

Monkton C. E. Primary School



Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We Welcome You ALL Back to School!!!

We are so pleased that it is finally time for everyone to return to school! For some children this has been a very long time coming. Now it's time for a return to normal learning and the chance to socialise with friends again. At the end of the Summer Term, I sent out guidance as it stood at that point. This is a recap on the guidance we all need to follow and an update in line with the latest changes/updates from the DFE that have happened over the summer holidays.

Please do not worry about children being behind in their learning due to the Covid 19 outbreak. The work provided in terms 4, 5 and 6, whether this was in school or home learning, will provide an important stepping stone to the new curriculum for the coming year. However, rest assured that all children will be supported to make any catch up progress needed over the coming terms. We know that children will have had a very varied experience with home learning and will ensure that support and guidance is in place for them. Please find attached some links sent out by the DFE to support families with the reintegration back to full time education:

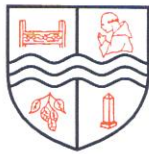
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools-/resources/parents-leaflets/>

Essential Measures Outlined for Schools by the DFE

- A requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- Formal consideration of how to reduce your contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination, so far as is reasonably practicable (Class Pods)
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace. I have put an updated link for the DFE guidance on our school website - this shows in detail the current expectations (see Covid 19 information).

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Below are additional details to my updates in July. I hope you find them clear and support us in their implementation, to ensure the safety for all. It will be a challenge scaling up by almost 50% and still maintaining the necessary safety measures, but with the, 'Team Monkton' attitude, I am sure we will be very successful!

Attendance

ALL children must attend school again in September. School attendance will be compulsory - the Government has outlined its expectation for all schools to adopt normal expectations for attendance.

Start and End of the Day

The Government advice is to implement a staggered start/end time to the day. This is to reduce congestion and to aid social distancing. We trialled this prior to the summer break. A massive thank you to all of our parents/carers who have been extremely supportive of the school and of each other. Parent/carers have been amazing in supporting the social distancing at the school gates and this makes things so much easier for us - thanks.

Start of the Day

- Pod 4 - Years 5/6 8:40am
- Pod 3 - Years 3/4 8:50am
- Pod 2 - Year 1/2 9am
- Pod 1 - EYFS 9:10am

SLT and TAs will be on the playground ready to greet your children each morning and direct them to their classes.

End of the Day

- Pod 1 - EYFS to leave at 2:45pm
- Pod 2 - Years 1/2 to leave at 2:50pm
- Pod 3 - Years 3/4 to leave at 3:00pm
- Pod 4 - Years 5/6 to leave at 3:10pm

Once you have dropped off your child, please move quickly away from the gates and fence line so that parents/carers and children can maintain social distancing.

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End of the Day

Whilst the start of the day is easier to manage, pick up time is much more challenging. It is impossible to have the same pick up time for all and ensure social distancing for our children, staff and parents/carers. Please pick your child up at the allotted time and if you have more than one child in school pick up at the eldest child's pick-up time. For instance, if you have a Year 2 child and a Year 5 child please arrive for a Year 5 3:10pm pick up. Collecting the Year 2 child and then moving to Class 4 for the Year 5 child. This will enable us to limit the disruption to classes as far as possible.

Lunches

Hot school dinners will be available from September and can be booked in the usual way. Free School Meals and Universal Free School Meals for EYFS and KS1 children will operate as normal.

Uniform

Full school uniform will need to be worn from September. The DFE guidance has changed and they advise that clothing doesn't need daily washing, so uniform can once again be in place. PE kits can therefore remain in school and be used as normal.

Clubs

We will not be running after school clubs in Term 1 but will assess this as we progress and let you know when our normal schedule of clubs starts up again.

Breakfast Club

We will be contacting parents/carers next week to ascertain the numbers interested in attending our very popular Breakfast Club. Once we have this in place and staffing we would like to restart Breakfast Club as soon as possible. Once again, I am pleased to announce that Warburton's will be sponsoring our club and so the price will remain at £2 per child, per session.

Break/Lunch

These will be staggered to give the children plenty of room to play. They will play within their designated zone as a class. Children will not be able to mix with pupils from other pods. Children will have designated play equipment for use within their pod. Supervision at play and lunch will be by the Class TA's.

PE

Children will be doing PE as normal, but this will be based outside as much as possible. Where weather dictates, the hall will be used with the appropriate social distancing measures in place. You will have already received information about the days your child does PE but as a rule, they should have PE kit in school all week so that it is available if needed.

