



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

Wednesday 3 March 2021

Dear Parents,

Following the government's recent guidance on school opening for March 8 and Mr. Robinson's letter dated 1 March, I am pleased to be able to write and communicate how West Monkton will operate once school reopens next week.

The following plan allows **all** children to return to school on Monday 8 March.

The change in guidance largely reflects the arrangements for the Autumn Term and does not put a restriction on the size of groupings. This allows whole classes to arrive, learn, play and leave together. Each year group will be considered as one bubble; this supports our Track and Trace arrangements.

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:

Prevention

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school;
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances;
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual;
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach;
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents;
- 6) Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible;
- 7) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated;

In specific circumstances:

- 8) Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary;
- 9) Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing, where available;

Response to any infection

- 10) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process;
- 11) Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community;
- 12) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

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	9.00/3.00
Y1	KS1 Gate	9.00/3.00
Y2	KS1 Gate	9.15/3.15
Y3	KS1 Gate	8.45/3.00
Y4	KS2 Gate	9.00/3.15
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 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 rest of the Spring Term, we will not be able to welcome parents/carers without an appointment.

Break and Lunchtime

- ❖ In order to ensure that break and lunchtimes are successful for both children and staff, we will allow phases of the school an allocated section of the playground/field. 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;
- ❖ As in Autumn Term, children in YR-4 will need to bring a bookbag to reduce space in the cloakroom – Y5-6 can continue to bring a backpack;
- ❖ Uniform will be expected in the Spring and Summer Term. Having said this, we recognise that with a national lockdown it will have been a challenge to restock on uniform and shoes. Please do not worry; we will be taking a relaxed view on this until Easter and may be able to support if families require. The most important thing is that the children feel happy and comfortable in school;
- ❖ On the days that children have PE, we encourage them to attend in their PE kits and tracksuits. Class teachers will be able to confirm these days via Class Dojo.

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.

Extended Services

- ❖ Breakfast Club and After School Club (ASC) will be offered to all pupils. This can be booked on MagicBookings as normal (normal charges apply);
- ❖ The timings of our extended services will return to normal (BFast Club 7.30am-8.45am & ASC 3.15pm-5.45pm);
- ❖ 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 remainder of the Spring Term. This will be revised for the Summer Term.

Behaviour

- ❖ The school's behaviour policy will be implemented, as normal.
- ❖ We anticipate pupils will have had a range of experiences during lockdown and have pastoral and behavioural support available.

Curriculum

- ❖ Whilst we are pleased with our remote learning offer, we recognise that children will have had a variety of experiences;
- ❖ For the remainder of the Spring 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;
- ❖ Our rearranged **INSET Day on Monday 19 April** will be spent understanding our assessments and planning to deliver a Summer Term curriculum based on the needs of the children as well as to support transition;
- ❖ We will continue to build upon our remote education so that it is integrated into school curriculum planning;
- ❖ We are executing our plan for catch-up support with the aim of communicating this on the website in the coming weeks;
- ❖ We have made tentative plans to communicate progress reports to parents/carers at the beginning of the Summer Term and Parents' Evenings with final end-of-year reports towards the end of the Summer Term.

There is a lot of information here but we have tried to keep it to the 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 Wednesday 3 March.

If you have further questions regarding the arrangements for next week, please see class teachers and/or phase leaders who will be able to help you.

We are all very much looking forward to seeing you on Monday!

Best wishes

James Blackmore
Headteacher