

Wednesday 2nd September 2020

WELCOME BACK!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am so pleased to finally be able to welcome all of our children back into Meadowside from tomorrow morning. The staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure school is ready and I know they are all just as excited as I am to see our pupils back in school, where they can learn and spend time with their friends.

The first day back at school is always a nervous time for every child (and parent) and I understand that this year any anxiety is likely to be heightened by the on-going pandemic and the fact that many children have been away from school for so long. Therefore I would like to reassure parents and children that all the necessary changes have been put in place to ensure we adhere to the DfE and scientific guidance.

Hopefully you have kept up to date with the letters and risk assessments we have sent out to parents on **ClassDojo** over the last few months which have outlined all the key changes that have been put in place. In case you missed them, these are all still available on the Covid-19 page of the school website. Nevertheless I am sure that many of you would benefit from me sharing some of the most frequently asked questions from parents and what our answers are:

FAQs

1) Do we still need to follow the one-way system when dropping off and collecting our child?

Yes, all parents and children must arrive through the Clough Avenue gates and exit via Fisher Avenue. Nobody will be allowed to enter school through Fisher Avenue. Children should arrive in time for their new class staggered start times.

2) If the one-way system is flooded, how would children enter school?

In the case of a flood outside school which prevents the one-way system being used, we would notify parents on **ClassDojo** before school that all children would enter school via the school hall. Children would still arrive at the new staggered start times.

3) Will the school still feel like school for our children or will there be lots of changes?

Yes, school will definitely still feel like school – it will still be a place that children can see their friends and their teachers. It will still be a fun place to learn! There will of course be some changes such as: staggered start and finish times for each class, children will stay with their class or 'bubble', they will not be sharing most resources with other

classes, any shared resources will be deep cleaned, school will be cleaned throughout the day, seating arrangements will be different in classrooms, etc. But all these changes are being carefully managed so that school still feels like 'school'.

4) Do you need to keep the children socially distanced in the classroom? How will you do this?

Meadowside has followed the DfE and scientific guidance that states all children must sit in rows side by side, facing forward. This is to avoid the risk of transmission of infection through children being face to face. Children will also be seated like this when eating their dinner at lunchtime and staff will be explaining to children the importance of avoiding face to face conversations at close proximity. Children will only be sat with other children from inside their 'bubble'. Children in Early Years classes will not be sat at desks for any lengthy periods due to the stage of their development but staff will be taking steps to help the children avoid close contact as much as is possible for their age.

5) Do the children need to wear school uniform?

Yes, all children from Reception to Y6 are required to wear school uniform.

6) Are the children allowed to bring a school bag?

Yes, school bags are allowed but we ask that these only contain the absolute essentials – a lunch box, a named water bottle, stationary, reading book, PE Kit, etc

7) Should my child wear a mask at school?

No, masks are not needed for primary age children. If your child wears a mask on the way to school, they will remove it at the classroom door. Disposable masks would be put in the bin and reusable masks would need to be placed in a sealed plastic bag with the child's name on until home-time.

8) Will my child still be receiving homework and a reading book?

Yes, all homework will now be sent home using **ClassDojo**. Please make sure you are set up on the **ClassDojo** app as all school news and letters will now be sent out through this rather than in paper form. Reading books will still be sent home every week and will be limited to use by children within each 'bubble'.

9) Will the children still do PE?

Yes, PE is still part of the curriculum but all PE lessons will take place outdoors until further notice. Please make sure your child has an outdoor PE kit which includes tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt as well as training shoes and a T-Shirt.

Reception class children will be able to come to school in their PE kit on PE days – the Reception class teachers will provide more information on this through **ClassDojo**.

10) Will there be a breakfast club and after school clubs?

There will be no breakfast club – but school will still provide children with a bagel or cereal everyday at morning break time. We will be offering some after school clubs but these clubs will be class / 'bubble' based so the children will still not be mixing with children from outside their 'bubble'.

11) Will school be serving hot lunches?

Yes our school lunch menu will include hot food. The menu is available on our website now.

Can you remind me what the new start and finish times are for each class?

Classes	Start Times	Finish Times
*Daisies - 2 Year Old Nursery: morning group afternoon group	8.30am 12.30pm	11.30am 3.30pm
Reception & Year 1	8.50am	2.50pm
Sunflowers 3 & 4 Year Old Nursery, Buttercups, Giant Redwoods & Year 2	9.00am	3.00pm
Year 3 & 5	9.10am	3.10pm
Year 4 & 6	9.20am	3.20pm

*Daisies morning group leaves via **school office area** at 11.30am. Afternoon group will arrive here too.

We recognise that some parents and pupils may feel anxious and worried about their return and we will work closely with families to support you with the return to school.

If you have any worries or concerns or your child feels anxious about returning to school please contact our **Welfare Co-ordinator, Mrs Stokes**, on receipt of this letter or alternatively your child's class teacher through **ClassDojo**.

Kind regards



Mr S. Wright
Headteacher



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