in these dark times, light can always be found and I am delighted to be able to let you know that Mrs Atterton is expecting a baby in May! Mrs McDonagh and Mrs Cutler will be teaching Class 1 for the remainder of the spring term, and Mrs McDonagh will continue to cover until the end of the school year in July.

With best wishes,

Richard Stead

Headteacher