



Myton Park Primary School

Together we Nurture, Inspire and Achieve

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Acting Head Teacher – Mrs Vikki Boddy

Wider opening of school in September 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

We hope you are all well and that you have managed through lockdown. You have certainly done a wonderful job of supporting the children with home learning, but we are all looking forward to welcoming the children back to school in September. I have no doubt that for most of us – a return to some form of normality will be welcome.

Below is a summary of arrangements. I have tried to make them as brief as possible – but there is a great deal of information, so please do take the time to read it all, so you can go through the arrangements with your child. It will help them hugely to re-integrate back into school with an understanding of what to expect.

We will be working to keep the children with their classes and to minimise mixing across school.

Government guidance states that children do not need to socially distance, but staff should work to keep a distance as much as possible.

This will be very challenging, especially with the youngest of our pupils, and whilst we will work to minimise contact to keep distance – the welfare of the children will be our priority and we will strive to keep them feeling safe and happy.

Start of Term

Tuesday 1st September 2020 will be a PDDay.

Nursery:

Wednesday 2nd September – School will be closed to Nursery pupils

Thursday 3rd September – Existing nursery children only

Children whose 3rd birthdays fall between March – June will be given a start date week Beginning 7th September

Children whose 3rd birthdays fall between July – August – will be given a start date week Beginning 14th September

Children whose 3rd birthdays is 1st September onwards their start dates will follow the normal nursery procedures

Nursery staff will contact you all individually to confirm arrangements.

Reception:

Wednesday 2nd September – half of the cohort

Thursday 3rd September – the other half of the cohort

Friday 4th September – full cohort.

Our professional experience tells us that the Reception children, new to full days at school, may struggle with the length of day. Given the length of time many have been away from school and child minders, we are keen to make sure that we meet their emotional needs and give them a very positive start to school life. From their very first days on 2nd and 3rd September until Friday 13th September, you will have the option to pick up your child at 2pm, if you feel they would benefit from a shorter day. Staff will liaise with you, but this must be arranged with the class teacher and will not include any older siblings across school. You may leave your child until the usual time of 3:20pm if that meets your working situation.

Years 1 – 6, including the Hub will all return on Wednesday 2nd September.

Dropping off and picking up times/lunchtime arrangements

	Drop off times	Lunchtime	Lunchtime playtime	Pick up
Reception	8.45am – 9.00am	12 noon – 12.30pm	12.30pm – 1.00pm	3.10pm – 3.20pm
Year 1	9.00am – 9.15am	12 noon – 12.30pm	12.30pm – 1.00pm	3.15pm – 3.30pm
Year 2	8.45am – 9.00am	12 noon – 12.30pm	12.30pm – 1.00pm	3.00pm – 3.15pm
Year 3	9.00am – 9.15am	12.30pm – 1.00pm	12 noon – 12.30pm	3.15pm – 3.30pm
Year 4	8.45am – 9.00am	12.30pm – 1.00pm	12 noon – 12.30pm	3.00pm – 3.15pm
Year 5	9.00am – 9.15am	12.30pm – 1.00pm	12 noon – 12.30pm	3.15pm – 3.30pm
Year 6	8.4am – 9.00am	12.30pm – 1.00pm	12 noon – 12.30pm	3.00pm – 3.15pm
The Hub	8.50am – 8.55am	12.30pm – 1.00pm	12 noon – 12.30pm	3.15pm – 3.20pm

Times need to be staggered to allow social distancing, which we expect all adults to adhere to on school premises.

Class teachers will be sending information about their class and this will include at which door they should be dropped off.

If you have more than one child, who should be dropped off at different times – then please aim for a mid-time of 9.00am.

If you have a child/children who need to be dropped off at the early time only – please arrive at the early part of the slot;

If you have a child/children who need to be dropped off at the late time only – please arrive for the late slot.

It is essential that we work together and stick tightly to the protocol.

A 30 minute window for all children to arrive and to be dropped off will work if we all adhere to the rules and expectations.

Pick up times should follow the same pattern as drop off please.

You will need to enter and exit the playground via the gate as usual. Please be aware of social distancing.

There are 2m markings on the yard if you need to wait to enter.

Hygiene

The children will be given anti-bac at the door and will need to wipe their hands before they enter the building.

Regular 20 second handwashing will be insisted upon – children will wash hands each time they enter/leave a room, before and after playtime and lunchtime, before and after they use the toilet, and regularly through the day.

