

Merton Junior School

Headteacher: Mrs K. Reading B.Ed (Hons)

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*'Be wise, together we
succeed'*

RE: Reopening in September 2020

Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have received instruction from the Government that we must open fully in September 2020. Therefore, we will welcome all children back in on Thursday 3rd September. Thank you for bearing with us as we make sure that we scrutinise the guidance and make sure that we are as 'Covid-safe' as possible. I am now in a position to share our plans with you all.

What will 'bubbles' look like?

From September, the children will join their 'new' class (as outlined in the letter last week) and the 'bubbles' will be increased so that the whole year group will be considered a 'bubble'.

Mornings and end of the day

It is important, as it is at the moment, that we don't have too many people arriving onsite at the same time, therefore we will have slightly staggered start and end times to the school day. This will be reviewed regularly and adjusted. We have worked closely with the infant school so that these times work for families collecting more than one child and to accommodate families where Key Worker parents need to be getting to work. We have split the school in half so that we have less children arriving at one time, whilst making sure that if there are siblings across the two schools that parents don't have to wait around for the other child/ren. If you have any concerns with these timings then please speak to us.

Group 1 – children of Key Worker parents (who have been in school through Lockdown) and children who have a sibling at Merton Infant school.

Group 2 – all other children (this includes children who have siblings within the junior school and children who don't have a sibling in the junior school or Merton Infants).

Group 1 8:45am – 3:20pm

Group 2 8:55am – 3:10pm

Lessons, for all pupils, will start at 9:00am and finish by 3pm. I assure you that the children who are coming in slightly later and leaving slightly earlier are not missing out on any learning time. I must ask that if you are dropping off or collecting, that you arrive just before this drop off or collection time, and then leave as soon as possible to reduce the number of people onsite and that, where possible, only one adult arrives to collect the children.

Where does my child go in the morning?

Year 3 and Year 4 will be met on the MUGA/lower playground by their class teacher.

If your child is in Year 5 then they will need to go round to the studio side of the building where Ash and Holly will be met there by their class teachers and Elm will be met at the bottom of the fire exit stairs (which lead onto the MUGA).

Year 6 will be met on the top playground by their class teachers.

There will be a sign with the class name on it and a cross where the class teacher will stand. All children will be asked to line up and to use anti-bacterial gel on their hands before entering the building. They will then be taken into their class by their class teacher.

This arrangement will continue until further notice.

In the classroom

We have been advised to keep tables and chairs in rows, with all children facing the front – which the children seem to like at the moment! Each child will have their named drawer containing their books and resources. Their equipment and belongings from home will stay with them at their place in the classroom.

Break and lunchtimes

We have ensured that timetables for break and lunchtimes are in place so that children are only mixing with their year group 'bubble' to reduce the risk. The children will be unable to use the wooden play equipment but each year group will be allowed to use our new gym equipment (which will be cleaned each morning). The snack trolley won't be running initially, so please send a snack in with your child, if they would like one.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

These are run by the Infant School. Mrs James' plan is to restart these on the 14th September. Please speak to them with any enquiries.

What will my child need?

Your child will be provided with all school equipment so they don't need to bring this in. You will be receiving a Year Group newsletter later this week which will outline the days when PE kit will be needed. We would prefer for the PE kit to come into school on Monday and be taken home for washing on Friday. Children will need a named water bottle and lunchbox (unless ordering hot school dinners) along with their book bag.

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Does my child need PPE?

The government guidance states that children do not need any PPE in school. If they choose to wear any (e.g. a face mask) on the way to school then these must be disposed of in a covered bin or, if reusable, placed in a plastic bag that they can take home with them.

Visitors and the office

Access to reception and the school office will remain limited. If you need to speak to a member of staff then please email or telephone. Payment for dinners, events and trips will be via the online system only. We cannot accept cash. If you need a letter to register please speak to the office.

We are very much looking forward to getting back to 'normal' and thank you for working with us whilst we come up with a plan to welcome the children back into school. If you have are concerned about anything then please email or call us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Reading".

Mrs K Reading
Headteacher