

Merton Junior School

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*'Be wise, together we
succeed'*

4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all, I hope that you managed to have an enjoyable Christmas.

I am writing to you to confirm some changes that we have made in school in-line with the increasing figures surrounding Covid-19, particularly considering the new strain of the virus which is deemed to be more contagious. I would also like to remind you of the measures that we have already put in place to reduce the risk of spreading of the virus, in order to reassure you.

We were running Year Group Bubbles, as advised by the Government, but we have now decided to reduce the size of these to Class Bubbles, where one class teacher and one Learning Support Assistant (LSA) will be supporting each class, to restrict the number of people that the children and staff have contact with. The children will not move across the Year Group, but will instead stay in their classroom. This will also mean that the children will no longer be playing as a Year Group outside, but as a Class instead, supported by their own class teacher or LSA.

Children who chose the hot dinner option were eating in the hall, but will now be eating in their classroom, with their classmates, supported by their own LSA or class teacher

As before, each child will have their own equipment, provided by the school, which is cleaned daily.

PE lessons, where possible and weather permitting, will be taught outside instead of in the school hall so please ensure your child has clothes which are appropriate for wearing outside in colder weather.

It is important that we tighten up on the staggered start and finish times. The following outlines how this looks and it is vital that we all adhere to this to reduce any unnecessary contact on school site, and to avoid parents/carers waiting around unnecessarily:

Group 1 – children of Key Worker parents (who were 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

In order to limit visitors on site during the day, and in an attempt to avoid the need to pass personal property between the office and the classrooms, please make sure your child has everything they need for the day / week. ie. PE kits, water bottles, packed lunches, coats etc. We are also no longer accepting cash for dinner money and trips. If you require a letter to register for online payments please contact the office.

The guidance that we have been given hasn't changed since we have moved into Tier 4, and the Government still wish us to inform parents/carers that attendance at school is mandatory, however, I do understand that every personal and family situation is different, and will not be penalising any parent/carer for taking the decision to educate their child/children at home. This is a decision that Mrs James and I have made, so may not be the same as other schools. I'm sure that you understand that we will need to review this if our Tier changes, but I hope that this reassures you. Thank you to the parents who have already emailed in regarding this. Please keep in touch with us if your child is not attending school for any reason, either by email or leaving a message on the absence line. We may contact you for further information or just to check your child is ok.

Remote learning has been in place for a while now, in the form of Google Classroom. Class teachers have been uploading work onto this platform which is in line with the work that would be taught in the classroom. A letter

about this can be found on the school website but if you have any questions then please email or call the school office and our office staff will be more than happy to help. We do ask that you send in some of the work for feedback from the teacher. Please email this to the year group email addresses which can be found in the latest news section of our website, titled 'Home Learning'.

After School Clubs will stop for the foreseeable future (not including the After School Care run by the Infant School – this will continue), we will be in touch when these start up again.

Thank you very much for all of your support and kind words as this challenging time continues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Reading". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'K' and 'R'.

Mrs K Reading
Headteacher