

Millhouse Primary School & Nursery

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Millhouse
Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mr G Allen

14th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware, from June 1st, we are now able to prepare to welcome back to school children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as well as continue to have the children of key workers in school on a daily basis. We are currently preparing the school to be ready for this date and there is a huge amount of work going on at school. During this time, until June 1st, we will continue to be guided by the Department for Education, as well as making our own bespoke decisions for the return of more children to Millhouse.

I am sure that this is not an easy decision for you to make, so we are writing to inform you as to what our plans are for the children returning, how we can make the school setting as safe as possible and how the school day will operate on a daily basis. **If you have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 then accompanying this letter, is link to a form which asks you whether or not you intend to send your child back to school, so that we can start collating pupil numbers, to then put the children into smaller group sizes.** Please complete this by 12pm Monday 18th May.

The changes that we are going to implement, and the procedures we are going to put into place, are as follows:

Who can and cannot attend school?

- As well as the children of key workers, children with an EHCP or a social worker (subject to risk assessments), we can now welcome back children in Reception and Years 1 and 6
- Siblings of these three year groups, who are in years 2, 3, 4 or 5 **are not permitted** to come back to school yet
- Children cannot attend if they, or a family member they live with, have symptoms of Covid-19
- Any child, with pre-existing medical conditions (including those children who are 'shielding') should continue to stay at home
- If you do intend to send your child back to school, then it should be for the set times that we confirm with you prior to June 1st.
- You will not be fined if you choose to keep your child at home during this time

Logistics and Safety Measures

- The school will have completed a thorough risk assessment covering all aspects of reopening
- Classes will be reduced in size, no more than 12 children in a group
- Social distancing will be encouraged and adhered to wherever possible, however we can't guarantee that our younger pupils will manage this, particularly when outside of the classroom
- The children will only be taught alongside children in their year group, and numbers permitting, we hope that this will be with children in their current class (but this cannot be guaranteed)
- Once their class/learning area has been decided, they will only be taught in this area until further notice.
- The children will have their own chair and table and will not swap seats during the day

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- Children from other classrooms/learning areas will not be permitted into any other area, so as to keep the groups together at all times
- Each group will work with the same staff members, so that we are not mixing teacher/pupil groups up
- Each group will have up to two adults, plus a midday assistant at lunchtime (they may not be your child's usual class teacher / LSA)
- We will have staggered breaks and lunchtimes, to keep groups smaller during the children's play time. We will also be using the outdoor learning opportunities where possible
- We want to avoid the children walking around the school building but if they have to we will adopt a corridor system, whereby, they walk along the left hand side, so as to avoid immediate contact with other children and adults
- Each group will have allocated toilets to use which will be monitored by the group adults
- The children will eat their lunch in their classrooms before going outside to play
- Children will not be allowed to come to school if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19. If they start to display any symptoms during the day, parents will be called and the child will need to go home and a test carried out.
- In the case of a positive test outcome, the whole group will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

What will learning look like in the classroom?

- The children's desks will be spaced apart as far as possible, and the children will work in a socially distanced space, as best as we can possibly enforce
- Play equipment will continually be cleaned, especially after pupil use in lessons, or after break and lunchtime
- Soft play items, and toys, will be removed as they are more difficult to clean
- All of the surfaces that children, or adults, continually touch will be cleaned continually throughout the day. This includes desks, light switches, handrails, toys, books, sinks and chairs
- The children will bring in their own stationary (in a pencil case) or we will give individuals their own in a plastic wallet which no one else can use
- We will continually ensure that the children wash their hands and that personal hygiene is a high priority throughout the day
- One to one reading with the teacher is not possible, so it will be important that this continues at home
- The learning will be based around our PSHE curriculum, including work to support the children's emotional wellbeing. Any other work will be taken from that on the Google Classroom for each year group.
- Children will need to bring clothing suitable for wet weather on rainy days and sun hats and sun cream applied on sunny days.

Other Guidance and Information

- We have plenty of hand sanitizer bottles, free standing hand sanitizers, cleaning products, bleach for after school cleaning and disinfectant wipes for all hard surfaces and ICT devices
- Once we know how many children are intending to return to school, we will inform you of the drop off and pick up arrangements, but there will be a staggered approach to this, and the different groups of children will have slightly different times, so as to not have large groups of children and parents in the same area at any one time
- Each group will have an allocated entry point onto the school grounds and markings will be placed to show a 2m spacing (like in the supermarkets). Parents and children will be expected to adhere to these
- Children are to bring in their own water bottle and snack for morning break

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- We ask that children do not bring any toys in from home. The children's bags should only include their lunchbox, break time snack, drink bottle, pencil case and reading book. Year 6 children should not bring their mobile phone to school
- Children must be dropped off and collected by one adult only (Yr6 children will **not** be allowed to walk to or from school on their own)
- At lunchtime, the children will have the option of a packed lunch from home or a school packed lunch. In warmer weather, we will look to have the children eat their lunch outside as much as possible
- Parents will be unable to have staff access during this time and meetings in the school building will not be permitted. Contact with the school will have to be done via email and telephone
- For those children not in school, learning will continue via Google Classroom.

We feel that without you knowing what will go on in school during the day, you are not going to be well informed, prior to you making your decision to send your child back to school or not. This list of information is intended to show to you that we are being as well prepared as we possibly can be and that we are not taking any responsibility lightly. We are all desperate to have the school back to the way it was, but we have to do this in a stepped approach. Should you require any further government school return information, then the government guidance is on the [DfE website](#).

Once we know how many children we have returning, we will be in touch again next week with the next stage of our plan. It is going to be a special moment to see our school with Millhouse children learning in it again and we look forward to seeing each and every child return soon.

If you have any questions about any of this, please do email the school office and we will do our best to answer them.

As always, stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G Allen
Headteacher

Mrs J Haken
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs D McGarry
Deputy Headteacher

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