



Merrydale Junior School

Be the Best you can Be!



Headteacher: Catriona Mugglestone

Deputy Head: Antony Corbett

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

School Re-opening – Monday 8th March 2021

As you know the Government have stated that they want all children and staff to return to school. I know you may be a little apprehensive about sending your child but please be assured that we are putting provisions in place to keep both pupils and staff as safe as we possibly can. All staff are really looking forward to seeing the children again.

Our full risk assessment will be posted on the school website by Friday 5th March.

The school will re-open on **Monday 8th March 2021** and the following is key information that you will need to know. It is a little bit long but please take the time to read it, **as it is IMPORTANT information.**

- We will minimize the movement of children and staff around the school by staying within classes and only mixing and moving within year groups.
- Good, increased hygiene must be maintained, and your child will be expected to wash their hands several times throughout the day including before eating, before/after break, PE, after sneezing or coughing and after using the toilet.
- **Uniform** – School uniform should be worn.
- **Lockers** – Lockers and cloak rooms will not be used. Belongings need to stay with your child in their classroom.
- **PE** – PE kit needs be brought into school on PE days and taken home the same day. The PE schedule is attached at the end of this letter.
- **Resources** – All pupils will be provided with their own individual pencil case containing equipment for their use only. Any shared resources will be cleaned as per our risk assessment.
- **Travelling to and from school** – We strongly encourage children to walk to and from school where possible. We ask that NO cars are parked in the area outside the school gates on Claydon Road. (in all areas past the main school gate). We have asked Leicester City Council to close this area of the road however if ALL parents (except



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Healthy School office@dsatmerrydale.org

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those with a valid disability) took responsibility for this and parked further away from the school this would help to keep all of our children safe.

- **Start and End of the Day Arrangements** – There will be staff around to help support pupils and Parents/Carers, so you all know where to go and to remind about social distancing.
 - All pupils may use either gates on Claydon Road or Hastings Road.
 - There is no entry or exit for pupils or Parents/Carers through the reception area of the school.
 - There are specific arrangements for each year group which are listed at the bottom of the letter – PLEASE CHECK BELOW FOR YOUR CHILD’S YEAR GROUP ARRANGEMENTS.
- **Face masks** – Any child wearing a face covering on their way to school must remove them once they enter the gate. These must then be placed in a plastic bag for future use (staff will have bags to give out to children without their own). On leaving school, children may put their face coverings back on when leaving through the gate.
- **Breaktimes and Lunchtimes** - These will be staggered, and the playground will be segregated to minimise contact with other year groups.
- **No tuckshop** – As there is no tuckshop, please send your child with a healthy snack. Fruit, crisps, a few biscuits etc. but no nuts, chocolate, sweets or large sharing bags of crisps. This is particularly important for Year 5/6 as their lunchtime will be slightly later than normal due to the staggered breaks for year groups.
- **Water bottles** – Please make sure that your child has their own named water bottle which can be topped up within their own classroom. Water fountains will be out of use. You can purchase a school water bottle on ParentPay for £1.50, it will be given to your child at school once payment has been made.
- **Hot school meals** – There will be a hot school meal service, but the menu will be reduced. Due to staggered times, some pupils will need to eat hot meals and packed lunches in the classroom areas. The menu is also attached to this email.
- **School meal cost** – The price of a school meal is now £2.30 per day. If you would like your child to have a school meal, you must make sure that this is paid for in advance on ParentPay. We are no longer able to take cash at the school office.
- **Breakfast Club and Afterschool Clubs** – Initially we will not be able to run our afterschool clubs. However, we are looking into ways to reintroduce these. We have a limited capacity for Breakfast Club from 8am each day. Please contact the school office for more information and to book a place.



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- **ParentPay** – If you have not registered your ParentPay account please do so immediately. If you need help with this, there is a step by step document on the school website or call the school office when we return on 8th March so that they can help you set this up.

https://www.merrydalejuniors.com/images/school/school_news/current_letters/ParentPay%20Instructions%20for%20Parents.pdf

- **Attendance** – If your child is fit and healthy, they must attend school as normal from Monday 8th March. If they are unwell, you must follow usual attendance procedures by calling the school office on 0116 276 7708 by 9:15am each day your child is ill, giving the reason for the absence.

If you have been advised that your child should not attend school and continue to shield under Covid-19 guidance, then please contact the school and speak with Mrs O'Connor as soon as possible.

You may be expected to provide proof of your child's absence eg: letter, text etc.

You can find a copy of the school's attendance policy on the school website.

<https://www.merrydalejuniors.com/parent-information/school-policies>

- **School Office** – As we need to reduce the access to the school site, there is no entry/exit to parents/carers or pupils via the school reception. If you need to speak to a member of staff or the school office please call 0116 276 7708 or email office@dsatmerrydale.org to make an appointment first.

We have tried to cover as much as possible within this letter and these plans are constantly under review and any changes will be communicated with you when appropriate.

If you have a concern that has not been covered, please call or email us. However, if you do need to come in as see us then you must call first to make an appointment to do this.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours Sincerely

C. Mugglestone
Head Teacher



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SPECIFIC YEAR GROUP ARRANGEMENTS FOR START AND END OF THE DAY

Year 3

- One Parent/Carer may bring their child into the playground to drop off in the morning and collect at the end of the day but must wait within the football/basketball cages area.
- From Monday 8th March you can drop your child off at 8:30am (registration is at 8:45am so your child must be in school before this time).
- End of school will be 3:10pm everyday – please wait within the football/basketball cages area to collect your child.
- **Parents/Carers must wear masks and socially distance while on the school playground.**

Year 4

- One Parent/Carer may bring their child into the playground to drop off in the morning and collect at the end of the day but must wait on the concrete basketball area outside the Year 4 classrooms.
- From Monday 8th March you can drop your child off at 8:30am (registration is at 8:45am so your child must be in school before this time).
- End of school will be 3:10pm everyday – please wait on the concrete basketball area outside the Year 4 classrooms
- **Parents/Carers must wear masks and socially distance while on the school playground.**

Year 5/6

- No parents/carers are allowed onto the school playground so that we can maintain safety and social distancing for all pupils and allow parents to support our younger pupils into school. Please drop your child at either Claydon Road or Hastings Road gate so that they can walk into school.
- From Monday 8th March you can drop your child off at 8:30am (registration is at 8:45am so your child must be in school before this time).
- End of school will be 3:20pm everyday – please arrange to meet your child at either Claydon Road or Hastings Road exit. IMPORTANT – We are unable to monitor the collection of the Year 5 /6 pupils so please ensure that you have planned with your child to either walk home or they know where you will meet them to collect them.
- Please do not gather outside the gates when dropping off/collecting your child. Please continue to adhere to social distancing.



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PE Rota –

	W/C - 08/03/2021	W/C - 15/03/2021	W/C - 22/03/2021
Year 3	Monday Wednesday	Monday Thursday	Monday Tuesday
Year 4	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Tuesday	Tuesday Wednesday
Year 5	Tuesday Friday	Wednesday Friday	Wednesday Friday
Year 6	Wednesday Thursday	Wednesday Thursday	Thursday Thursday



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