We will have an allocated cleaner throughout the day – so handles, surfaces and toilets will be cleaned regularly. The tables and surfaces will be cleaned while the children are playing out for lunch and bins will be emptied through the day.

Anti-bac spray is always available within the classrooms for use by staff and children as necessary.

Windows will be open to provide good ventilation through school.

Classroom Organisation

EYFS

Children will sit in small key worker groups of no more than 13 for any inputs e.g. story, phonics

Resources will be available for children to use in the areas and will be cleaned daily

A selection of books will be available and swapped daily and quarantined until the next week

There will be no sand, playdough or water provision

Key stage 1 and 2

The tables will be arranged in rows and not in our usual groups.

Children will be sitting in pairs, next to each other and not face to face.

Key Stage One children will be provided with the resources that they need, and these will be kept on their table. Pencils and pens will be provided to individual children and will not be shared.

Key Stage 2 children ONLY – please can they bring a pencil case containing: pencil, short ruler, coloured pencils, felt pens, small rubber and pencil sharpener. These should be basic (do not encourage spending a great deal of money please), they should be labelled and will be kept in school. We will provide a hand-writing pen.

Children will only share practical maths resources with the child sharing their table.

Books will be available for reading – but they will be wiped down after use and will be quarantined before being moved to another classroom or group of children.

Reading books will be sent home with children, but you will all be expected to wash your hands before use and books will be quarantined before being put back on the shelves.

The Curriculum

Our children thrive on our structure, routines and very clear expectations, so we will be working to establish this right from the start, so the children feel they are coming back to normality, as much as we can. We will, initially, be relaxing expectations on producing work, and giving far more time to talk, be together and for us all to understand how we are feeling within lessons.

Teachers will begin their topics straight away, but work will be organised as fun, more practical activities initially so the children will find them enjoyable and interactive. This will help to rebuild their confidence as learners. We will be playing memory games, listening games and revisiting basic skills to help them to get back into good habits.

A great strength of our teaching is our ability to assess children and to understand their needs and we will be applying this robustly right from the start. We will approach the start of term without preconceptions and will work hard to pitch all activities, both pastoral and academic, based on what the children bring to school.

We will be implementing our very high expectations of behaviour from day one. This helps children to feel safe and secure; but our strong pastoral approach will be harnessed to support this. Firm boundaries of zero tolerance, backed up with a consistent, supportive empathy and reflection, are strong tools in establishing a calm, purposeful and happy environment. This sets the foundation of our “Together we Nurture, Inspire and Achieve.”

Class teachers will be sending a task for children to bring to school “All About Me” so they can tell us all about life in lockdown – what they have been doing and to tell us all about the skills and knowledge they have picked up. We really want this to include aspects of schoolwork – but also those skills they have learned from spending so much time at home and the opportunities this has brought. We are excited to hear what they have to say.

Playtimes

The playground will be split into 5 areas. 2 distinct areas in each of the top and bottom playtimes and an area outside the Key Stage 2 classrooms.

Playtimes will be staggered so only half the school will be out at any one time.

Children will play within their allocated class space in the playground and will need to stay in that area.

Play equipment will be available to them that can be easily cleaned.

Some classes will wear bibs so the supervising adults and children can be clear as to who should be where.

Lunch Times

Lunchtime will be split into 2 separate sessions for each class – dining time and playing time. (Box 2 above)

The children will be eating lunch in their classrooms under the supervision of classroom staff.

Hot meals will be available – there will be an opportunity for children to pre-order their choice from the 3rd September. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be entitled to a free school meal.

Lunch money MUST be sent via the children. We encourage you to pay for the month or half term if you can to minimise traffic of any resources to the school office please.

PE, ICT and Assemblies

There will be no whole school assemblies. Class teachers will be delivering assemblies in class and I will be delivering my assemblies via Teams (On-line chat platform)

PE lessons will only take place outside initially. The children should come to school in their PE kit on PE days please. (Information will come from class teachers)

PE Kit MUST be a plain navy tracksuit (plain supermarket jogging bottoms and zipped hoodie or plain sweatshirt are perfect), plain white t-shirt and plain navy shorts and trainers.

The ICT suite will be allocated to a class for one day a fortnight. iPads will be used in classrooms throughout the day. These will be cleaned by staff before and after each use.

After school clubs

There will be no after school clubs in the first half term.

This will be reviewed before the half term holiday.

First Aid

First aid will be administered where necessary. Staff will wear gloves, a plastic, disposable apron and where appropriate a face mask.

