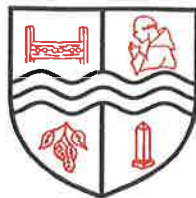


# Monkton C.E. Primary School

Mrs W Stone  
Executive Headteacher  
Tel / Fax: 01843 821394



Monkton Street  
Monkton  
Ramsgate  
Kent CT12 4JQ

4 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer/Guardian,

## Term 3 Return to School

Firstly, may I wish you and your families a very healthy and happy New Year, I do hope that you were able to have the best Christmas possible in the current circumstances.

As you will be aware the Government has made its most recent announcement regarding schools and Monkton is open today as planned. The Thanet district is not in the list of Tier 4 schools which will have a delayed start. We are aware of some schools closing in our locality and know that this is due to staffing issues. At this point, we are currently fully staffed and will remain open unless the staffing situation changes or KCC/Government change the directive.

Throughout the pandemic we have had a rigorous Risk Assessment in place and consider through the diligence of the whole school community in minimising the risks that Covid poses to us all, we have been fortunate thus far to have avoided closing any bubbles or indeed the school. As there have been new developments over the holiday, we have reviewed our procedures in the light of these and adjusted our Risk Assessment to mitigate risk accordingly.

We understand that schools opening after the considerable media coverage of the new Covid variant will have caused our school family mixed emotions and a great deal of concern and worry.

I fully understand your concerns and can reassure you that we will do all we can to continue to mitigate the risk to our school community. However, I know that I cannot guarantee that we are Covid Free, no school can and realise that some families may choose not to send their children into school. Please be aware that I cannot authorise absences if parents choose not to send their children in, unless they are self-isolating or shielding. However, we will not be fining parents for un-authorised absence at this exceptional time.

If families choose to keep their children away from school and the child's class is open, we cannot provide remote learning, as the teachers will be in school teaching the class. If this is case for your family, please look at the Oak Academy for live lessons and BBC online learning and share books with your children. The curriculum newsletters for each class will be with you by Friday, and these will give you an outline of what your children would be studying within Term 3. I am sorry that we cannot provide resources for children unless they fulfil the criteria below:

*\*in line with Kent and DfE guidance, home learning may only be provided for children who are shielding/ self-isolating due to a positive test, awaiting the outcome of a test or have had contact with Covid 19, and not for those children whose absence is unauthorised as explained above.*

Please rest assured that if you have chosen to send your child to school today, we will do everything within our power to ensure that they are happy and safe with us. Therefore, we ask that you strictly adhere to the following as your child returns to school:

- Do not send your child to school if they have any of the Covid 19 symptoms
- Always err on the side of caution if you feel your child is unwell, and keep them at home until you are sure that they are not developing Covid symptoms, or are at all contagious with another illness



- Follow the self-isolation guidance if a member of your family has symptoms or is a contact and do not send pupils until that period of isolation has finished
- Do not send your child into school if you, your child or a contact are waiting for test results
- Notify the school office or Mrs Wilson if you are self-isolating if anyone in the family is testing for Covid 19 – we need to have the result outcome of that test either by telephone or email.
- Wear a mask at all times when you are on the school site - due to the close proximity of the pathways outside school, it may be prudent to wear it until you are in your car or at home.
- Follow the one-way system in place through the grounds
- Socially distance from other families during pickup and drop off times
- Maintain a safe distance at all time from school staff
- Adhere to Pod pickup and drop off times
- Only 1 adult to attend school for pickup and drop off each day
- Contact with school should be by telephone or email at all times

In line with World Health Organisation guidelines ventilation of the school building is an essential measure to mitigate the risk of Covid 19 spread. This is carried out mostly during playtimes and lunchtimes in an effort to keep temperatures in school at a comfortable level. However, it would be prudent that your child wears plenty of layers and has a warm coat in school.

As a Kent school we are trying to walk a difficult line, ensuring our school is as safe as it can be for all of our school community. It has been really heartening to receive the support and commitment from our families and we thank you for this.

I hope that all of you remain happy and healthy and I look forward to continuing our work together this term.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K A Wilson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

K A Wilson (Mrs)  
Head of School