

Merton Junior School

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*'Be wise, together we
succeed'*

Friday 22nd May 2020

RE: Childcare during school closure due to Covid-19

Dear Key Worker parents/carers and parents/carers of Vulnerable/EHCP children,

Hopefully you have read my letter outlining the provision for Year 6 pupils if we are to open for a further year group from 1st June 2020. I am writing to keep you in the loop so that you are aware of how your children fit into these plans. If you have any questions over half term then please email us.

We have had to make a few changes - instead of using the hall, as we have been, we are organising the group into 'bubbles'. These 'bubbles' will be in the classrooms instead with two members of staff, who will stay the same each day.

If anyone in the 'bubble' develops symptoms, they will be asked to be tested for Coronavirus. A test can now be booked via the NHS website for anyone displaying symptoms (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>). The entire team and siblings will be asked to isolate initially whilst the individual is tested (to be arranged by the parent of that child). If this test is positive, then all members of the team will need to isolate for 14 days. They will be able to return to school if/when testing reveals a negative result. We must see proof of this negative test before a member is allowed to return. It is important the family members also isolate, until a test is negative.

Each 'bubble' will stay together and our Key Worker/Vulnerable group may go outside to break and lunchtimes together, but will stay within their 'bubble'. Where possible, we have kept family members together (unless a sibling is in Year 6 in which case they are in a Year 6 'bubble').

The following will stay the same:

- Children will need to continue to be in school uniform. It is important that the children come into school in clean, freshly-washed clothes each day.
- School hours will stay the same for this group of children – 8:45am – 3:20pm.
- You will be receiving a text about where your child needs to go in the morning (at 8:45am) and where they will leave or be collected from at the end of the day (at 3:20pm) – please look out for this.
- When entering, the children will be asked to use anti-bacterial gel on their hands, as they have already been doing.
- Each child will have their own desk and equipment (provided by the school) in the room which will be labelled.
- Children are not to take equipment from school to their home or from their home to school (apart from lunchboxes and water bottles which must be washed thoroughly before returning to school).

- This equipment (provided by the school) will then stay with each child at their work station. Children do not need their reading bag, Home School Book, reading book or PE kit.
- Outdoor play equipment will not be used at any point.

The following is slightly different:

- If children are doing PE, they will be told when this will happen and will need to come into school in their PE kit, rather than bringing it in.
- If children are using laptops for a lesson then they will have one assigned to them so that they always use the same one.
- We will use our outdoor space as much as possible. When it is not possible (e.g. due to wet weather) to go outside then we will use the school hall and studio. Each 'bubble' will use this space at a different time.
- The children will have lunchtime in school for 45 minutes and will eat in their classrooms before going outside.

Other key information:

- Please make sure that your child either comes into school with suncream on or brings in a bottle of suncream (named) as well as a hat (named) to protect them from the sun.
- We will be able to continue to offer hot dinners or the children can bring a packed lunch. Children who are eligible for Free School Meals will need to decide whether they would like: daily school dinners, weekly picnic box or the voucher and then let the office know. Hot dinners will be 'delivered' to the classroom by a member of staff.
- Classrooms will be cleared of all soft furnishings, where possible, including soft toys.
- Please remind your child to take care when walking to and from school and to keep at a 2m distance from all others at all times.

Please look out for the text message to clarify which 'bubble' your child will be in so that they know where to go in the morning of the 1st June. There will be staff members around to help so please tell your children not to worry about this change. If you have another child who is in Year 6 and is timetabled for a shorter day then we have taken this into account and have made provision outside of their timetable.

Thank you for your support so far, I will continue to keep you updated as much as I can and we look forward to seeing the children again on Monday 1st June.

Warmest regards,



Mrs K Reading

Headteacher