Hygiene will be an even greater priority than usual

Uniform

From September we will be re-introducing our strong uniform code with high expectations.

Full uniform must be worn.

Black school shoes – NO trainers please.

Haircuts should be appropriate – no shaved heads or lines.

Simple bobbles / ribbons / slides in school colours – no large adornments or bows.

No nail varnish, hair dye, make up or spray tans.

Coats – not hoodies or zipped tops.

Book bags – only 1 key ring please with name of child labelled.

Y5 and Y6 may bring a drawstring backpack (preferable) or a small backpack to help develop independence.

Messages to the office.

We will be insisting that you keep any visits to the office to a minimum and only come if it is essential.

All dinner money must be returned to school via your child in their book bag.

If you need to ask a question of Mrs Mather or Mrs McGahon – please email

mytonpark@sbcschools.org.uk or telephone 01642 754658

If a child becomes unwell

If a child becomes unwell with COVID symptoms, they will be supervised by an adult in the classroom.

The adult will stay 2m away until a parent / carer can come and pick them up.

The rest of the class will be taken to the school hall which will be set up as a clean room.

Parents will be provided with instructions as to how to access a COVID test.

If the child tests positive – then the whole class will be informed, and the class will need to stay at home for a fortnight in self-isolation. Their family members will not need to self-isolate unless someone in the family home develops symptoms.

Only the family of a person who has tested positive will need to self-isolate.

If a staff member becomes unwell and tests positive, their class will be informed, and all members will need to self-isolate for 14 days as above.

School will liaise with public health in the case of any confirmed case. Public Health will take the lead in this and advise school what action should be taken. Initial information suggests that if we have 2 confirmed cases in school within 14 days, we are likely to be shut.

If any class is closed, then remote learning will be re-introduced.

Self-isolating children will also be provided with remote learning, in line with what is happening in school, as far as is possible.

We appreciate that some of you may be worried about the return to school. Two sets of parents, whose children have attended school throughout lockdown, has provided the following perspective:

'My child, throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, has continued to attend school. The message from the Prime Minister was to stay safe and to stay at home and there I was sending my child to school whilst I continued to go to my place of work. My initial thoughts were of panic; how could I do this to my child? What if something happens to them, how will I forgive myself?

Emotions were put to one side as I cheerfully told my child that they would still be attending school as the country went into lockdown. I explained that they would be perfectly safe and well looked after but school would look and feel very different from what they were used to including new rules around hand washing and social distancing.

After three months the school moved from a group of key worker children to Pods enabling other year groups to return. This proved to be a seamless move. The Pod has just become a class of new friends. No different from if they were in a classroom with their own peers. They continue to work together and play together. The difference is they wash their hands more regularly, and don't mix with children from other Pods, some equipment and certain areas are out of bounds for now.

My child has happily attended school without any problems. I have not worried and they are full of enthusiasm as they talk about school, and how the new has become the norm'.

'Our two children (reception and year 5) have been attending school since the start of lock down. At first the thought of continuing to send them in made me feel a little anxious and guilty, would they be safe, and would the school still be the welcoming, warm environment that they were used to with all the new restrictions in place? I quickly realised that I had no need to worry. The children adapted so quickly and easily to the new routine and have genuinely not been at all anxious or unsettled by the different environment and procedures. I think children are often more adaptable and resilient than we give them credit for (and perhaps more so than ourselves at times!) They have taken it all in their stride, the only thing that they have missed is seeing their friends. The teachers have been their usual dedicated, warm and containing selves and I have never had cause to feel concerned that the children's needs would not be paramount in these strange times. More so, the children have continued to have fun and have enjoyed attending school, the precautions soon become second nature and just another part of the daily routine. I feel confident that the school will adapt to whatever new procedures are put in place for September; balancing precautions with pragmatism and always putting the children first. Although it will no doubt be very strange returning for those who have now been out of school for so long, I feel sure that the solid relationships within the Myton Park Family will offer support where it is needed'.

We thank you for your continued support. We wish you all the very best for the summer and hope that you manage some good quality rest and relaxation. Stay safe and we look forward to welcoming the children back in September – conditions permitting.

Current guidance is that the government will finalise the plans and decisions on 11th August, so please do keep an eye on the APP for any updates.

Kind regards
Vikki Boddy
Mrs Vikki Boddy
Acting Head Teacher

Safeguarding is our priority and all staff at Myton Park Primary School are committed to keeping you

