



Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a peaceful break and enjoyed your summer.

Please find attached further information regarding the safety measures and logistics in place for the children, for their return to school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

We are so excited to be welcoming the children back, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Kind Regards,

Miss R McCutcheon
Headteacher

Full Reopening of Monkwick Junior School

Information for Families

When does my child restart at school?

Children who are coming into **Year 3** will start school on **Thursday, 3rd September 2020**.

Children moving into **Years 4, 5 and 6** will start school on **Monday, 7th September 2020**.

What is the timing of my child's school day?

Children in **Year 3** will need to **arrive at 8.30am** and be **picked up at 2.45pm**.

Children in **Year 4** will need to **arrive at 9.00am** and be **picked up at 3.15pm**.

Children in **Year 5** will need to **arrive at 8.45am** and be **picked up at 3.00pm**.

Children in **Year 6** will need to **arrive at 9.15am** and be **picked up at 3.30pm**.

Please note the time carefully, as they are not in age order.

It is important that children arrive and are collected on time, in order to reduce the mixing of adults and children on site. If your child arrives late, you may have to wait outside until the route is clear. Siblings in different year groups must come in at the time the rest of their year group does.

Why is there a need to stagger entry and exit times?

In order to protect both your families and ours, it is important that we ensure that we do not have too many people moving around the site at any one time.

Half of our classrooms are upstairs or not directly accessible, so teachers need to bring the children outside to make sure they go home with the correct adult.

Is that the same length as the usual school day?

The school day is 15 minutes shorter overall. This has been taken from the lunch break, which will be 45 minutes long to make sure that these can also be staggered. Your child will have the same amount of learning time overall.

Can my child walk to and from school on their own?

We would encourage children in Years 5 and 6 to walk to and from school on their own if they can, although we recognise some children will be safer if they are dropped off or collected by an adult. If you want your child to walk to and from school on their own, please send a note in with them.

How do I drop my child off in the morning?

You are able to walk in through the main front gate to the school, and walk up the path. Our path has lines marked out to help you stay 2m apart from other families. You will leave your child at the side gate, where they will walk onto the playground and meet their classroom adults.

You will then need to follow the one way route in order to exit the site.

You can also drop your child at the front gate, if you are happy for them to walk up the path on their own.

There will be several adults helping to supervise this process, and they will ensure that cars do not enter or exit through the car park during these times.



We encourage parents to wear a face covering when dropping their child off, as there may be a high number of adults on site.

How do I collect my child?

You should follow the same one way system to collect your child. Children will line back up at the meeting point, and wait for their parents. When you arrive at the gate, staff will call your child over to meet you.

Children who are walking home on their own will then be able to leave when parents have moved off site.

You will then need to follow the one way route in order to exit the site.

Staff will not be able to 'look out' for parents waiting in different places outside of the school site. If you wish to meet your child outside of the school gates, they will need permission to walk home alone.



We encourage parents to wear a face covering when collecting their child, as there may be a high number of adults on site.

Can my child come to school on a bike or scooter?

We are not currently able to store your child's bike or scooter on site, and our storage is closed. If you wish to use these to travel to school, they will need to be taken home.

Will I be able to talk to my child's teacher?

The best way to speak with your child's teacher will be to make a telephone appointment via the school office. They will be able to call you back at the end of the school day. The school office will also be able to pass on any messages if you need to share information. Teachers will call you if they need to pass on information to you.

Staff who are on site when you drop off and collect your child will not be able to stop and chat, answer queries or pass on messages, as their priority will be managing people moving around the site safely, and keeping the flow of people moving. Please do not be offended if we ask you to call the office instead.

Will breakfast or after school clubs be running?

Breakfast and after school clubs are suspended for the foreseeable future, as this will result in too many class bubbles mixing. We will resume these when we feel we can deliver them without compromising safety.

Does my child need to wear uniform?

Children will need to come to school in their usual school uniform. On days where they have PE, they should come to school in a PE kit, sports clothes or a tracksuit. If the weather means PE cannot take place outside, the children will take part in appropriate fitness activities in their classrooms. The office will send texts to confirm which day each class will have PE.

What is a 'bubble' and how will they work?

A bubble is a group of children and staff who will stay together to reduce the amount of other individuals that everyone is able to mix with. For our children, their bubble will be their class, so each of those groups will be less than 30, and many of them will be under 25. Some of the adults may work across one year group to cover a class or to deliver tuition to children, but all adults will be staying 2m apart from the children and one another in line with the government guidance. No adult will work with more than one year group at a time.

Staff will also be social distancing during their own breaks, before and after school, to protect themselves and their bubbles.

Whole school events, such as assemblies, will only take place remotely, via screens in classrooms.

Will the children need to social distance?

Children will stay in their bubbles, but will not be expected to stay away from the other children in their group. We know that this is tricky for primary aged children! All classrooms will have the desks set out in rows, facing the front, so that the children are side by side and not facing one

another. Unnecessary furniture has been removed from all of the classrooms, so that there is more space. Children will be encouraged to leave space between themselves and the staff that work with them.

Classrooms will be well ventilated with open windows and doors where possible.

If staff need to support children more closely, for instance if they need first aid, or medical assistance, staff will be wearing PPE such as gloves and face coverings.

How will break times work?

Children will stay in their bubbles at break time, with their classroom adults. They will have a space both on the field and on the playground outdoors, and will stay in their classroom in the event of a wet break. There will be no tuck shop, so children will need to bring in their own snack if they want one.

Break times will be staggered in order to ensure every class has enough space to play without mixing bubbles.

How will lunchtimes work?

