



Merstham Primary school
London Road South
Surrey RH1 3AZ

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01737 643978

Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Over the past few weeks we have been planning for the start of term in September. Along with this letter you will receive four documents; they are also available on the school website. The documents are:-

1. The drop off and collection times for all year groups.
2. A map showing the entrances, exits and drop off points for all year groups.
3. A timetable for the re-engagement of Nursery / Hedgehog children.
4. A timetable for the children starting in Reception / Rabbits.

We are all really excited to be welcoming everyone back in September and I hope that this letter answers your questions. There will be updates and reminders sent out toward the end of the Summer break.

Nursery and Reception Groups

Children in nursery and reception will have a transitional staggered start to the year. Over the next few days parents will receive a telephone call to let them know which group their child is in.

Start times and finish times for the school day

The start times and end times for the day ensure that we are staggering arrivals and departures limiting numbers on site. We will continue to review how the timings work and how the entrance and exits work. Over the holiday period I hope to be liaising with our PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) and others to help with the safe start and end to the school day.

Picking up and dropping off

Please line up outside your child's class; We do ask that you drop off / collect your child / children and leave the school site as quickly and safely as possible.

Importance of timing

Rather than giving time bands as we have in the summer term, we have kept the times to a single time – it is important that we all keep to these timings. We aim to have the children in class settled as quickly as possible and released on time at the end of the day. As the children are not bringing book bags or PE kits this should be much easier.

Classes

The children will be in their class bubbles. They will remain in their classroom most of the time except at lunchtimes and playtimes. On the playground, children will have a zoned area of the playground to play in. They will have designated equipment to use. The children will wash their hands regularly, including on entering and leaving the classroom. They will also be using hand sanitiser. Adults will be social distancing as far as is possible in a primary classroom. The classrooms will be set up so they meet government guidelines. For the foreseeable future, we will not be able to come together for whole class assemblies; but we will continue to make sure that we celebrate children's achievements.

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Re engagement curriculum

We have been working with the GLF team to develop our re-engagement curriculum. We will be teaching the children a broad balanced curriculum. Earlier this week the teachers met together to implement curriculum plans for September. We will be continuing to use Google classroom; this will be for homework purposes as well as being a contingency should there be the need for local lockdown the children can carry the curriculum on at home.

Uniform

The children will be expected to wear the full school uniform – though we would like ties to be omitted at this point in time. The children wear their PE kit for PE days, so they will not need to bring in any bags other than a lunch box. If your child / children wish to bring in a pencil case, they can do as long as it is small and can fit in their tray.

Enhanced cleaning

The school continues to use the same cleaning company. The cleaning is at an enhanced level; additional cleaning takes place during the school day in key areas of the school.

Siblings

We would ask that where parents need to be on site with all siblings that they drop the earliest sibling first, keeping the other children with them (It is important not to allow children to run around / play as they must remain within their bubbles).

Attendance

From September attendance in school is compulsory. Schools are expected to ensure that all children who can be in school are in school. The school will do all it can do to help ensure that every child who can be in school with their peers is able to enjoy this experience. We have done all we can to make the school as safe as is possible. From August the Government has announced that all shielding will cease, please speak to us if you have any concerns.

Masks

Pupils and staff will not routinely be wearing face coverings in school. The current government advice is quite clear that this is not necessary. If face coverings are used on public transport to travel to school, they should be removed on arrival. You should ensure your child has a bag in which to store any reusable face coverings during the school day. Children/students will need to hand sanitise their hands before and after removing their mask. Hand sanitising units are provided on entry.

If your child needs to wear the mask in the school day, for any reason advised, please contact the school so a plan can be established. In these circumstances, a separate mask will need to be worn in school when walking around school to that which is used when travelling in. Staff are not able to help children with masks and gloves, or take responsibility for these being worn, and children will need to manage these independently; the school will not provide PPE for children. There will be a bin at entrances to the school for the safe disposal of masks. Please [click here](#) for the Public Health England guidance for donning and doffing PPE.

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School meals

At the start of the Year our plan is to provide hot meals to children in EYFS (Nursery and Reception), the children in Key Stage 1 and to the Free School Meals entitled children in Key Stage 2. Our kitchen will also be able to provide a sandwich lunch for the children in Key stage 2 who order (and Pay) for one.

Coming to school

Government advice currently advises us to avoid using public transport to travel to school and that wherever possible, you should travel to school either by walking or cycling whenever possible. It is imperative that you do not drive to school as this will cause congestion and inevitably social distancing problems. We also ask that scooters and trikes are not left on site to avoid any congestion at the entrances and exits of the school

Covid19 symptoms

We will ask that by coming into school, you are declaring that your child is free of any potential Covid-19 symptoms. If anybody else in the home environment has any possible Covid-19 symptoms children MUST stay at home. You will need to advise school immediately and follow any NHS/PHE advice.

Mobile phones

We are going to ask that Year 6 children do NOT bring mobile phones. We will review this on an ongoing basis; but we are working to minimise all objects that are brought in to school from outside.

Over the summer break, some of the guidance may change or, be updated. We will make sure that you receive further updates and reminders toward the end of the summer holidays.

I do hope that you have found this letter informative and helpful; once again I would like to apologise for the directorial style – but we all need to work together to make our return to school safe and successful.

We really are looking forward to welcoming everyone back into school this September and seeing everyone again, even those children who have been shielding. Once again I would like to thank everyone for their help and support over the last few months; without the full support of the parents and community of the school, we would not have been able to manage the wider opening of the school. Stay safe and well over the summer break, you are part of an amazing school community. Thank you all.

Kind regards

Gavin Oulton, Headteacher Merstham Primary School

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