



03/03/21

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Full re-opening of schools for ALL pupils – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Firstly, a huge thank you to all our families for your continued hard work supporting your children throughout Lockdown 3. I am sure that we are all delighted that the government has directed that all schools fully re-open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Despite the tireless efforts of our children, their parents and our staff to ensure effective remote education, it just isn't the same as schools being fully open to all. Therefore, the Government have prioritised this when outlining the road map out of lockdown.

### Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory for all children from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, meaning all children must be back in school.

If your child has received a shielding letter due to being extremely clinically vulnerable, or if your child meets the clinically vulnerable criteria, then please contact [enquiries@mount-charlessch.org](mailto:enquiries@mount-charlessch.org) or call 01726 73911 before the 8<sup>th</sup> March. This will enable us to seek advice and ensure the best course of action.

If your child or anyone living within your household or support or childcare bubble displays any of the Covid symptoms; a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste then you must self-isolate immediately, not come to school and get a Covid test. If you receive a negative test result then your child can return to school if they are well.

Please report your child's absence as usual but make it clear if they are self-isolating due to Covid symptoms. Please inform the school as soon as possible if you receive a positive test result.

If a child or a member of staff receives a positive Covid test result then the school will contact Public Health England (PHE) immediately. PHE will support the school to identify any close contacts to enable us to ensure that they self-isolate as soon as possible. A positive case may not always lead to a whole bubble closure.

If your child is well but is having to self-isolate then our teachers will make contact to initiate remote learning for any period of self-isolation. School staff will keep in contact with you frequently during this time.

### Health and Safety

The safety of our children and staff is our priority. We have continued to work closely with CELT Estates and Facilities Officers to ensure that our health and safety procedures are effective.

Whilst continuing the routines that were in place throughout the autumn term, such as; minimising contact with individuals who may be symptomatic or required to self-isolate, regular hand washing, ensuring good respiratory hygiene, maintaining enhanced cleaning, minimising contact by ensuring that children are taught within year group 'bubbles', staggering drop off / collection and break / lunch times and keeping spaces well ventilated.

TEL 01726 73911 • e-mail: [secretary@mount-charlessch.org](mailto:secretary@mount-charlessch.org)

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We group children within Year group bubbles (two classes) to enable us to provide effective support and enable positive behaviour for learning.

Since January, all staff have engaged in rapid Covid testing using lateral flow devices twice weekly.

All CELT schools are now being fogged every month with Zoono Z71, which provides an antimicrobial film to hard surfaces to rupture bacteria and virus cells on contact. This lasts for 30 days. In addition to this, Mount Charles has installed a Tersano unit that is used to create a highly effective disinfection solution that is used by cleaners as well as staff throughout the day.

All staff will also wear masks when in the corridor, communal spaces and when on the school gate.

The Government guidance recommends that primary children **do not** wear face masks to, or whilst at school, or take part in asymptomatic testing.

## The School Day

All children will return to school at their usual drop off / collection, times / locations. We have attached the site plans as a reminder. **All** children in the family arrive and are collected **together** from their youngest sibling's class gate. If you are happy for an older sibling to come to and from school unaccompanied to their year group gate then please let the office know. To ensure the safety of our whole school community we ask that all parents/carers wear face masks when they drop and collect their children and adhere to social distancing guidance.

If you require childcare before or after school (7.45am – 5.30pm) then please contact: [charlies@mount-charlessch.org](mailto:charlies@mount-charlessch.org) We have a limited number of places at this time to ensure Covid safety. All places must be booked in advance.

The children will return to their year group bubble supported by their usual staff team. They will learn the full curriculum. We will also be prioritising children's emotional, mental and physical health as a result of the possible impacts of lockdown.

Children will be required to wear their usual school uniform. Children will not be changing for PE so will not need their PE kit. Children will be required to wear sensible trainers every day to enable them to be physically active safely.

Children will need to return to school with their home learning packs including the work they have completed since January. **They will need to return with all school resources including, work books, reading books and laptops etc.**

Children will be able to bring their book bag, packed lunch, water bottle and coat into school each day. All stationary will be provided. Your child should not need to bring a large bag or ruck sack. All children from Years 1-6 do not use the corridor pegs to ensure Covid safety. Please do not allow your child to bring any other items to school from home for example, toys, sweets, cake to share etc.

## Standardised Assessments and Testing

Standardised Assessments and Testing in Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 will no longer take place. Neither will Year 1 Phonics Screening. However, we will be working incredibly hard to catch up for missed learning time. Year 6 will be



working to ensure that every child is ready for their transition to secondary school. Teachers will use past papers to support them in making teacher assessments.

### **Educational Visits and Extra Curricular provision**

All residential and non-residential trips are suspended until further notice from the DfE. There will be no extra curricular activity clubs until Easter in the first instance.

### **Have your financial circumstance changed?**

Sadly, many families across the country are reaching crisis point financially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. If your circumstances have changed, your child may be entitled to Free School Meals. Please follow this link and complete an online application form: [Free School Meals Application Form](#)

I appreciate that there will be mixed feelings across our school community and we would like to do everything we can to reassure you. If you have any queries or concerns then please don't hesitate to contact us: [enquiries@mount-charlessch.org](mailto:enquiries@mount-charlessch.org) 01726 73911.

I would like to thank you all again for your ongoing support throughout this challenging time. I am sure that you will also all join with me in thanking our incredible staff team. Every member of staff has worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to ensure the very best offer for our children and their families. We are all so excited to welcome everyone back to Mount Charles!

Yours faithfully,

Claire Bunting  
Head teacher