



Merstham  
Primary School

Merstham Primary school  
London Road South  
Surrey RH1 3AZ

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01737 643978

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Return to school in September

I am pleased to write to you to confirm that we will be welcoming all the children back to school in September.

You will have received a letter earlier this week from the Trust, which provides some key information and I am sure that many of you will have listened to the government's press briefing, seen details in the press or read the guidance that the government has published.

We are currently reviewing all of the guidance and updating our risk assessments so that we will be in a position to provide you with more information before the end of term with regard to arrangements for September, which will include adjusted arrival and/or collection times as well as changes to meal arrangements.

We will be endeavoring to maintain as much normality as possible but will obviously need to ensure that we are following the Covid-19 safety precautions that we must have in place in order to minimize the risk of infection.

There are, however, some aspects about September that it may be helpful for me to share with you at this stage:

**Term start date is now 3.9.20** In order to provide all our staff with additional time to embed our new routines and procedures to meet the Covid-19 safety requirement, we will be taking an additional INSET day at the start of September.

**Face coverings:** Pupils and staff will not 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 may wish to ensure your child has a bag in which to store any reusable face coverings during the school day.

**Travel to/from school:** The Government has advised **walking or cycling to school wherever possible** to reduce the use of public transport. We do ask parents to consider how children will travel to school safely. To avoid congestion we strongly advise that parents driving their children to school drop their children some distance from the school and/or park and stride.

**School meals:** The School kitchens will reopen in September, and lunches will be available again to some children. Children who are eligible for free school meals will return to having their lunch at school and will no longer receive lunch vouchers as has been the case since 23 March. Further information with regard to lunch arrangements will be provided before the end of term.

**Bags and PE kit:** From the beginning of the term, we ask that children do not bring bags to school. When children have PE, they will be able to wear their PE kit all day. Please make sure that your child

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has a pair of jogging bottoms (grey or black) and a Fleece (Merstham Primary logo – ideal) – Hoodies are not an acceptable alternative.

**Expectations for children:** As is currently the case for children in school, children are expected to follow behaviour rules relating to physical contact with others, and to keep their hands clean. All children will wash their hands regularly, and use the hand sanitizer provided by the school.

**Equipment:** Children will be allowed to bring a small pencil case to school. This must be small enough to fit in their tray, where the pencil case will be kept; the pencil case will need to stay in school.

**Meetings:** Where any Meetings are necessary, they will be virtual or socially distanced. All meetings with adults from school MUST be booked IN ADVANCE. We will arrange parent consultation meetings, but at this point we do not know how they will be managed.

We will provide further updates once we have completed our detailed planning. Please do contact us in the meantime if you have any questions or concerns.

Your sincerely

Gavin Oulton, Headteacher Merstham Primary School

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