



Headteacher
James Blackmore

Chair of Governors
Paul Spencer

West Monkton Primary School
Bridgwater Road
Taunton
Somerset
TA2 8FT

Phone: 01823 412582
office@wm.oak.education

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Dear Parents,

Following the government's recent guidance on school opening for September and Mr. Robinson's letter dated 10th July, I am pleased to be able to write and communicate how West Monkton will operate in the Autumn Term. This letter should be read alongside my previous letter (2 July), which outlined the staffing and class structure for September.

The following plan allows **all** children to return in September (Monday 7th September) following two INSET Days (3rd & 4th September).

The change in guidance does not put a restriction on the size of groupings. This allows whole classes to arrive, learn, play and leave together. To restrict unnecessary mixing, the two classes within each year group will have the same arrangements as 'bubbles' have had this half term. From September, the term 'bubble' will no longer be used, replaced with the term 'class' or 'group'

A separate letter will be sent to parents of new Reception pupils to explain induction arrangements which will be in place for the first four days of term for these pupils.

System of Controls

We believe that by implementing a system of controls, it provides an appropriate environment for all the children to return to school. The system of controls will minimise the number of contacts a pupil has in the school day. Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- grouping children together
- avoiding contact between groups
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

The School Day

The following table outlines how we plan to administer the school day within the system of controls. As government guidance suggests, it includes staggered start and finish times (without shortening the 'school day'), staggered break and lunchtimes. The timings reflect the difference in school day between Early Years and KS1 (6 hours) and KS2 (6 hours 15 mins)

Siblings may be dropped off at the same time as a sibling starting at an earlier time. They may then leave school at the same time as their sibling/s.



| Year Group | Entry/Exit Point | Arrival/Departure |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| YR | Reception Gate | 8.45/2.45 |
| Y1 | KS1 Gate | 9.00/3.00 |
| Y2 | KS1 Gate | 9.15/3.15 |
| Y3 | KS1 Gate/Front Office | 8.45/3.00 |
| Y4 | KS2 Gate | 9.15/3.30 |
| Y5 | KS2 Gate | 9.00/3.15 |
| Y6 | KS2 Gate | 8.45/3.00 |

Entry to the School

- ❖ Upon entry to the school, children will not have their temperature checked as this is not advocated in the guidance. Children will go straight into class and wash their hands;
- ❖ One parent/carer to accompany children to school. Following school drop off, adults should not congregate either inside or outside the school premises;
- ❖ We are looking forward to seeing parents/carers in school, supporting our children's education. However, for the Autumn Term, we will not be able to welcome parents/carers without an appointment.

Break and Lunchtime

- ❖ The staggered break times will allow year groups to play together in a larger playground space and will enable the current tape on the playgrounds to be removed. Hot lunches will continue to be served in the hall, whilst packed lunches will be eaten inside/outside classroom, dependent on weather.

Clothing and Belongings

- ❖ We will use our outside environment as much as possible, as advised. This, thankfully, is not unusual for West Monkton children due to our continued OPAL work. Children should have their Wellington Boots and any outdoor clothing in school. Miss Curson will be writing separately about this matter;
- ❖ Children are now able to bring a form of bag to school but please do not bring unnecessary items from home (toys etc.). As you will know, our cloakrooms are very small; we are looking at systems to help keep the cloakrooms as practical as possible. Phase leaders will be communicating separately about this, as the children return to school;
- ❖ Uniform will be expected in the Autumn Term. I have revised the uniform policy and will write out separately about this before the end of term. No changes to the uniform policy have been made but I am keen to highlight certain aspects.

Attendance

- ❖ The government expectation is that all children are now expected to return to school. As a result of this directive, our normal attendance procedures will resume;
- ❖ We understand that some families will still feel anxious about returning to school, regardless of the measures put in place to ensure children can return. Please do talk to us if you consider yourself unable to return. We want to work with families, in the first instance;



- ❖ Families who have children who are currently shielding will be contacted by our staff before the holidays.

Extended Services

- ❖ Breakfast Club and After School Club (ASC) will be offered to all pupils from September 7th. This can be booked on MagicBookings as normal (normal charges apply);
- ❖ ASC will continue to finish at 5.30pm, enabling the advanced cleaning of any equipment used;
- ❖ In line with the guidance, children will be in consistent groupings in order to reduce mixing. Eradicating mixing, entirely, is impractical. Children attending either provision are likely to be in their phase groups;
- ❖ There will be no extra-curriculum clubs for the Autumn Term. This will be revised for the Spring Term in line with any guidance.

Educational Visits

- ❖ Schools will be able to resume day trips from September but overnight visits are currently not advised. This may change with any adaptations to the guidance in readiness for Spring Term. This would currently affect Year 6 who we do have a provisional booking in place for, in Summer Term 2021.
- ❖ It is unlikely that classes will resume swimming lessons in the Autumn Term.

Behaviour

- ❖ The school's behaviour policy will be implemented, as normal, from September. Revisions and additions will be made to reflect COVID-19. These will be communicated to the children;
- ❖ We anticipate pupils will have had a range of experiences during lockdown and have pastoral and behavioural support available.

Curriculum

- ❖ As a school, we have an exciting, engaging and ambitious curriculum awaiting the children upon their arrival in September;
- ❖ For the first half term, in particular, we have a clear plan on how we will settle the children in to school, assess their current level of academic understanding and will plan on how best to address gaps in learning and move their learning forward;
- ❖ We will continue to build upon our remote education so that it is integrated into school curriculum planning;
- ❖ We are anticipating more information regarding the government's catch-up support and will communicate more about this as the Autumn Term develops.

I am aware that there is a lot of information here and have tried to keep it to essential areas of school life. More detailed information will be found in our re-opening plan, and risk assessment, which will be available on the school website from Thursday 16 July.

If you have further questions regarding next year, please see your current class teacher and/or phase leader who will be able to help you.

Best wishes

James Blackmore
Headteacher