All children will eat their lunch in their classrooms, and have an outdoor slot and space. Packed lunches will be kept in classrooms, and any school dinners will be delivered in individual boxes to the class. Children will also have an outdoor break with classroom adults, and the children will play games together as a bubble.

Lunchtime will be 45 minutes long, so that every bubble will have a space and still be able to have their lunch at an appropriate time in the middle of the day. This also reflects the shortening of the school day.

Will children need to wear a face covering in school?

Whilst you may have seen talk about face coverings in schools in the media, this is advice for children in secondary school, not primary schools. Children will not be expected to wear a face covering, and are very unlikely to be mixing or passing other bubbles in corridors as they are based in one classroom.

If you want your child to wear a face covering on their journey to school, they will need a small plastic bag to store it in for the day. Please ensure your child knows how to remove and put on their covering safely. We will not prevent children wearing a face covering if their parent wants them to do so.

There may be times where staff need to wear a face covering, especially when they are working in shared areas, or at drop off and collection times. Any essential visitors to the school will be expected to wear a face covering.

Will the curriculum be different?

The curriculum is most different between Key Stage One and Two, so in Year 3, the children will focus on completing the Year 2 objectives for their first half term in English and Maths. In other

subjects, as we take children into Year 3 who have attended different schools, there is some revision of earlier learning built in.

In Years 4, 5 and 6, the curriculum will be the same as usual, as many areas of learning are revisited at a higher level each year. Where needed, some of the earlier learning from each area will form part of the lesson, or the class may spend a little longer on a topic. Lessons have always been planned with easier and harder versions of the work, and this will also support children's progress.

Some curriculum lessons will be moved to different parts of the year, if they cannot be done safely yet. Trips and visits will not take place during the Autumn term. Some lessons, such as Computing and Music, will be blocked across a week. Only one class will use these rooms each week, so they can do so without any concerns.

Will children share resources?

Resources that children use frequently, such as pencils, rulers and whiteboard pens, will be kept in their trays in class, so that children have their own. We have plenty of these resources in school, and children will be given all the equipment we need, so children should not bring pencil cases or belongings from home.

Children should bring a water bottle, as fountains and shared facilities will not be usable. All of our classrooms have a tap with drinking water, so these can be refilled when needed.

Reading books can be borrowed from school, and will be quarantined before other children are able to take them home.

Lessons resources will either be split into class sets, or will belong to a class for a Monday-Thursday of a week. Shared resources will only be moved into another class after being quarantined, and wiped down if appropriate.

Will my child be behind?

We know from our conversations with parents across the lockdown period, that this was one your concerns. School has been suspended for all children across the UK (and in other countries), so all children are in a similar position. We will support your child in order to ensure they make the best possible progress, as we always would. Some of our staff will also be offering tuition sessions across the year for those children who we feel need a little more academic support. Please don't worry!

Will children wash and sanitise their hands frequently?

All of the classrooms in use have their own sinks, so that the children in the room have easy access to hand washing facilities. Staff will supervise children to wash their hands on arrival, when leaving and returning to their classroom, and before eating.

Will there be more frequent cleaning?

No rooms with the school will be shared spaces, in order that children can use their rooms without concerns for cleaning before a new group. There will be extra cleaning of touch points around the school at lunchtimes. Each class teacher has a supply of cleaning spray if any surface requires a quick wipe down during the school day. Every class also has a lidded pedal bin for waste.

What do I do if my child, or someone in my household has symptoms of Covid 19?

The current symptoms of Covid 19 are a temperature, a dry continuous cough, or a lack of taste and smell. If your child, or anyone else in your household, has symptoms, your child must NOT attend school under any circumstances for 14 days, as the whole household should self-isolate. You will need to seek a test. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> to book one. It is expected that all members of the school community comply with NHS Test and Trace.

Anyone who has tested positive for Covid 19 must now self isolate for 10 days.

We will need to know if you have had a positive test within your household, so that we can liaise with the Sigma Trust and the local health protection team and follow their advice.

What will happen if my child has symptoms at school?

If your child develops any symptoms at school, you will be contacted immediately to come and collect them as soon as possible. Your child will be isolated from others within the school until you arrive. They will be supervised by an adult during this time, but the adult may be in the doorway rather than in the room with them. They may also need to wear PPE whilst supervising your child. If more than one child is waiting to be collected they will be kept at least 2m from one another.

You will then need to seek a test, by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> . We will need to be informed of the result, and we will give you further advice. We will also need to contact the Sigma Trust and the local health protection team to ensure we follow any advice they give.

Will the school close again? Will some classes close and not others?

At the moment, we don't know the answer to this. We will continue to follow advice from the government, local health protection team and the Sigma Trust. If they direct us to close any bubble, or the whole school, then we will have to do so. Parents will be informed as soon as possible if this becomes the case, so do make sure that the details we have for you are up to date.

What will learning look like if the bubbles are closed?

If we have to close any bubbles, we will have to switch to online learning. We are planning to use Google classroom and staff will receive training on this in September, and more details will follow for families.

If your child has to self isolate but their bubble is still open, there will be a two-week work pack available on our website, for each year group. All of our previous online learning is still available on our website, so you can also use any of this applicable to your child's new year group.

Are there any other changes?

The changes that we have detailed here are those that are most relevant to families for understanding the return to school and the measures in place. More detail is available by accessing the full risk assessment on our school website. Risk assessments are subject to regular

review, so measures may need to be increased, reduced or changed based on the advice given to schools.

There are also some temporary policies in place, to reflect some of the necessary changes in school. These include our marking and behaviour policies, and are available on our website.