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Facemasks/Coverings

Children and staff are not expected to wear face coverings whilst in school. Guidance suggests that risk of transmission in school is very low and this combined with the school safety measures negates their use. Staff will wear full PPE when dealing with suspected Covid 19 case or for first aid that can't be dealt with by the staff in that pod.

Virtual Collective Worship

Children will still not be able to gather in large groups, so whole school Collective Worship will not be able to happen in the hall. We will however deliver whole school Collective Worship virtually, so that children can access these in their pods. As a Church of England school, Collective Worship is a very important part of school life, so we are really pleased to be able to still engage children as a whole school, albeit in a slightly different way.

Additional Guidance

It is important that all children, staff, parents/carers and visitors to the school follow the rules and guidance from school to the letter. This is for the safety of everyone and enables us to open the school confident in the knowledge that we are all doing our very best to minimise risk. This re-opening of school requires all parties to understand some key principles that minimise risk:

- You must report immediately any Covid 19 symptoms of your family members, friends or work colleagues that you and your child may have come into contact with
- No parents/carers or visitors to come onto the school site - please telephone or email if you need to speak to a member of staff
- Please only one adult to drop off/collect per family
- Please drop off and pick up at your allotted time, punctuality is key to facilitating social distancing
- Please work with your child to reinforce the social distancing and hygiene rules
- Book bags can be brought into school, no other personal belongings other than a lunch box, water bottle, coat, reading book and PE kit please
- Please continue to socially distance as you move away from the school premises
- Please be aware that if a supervising staff member is ever concerned about what they see with regards to social distancing they will issue a friendly reminder.

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We are well aware that coming back into school for those children who have been away for some time will be daunting, we will do our very best to re-assure your child and make them feel safe and settled. The school that they are coming back into is not the same as when they left it and the curriculum may need to reflect this as we get children back into learning and routine again. Well-being and fostering that feeling of security will be top of the list on our agenda in the early days.

Here is a summary of some of the changes our children will encounter:

- There are social distancing markers on the floor to indicate places where this can be achieved and also show the one-way system around school
- All soft furnishings and soft toys have been put into storage
- The classrooms look very different, furniture is reduced in all classes and sides are clear for ease of cleaning
- Some play equipment is not able to be used, toys outside that cannot be easily cleaned will no longer be available
- Each child will have certain allocated equipment that they use regularly. This will be in their own tray and will be provided by the school
- Children will be table based where this suits the curriculum content
- Tables will be in rows and facing forward - these are distanced within the classroom
- Handwashing will be increased and pupils will be expected to wash hands on entry to school, regularly during the day, at meal times and before they go home
- We have lots of signs up around the school to help everyone stay safe and remind us all how to keep ourselves and others safe
- Lunch will be in the classroom for classes 1, 3 and 4. Class 2 have a high number of hot lunches taken and so it is sensible that they eat in the hall
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be for class pods, children will not be able to play with friends or siblings in other pods
- The classroom will be cleaned down and sanitized regularly during the day
- When children go into the toilet they must socially distance accordingly

Behaviour

So that children are clear on what is expected of them we have some new rules to keep everyone safe. We will be reminding the children of these rules on a regular basis so that they are able to follow and remember them with ease. Those children who require additional support in the understanding of these rules will receive this from their class adults.

- I will not mix with children in a different pod in school
- I will not touch other children and will try to stay 1m+ away from others
- I will regularly wash my hands for 20 seconds
- I will tell an adult if I feel unwell

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- I will only bring things from home that I'm allowed to
- I will tell an adult when I need to use the toilet
- I will use the catch it, bin it, kill it, rule when coughing and sneezing
- I will cough or sneeze into my elbow if I do not have a tissue
- I will use my 'indoor' voice at all times
- I will follow the rules at all times to maintain my own safety and the safety of others

I know this list may seem daunting and very long. It is in line with Government Guidelines and ensures that the school fulfills its duty of care to the best of its ability. We are taking every possible step that we can to ensure the safety of all of our school community.

Local Outbreaks

If we do get a local outbreak we may be instructed to close the school. We will obviously keep you informed should there be a threat of this happening. If the school does close again we will resume the home learning previously in place to ensure there isn't a break in the educational offer available to your children.

New EYFS

After this week's induction activities, we look forward to welcoming our Reception children into school from Monday 7th September. A big welcome to you all!

And finally,

The school is a much better place when it is full of children eager to learn and enjoying the social time and friendships. For some the isolation and segregation from other children has been a long and lonely time. We hope that a return to school and the curriculum we have in place supports all of our children both socially and educationally so that they can get back on track very quickly.

Together we can make this work; together we can keep each other safe.

In short, it's great to have you all back!

Kind regards,

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

Mrs Karon Wilson
Head of School/Inclusion Manager