



Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a peaceful break and been able to enjoy the summer.

As we return, many of the restrictions that have been in place in school have been lifted, so this means some change to the way we were operating. As it has been such a long time since the school has been working 'normally', we understand that it may be hard to remember what that was like! In order to help your children prepare, I have attached some information that I hope will be helpful.

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

We are excited to be welcoming the children back, and we look forward to seeing them all again soon!

Kind Regards,

Miss R McCutcheon  
Headteacher



## **Monkwick Junior School - September 2021**

### **Information for Families**

#### **Why are the measures in schools being changed?**

As the situation of the pandemic is changing and restrictions have lifted, schools are being directed to move back to more normal operation. This means that children will no longer be managed in 'bubbles' so will be able to mix with others in the school.

We know that it has been a long time since this has been the case, and that many of the children in the school will have only attended with us while these measures have been in place. In order to best support their safety and education, we will be reintroducing some measures more slowly, such as assemblies, which will restart in smaller groups.

The control measures schools will be focussing on will be:

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Following public health advice on testing, self isolation and managing confirmed cases.

#### **Does this mean children will no longer need to self-isolate?**

Any child, or adult, who has one of the following symptoms must still self isolate unless they test negative on a PCR test:

- a temperature
- a dry continuous cough
- a lack of taste and/or smell

Children with these symptoms will still need to go home and take a test, however mild the symptoms are. The test must be a PCR test by post or at a testing centre - a lateral flow test cannot be accepted.

However, it is now only the person with symptoms who has to self-isolate, rather than the whole household.

In the event of a positive case of Covid 19, NHS Test and Trace have the responsibility for deciding who will need to self-isolate. This is unlikely to be the case for children or for individuals who have had both of their vaccines. If you are unsure, it is best to check with NHS Test and Trace.

#### **Can I still wear a face covering on site?**

Anyone who would feel safer wearing a face covering on our site is more than welcome to do so, although these are no longer mandatory.

#### **When does my child restart at school?**

Children joining **Year 3** will start on Friday 3rd September 2021.

Children in **Years 4, 5 and 6** will start on Monday 6th September 2021.

## What is the timing of the school day?

Children will need to arrive between **8.30am and 8.45am**. The gates close at 8.50am. Children arriving after this will be late, and will need to go through the front office.

Lunchtime is **12.20pm - 1.20pm**.

School finishes at **3.05pm**. Gates open for parents to come onto the playgrounds at 3.00pm.

## How do I drop my child off in the morning?

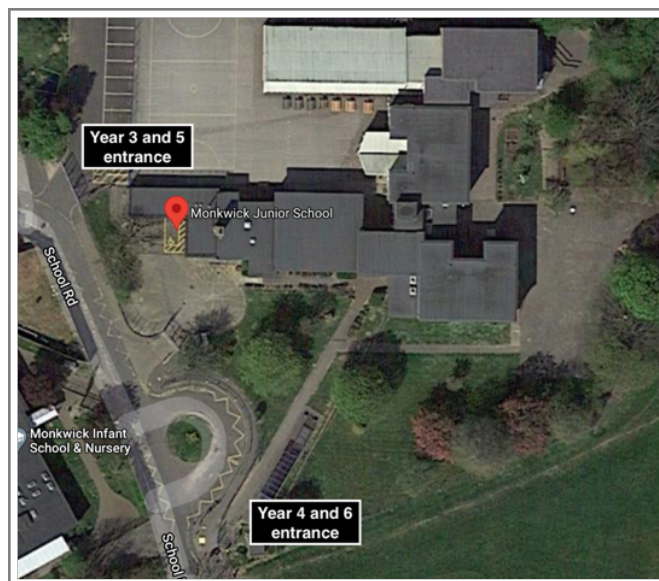
Year 3 children can be dropped off directly to their classrooms.

Year 4, 5 and 6 children will meet their teachers on the playground for the first week. After this they will be able to go straight to their classrooms when the gates open at 8.30am.

Year 3 and 5 children will come in through the top car park gate.

Year 4 and 6 children will come in through the main entrance.

It is still possible to walk all the way round the site, so if you have children across both playgrounds, you can walk from one to the other. The site is no longer a one-way system.



## How do I collect my child?

You will be able to collect your child from the school playgrounds - teachers will bring the children out at the end of the day. Year 3 can be collected directly from their classrooms.

It is quickest to use the same gates for entry as you do in the morning.

You are still able to walk all the way around the school site if you need to pick up children from both playgrounds. The site is no longer a one-way system.





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

Children in Years 5 and 6 are able to walk to and from school on their own. You can e-mail us to give us permission for this on [office@monkwickjunior.school](mailto:office@monkwickjunior.school)

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

Yes - the bike sheds and scooter parking can be accessed from the front entrance only, so you can walk around the site in order to access this if your child would usually come in the other way.

### **Will breakfast or after school clubs be running?**

Breakfast Club will start again on Monday 6th September. Please contact the office to book a place if you need one.

We hope to resume after school clubs later in the autumn term, when everyone is back and things are settled. Letters will be sent about this when these are ready to resume.

### **Does my child need to wear uniform?**

Children will need to come to school in their usual school uniform. They should now bring a PE kit in with them and will be able to change in school again.

### **How will break times work?**

Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 will have their break times separately. If your child wants a snack for breaktime, please send them in with one, as there will be no tuck shop.

### **How will lunchtimes work?**

Children will go back to eating their lunch together in the main hall. Year 3 and 4 will eat first, and then it will be Year 5 and 6. They will continue to have their outdoor play on separate playgrounds.

### **Will children wash and sanitise their hands regularly?**

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?**

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.

### **If my child is self-isolating, will they have access to home learning?**

There should be less instances of children having to self-isolate due to the new guidance, but if your child is at home and well enough to complete work, then we will set them the work they would have completed on Google Classroom. If you haven't used this before, or need a device, we can support you if this happens. Home Learning will only be provided for absence which is related to Covid 19 and self-isolation.

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

At the moment, we don't know the answer to this. We know that government hope to avoid this happening again, and are trying to prioritise children staying in school. We will continue to follow advice from the government, local health protection team and the Sigma Trust. If they direct us to close any classes, 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.