



Orchard Meadow Primary School

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Tuesday 2 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Details of school reopening to all pupils, 8 March 2021

As you know last week was a busy week of announcements for us all and key amongst them was the news that schools are reopening to all pupils on 8 March. With your support, our priority is to now get all pupils back safely into school for their learning and wellbeing. We have reviewed our risk assessments and procedures ready for their return, which will be available on our website this week.

This letter will hold key information about when, how and what we need to do together to return your child to school. I know I speak for all our staff in telling you that we are very much looking forward to Monday.

Safety Measures in our school:

- **Face Coverings** – all adults will be wearing masks/and face shields in all communal areas. **We ask that parents wear masks when dropping off and collecting their child.** Some of our adults will be seen in masks throughout the day as a means of supporting their needs. All adults when meeting other adults will be asked to be in masks. This has been in place throughout the Autumn Term so our staff are very used to this expectation. The government has stated that it is not necessary for primary age pupils to wear masks in school.
- It is important to note that in the Government documentation it specifically states that **parents are not to gather** outside or inside the school. It is hoped that the drop off and collection procedures from 8th March, will mean a smooth movement of adults and no gathering will be necessary.
- If you need to speak with your child's teacher or vice versa we ask that the first line of communication is email or phone call. Your teacher may ask to speak to you and we would request that you go around to reception or wait for the playground to clear.
- The majority of adults within our school are Lateral Flow testing twice a week. This will support any asymptomatic positive cases. We will let you know more when we know more of the media release about families being able to have the same provision.
- If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19 the procedures are exactly the same as before. As a school if we have a positive case we will close the bubbles and ask for self-isolation. This together keeps our school and community safe.
- **Attendance is compulsory from 8th March.** All children should return. If you have a child that has been deemed extremely critically vulnerable then please contact Becky Pether the Attendance

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Officer with the shielding letter. All elements of the attendance policy will be in place from the 8th March. I must express that no holidays are to be taken in school time.

- **“Class Bubbles” and Social Distancing measures – risk assessing Covid-19**

This safety measure will continue from 8th March.

- Pupils will be placed in class bubbles for the majority of time, in some cases to enable some key provision to take place throughout the day, some pupils will be in socially distanced small learning bubbles that will be specific to meet their needs.
- Handwashing and hygiene practice will be built in as routine throughout the day. For example, handwashing on entry to school.
- Where specialist teaching takes place this will continue but teachers will be socially distanced from pupils to ensure all pupils have the equity of access to the specialist teaching.
- Lunch times and break times will be rotated and bubbles will have their own social space to play. Cleaning routines will be increased to ensure midday cleaning takes place through the school.
- Staggered arrivals and departures from school.

- **Whole School Re-opening: Arrival and Finish Time:**

Please see below the drop off and collection times for pupils from the 8th March. What is going to be crucial is that as a community we stick to these times and arrive **on time not before or after** and that we follow the social distancing processes that we know have worked this term. There will be no movement in them due to the whole school community returning (300 pupils). I accept that for some families this will mean different sibling times but whole community safety is vital, so I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Year 1- 6 Drop off:

- *Drop off at Moorbank and Blackbird Leys Pub gates (as current). Arrive at the time specified (see below) – **please do not arrive beforehand as this will create crowding.***
- *The gate will be opened at the times below*
- *This is a ‘drop and go’ system that means queuing should not be necessary if you arrive at the time specified. The gates will be open to allow your child to walk through sensibly onto the playground and to their class line.*

Year 1- 6 Pick-up:

- *Pick up will continue to be one-way.*
- *All parents to come onto the playground using the Cuddesdon Way entrance (as current) at the correct time below.*
- *Y5 parents of children not walking home alone will collect from outside Y5 classrooms*
- *Y6 parents of children not walking home alone will collect from the pick-up point outside Moorbank*
- *Y1, Y2, Y3/4 parents will pick up from the cage (as current) at the specified time below*

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- *Parents must exit the site via Moorbank, Blackbird Pub or Car Park exits, continuing one-way. Note that these gates are exit only at this time and will be manned so do not attempt to enter the site using these gates. As current, exit from Cuddesdon is strictly prohibited.*

Early Years:

- *Drop off (as current) at the EYFS phase door at the times specified below.*
- *Pick up will be (as current) at the EYFS phase door at the times specified below.*

A video guide illustrating the above will be sent out as part of the newsletter this week.

	Drop off at Moorbank and Blackbird Pub entrances, (Socially Distanced)	Pick Up (All to enter via Cuddesdon Way entrance) Social Distanced
Nursery	AM: 8:30am – 11:30am 30 hours - 8:30am -3:15pm	PM: 12:15-3:15
Reception	8:30am	3:00pm
Year 1 and Year 2	8:40am	3:05pm
Year 3/4	8:30am	3:00pm
Year 5 and Year 6	8:30am	2:55pm

- **Uniform**

Pupils will be expected to be in full school uniform but we accept that children grow and if their shoes no longer fit that we are giving grace until the shops re-open. We ask that you send your child in with a note just explaining this and that to the best you can that the shoes are as dark as possible and suitable. There is uniform (jumpers) available at the school and will be on sale with the food bank. Please do talk to us if you are having financial difficulties. Uniform can be purchased through www.swischoolwear.co.uk. Morrisons have also a sale on basic uniform clothing such as trousers, shirts. Please make sure your child is wearing their tie (Years 1-6).

- **Breakfast club:**

Breakfast club will be open for pupils of key workers please book as normal through the school.

- **School Hot Meals**

These will resume as normal. The price of a school meal will be £2.30 payment must happen before meals are provided, using the Arbor cashless system. Universal Free School Meals are still in place for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

And finally, with all the investment in technology we will be releasing our **new home learning policy**. Your child will continue to be directed to home learning (homework) through their account and assignments and we will be looking at many opportunities to provide further learning support for your child to help them

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catch up for lost learning in an innovative way. This is an example of how as a school we are dedicated in using research to support and inform how we work with your child with the aim to provide the very best for them. Pupils in Y3-6 need to bring their Chromebook in on a Monday fully charged (can you imagine a class of charging Chromebooks!) and they will bring them home again on a Wednesday to allow home learning. We will release the policy next week once the children are back.

I will send out a video guide for our new drop off and pick-up procedures so they are clear in advance of Monday. Please keep an eye out for this in the newsletter this week.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back in school next week.

Best wishes,

Will

William Power
Head teacher



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