

Morton Primary School

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21 May 2020

Important update to opening of School for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from my telephone conversations with the parents of children in reception, Year 1 and Year 6, I am now in a position to give parents who have requested a place for their child more information.

School is to open on June 1st as per the government guidelines. However, this is subject to change if the advice from government and unions change this. We are told we will not be given confirmation of this until 28th May and so I will **only** contact parents if there is a change to school being open on this date.

We have tried to make the opening as safe as we can for everybody. Government advice to schools states: “early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.” and “Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended.”

By sending your child into school you are agreeing to the fact that whilst we will try wherever possible to keep children 2 meters apart this may prove impossible to achieve.

I have outlined the measures we are putting in place to minimise the risk.

We have been working with DCC Health & Safety department and have completed all the risk assessments.

Children will be grouped into 3 bubbles with adults allocated to each bubble.

They will remain in their bubble throughout the day and will not mix or interact with children or adults from other bubbles.

They will have separate lunch and break times to other bubbles to keep contact with others to a minimum.

Staff will promote good hygiene - children to wash hands regularly and at key transitions throughout the day (start of day, before and after breaks and leaving). Also sprays and paper towels will be provided so that surfaces can be cleaned regularly.

Hand gel will be available in each bubble.

Each bubble will be allocated an initial set of outdoor play/sports equipment to reduce cross contamination.

Initially it is planned to **not stagger the start and finish time to the school day** due to the number of children expected back into school but this may change.

We will start the day at **9:00 am with the gates open from 8:45** am to minimise contact during drop off. All children apart from Year 6 will use the top gate. Year 6 will only use the bottom gate.

An adult from your child's bubble **will meet them on the playground** and direct them to class.

The gate will **close at 9:00 am** prompt.

Any children arriving after the gate is closed will have to come into school through the main entrance.

The **school day will finish at 3:00 pm** and children will need to be collected from the large playground.

If you wish your child to leave school at the end of the day without being collected **permission needs to be given** to school for them to leave alone without being handed over to an adult.

Government guidance states that children should be wearing freshly washed clothes each day. Due to this advice **we will not insist on school uniform** instead we will ask for children to be appropriately dressed for outdoors including trainers for PE.

We also request you **send your child into school with a cap or sun hat** for when we are outside. This needs to be everyday as they may not be allowed outside without this and this will cause problems for the other children in their bubble.

Could you **ensure your child comes to school with sun cream already applied** as we will no longer be allowed to apply this?

School **will provide all equipment that your child needs** and this will be cleaned daily.

No bags will be allowed in school to reduce contamination.

Labels will be numbered and delegated to each child.

In the Reception class soft toys and furnishing and resources that are difficult to clean have been covered or removed.

Reception and Year 1 **will not be provided with a snack** as usual due to our suppliers not yet delivering back to schools. Should they start to deliver again we will then start to provide the snacks.

Each child (age appropriate) will have their own designated work space within their bubble but bear in mind **social distancing may not be possible**.

Due to staggered lunch times **we will not be providing hot dinners and instead we will be having packed lunches only**.

If your child is entitled to universal free school meals (reception, year 1 and year 2) or they are in another year group and are entitled to receive free school meals we can order them a packed lunch as normal. Otherwise you will have the option of sending your child with a packed lunch of their own or ordering one from school that can be paid for on parent pay.

If you are sending your child with a packed lunch **we recommend they bring this in a disposable bag** rather than a lunch box to again reduce the risk of contamination.

Your child will need to bring a **named water bottle** into school each day and this should be taken home daily to clean.

Your child will need to bring their **reading book into school each day** and these will be kept in their own tray and once completed put into quarantine to again reduce risk of cross contamination.

Provided children have the **correct safety equipment** such as a helmet and pads children will be allowed to bring their own bike or scooter into school and may have opportunity to use this during the day.

At the end of the school day Pete and Marylin will conduct a cleaning of school following DCC guidelines.

If a child or staff member shows symptoms the parents will be contacted immediately. Public Health England will be contacted for guidance and next steps with a possibility of bubble isolation or school closure.

I hope this addresses some of your concerns and whilst the measures we are introducing may seem harsh our **main concern is for the overall safety of children and staff in school**. By following the guidelines we have set out we feel this reduces the risk as much as we are able.

Expectations for learning:

Your child will be focussing on the key areas for their year group to ensure the foundations are as secure as possible under the circumstances for the next academic year.

This will be supplemented with plenty of outdoor physical learning, activities and discussions to support mental health and well-being.

The children will not be bringing any physical work home, excluding reading books (as mentioned above returned books will be "quarantined" for five days and then put back into circulation).

Children in year groups who are yet to return, will continue to be able to access work through the school website and teachers will continue to communicate regularly through Class DoJo and Zoom.

Questions

If you have any questions with regards to this please telephone the school office.

Kind Regards



Kevin Flint
Headteacher