



The Mill Messenger



National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



The Mill's Weekly Update

Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

There is a lot of information here but we have kept it as simple as possible. Frustratingly, during these times, it may well be subject to change - but here goes!

As it stands at the moment, Primary schools will be open for all pupils' full time education from September 2020. Our school reopens to all of our pupils on **Monday 7th September 2020.**

Health and safety

We are working hard to ensure that we reduce unnecessary contact between different year groups of pupils, and keep the stringent cleaning and disinfecting processes we already have in place, ensuring that our school is as safe as can be for your child and our staff. To help us reduce the number of people on site at one time, we will have staggered drop-off and collection times. We might need to ask you to use a different gate to the one you usually do. Sorry about this, but we have almost 500 pupils to get safely into the building! Staff will be out and showing you where to go. The office will remain available by phone and email and pre-arranged appointments only for the time being.

Front Gate

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will come in through the front gate on Ifield Drive. Staff will be out and showing you where to go.

Reception and Year 1: drop-off 8.40am, collection 2.50pm.

Year 2: drop-off 8.50am collection at 3.00pm.

Older siblings come in with youngest. So for example if you have a Reception and Year 2 child, bring them both in at the Reception time so you are not waiting around!

Back Gate

Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will come in through the back gate off Shipley Road. Staff will be out and showing you where to go.

Year 5 and Year 6: drop-off 8.40am, collection 2.50pm.

Year 3 and Year 4: drop-off 8.50am, collection 3.00pm.

As above, if you have siblings, bring them both in at the earlier time.

Symptoms of Covid19 or positive tests

You must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school, that the person seeks a test and you please report this to us. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately and advised to seek a test, and you will be informed at the time and of the outcome of any test. If anyone in your household, or your child, tests positive for COVID-19 you MUST inform us.

Getting to and from school and public transport

The government has advised walking or cycling to school wherever possible, to reduce the use of public transport. Face coverings are now used if using public transport to get to school. For Key Stage 2 pupils (years 3, 4, 5 and 6), reusable face coverings need to be removed and stored in a named plastic bag in their school bag. For Key Stage 1 children, parents and carers take the masks home after dropping your child at school, bringing it back for pick-up. (We feel that Key Stage 2 pupils are more likely to not lose their masks, so are able to keep them in their school bag, but this is more challenging for little ones, and we do not want masks getting mixed up or lost.) After removing masks, hands need to be washed/sanitised - which will happen as soon as children come into class.

Attendance

During lockdown, the government relaxed the rules on attendance. However, this will change in September. The government guidance says: *'Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.'* The expectation at The Mill is that all pupils return from September 7th and attend school daily.

Supervision and handwashing

We will help all pupils to follow strict behaviour rules relating to physical contact with other pupils, and keeping their hands clean. Pupils will wash their hands regularly, under instruction (and supervision for younger ones) by adults.

Lunches

School lunches will be available again, and we will be starting by providing hot meals for years R, 1 & 2 only, reviewing this as soon as we can. Parents of pupils eligible for free school meals in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will need to complete the Google form sent out earlier today, indicating that their child would like a packed lunch at school in September. Children will no longer receive lunch vouchers. Lunches and breaks will be staggered, with additional cleaning between seatings.

Breakfast and after-school clubs

We will not be offering this for the first weeks back, but we will write to all parents in September asking if you would like to take up places and will be looking to set this up again as soon as we are able.

Playtimes

To reduce the number of pupils in one place at one time, playtimes, lunchtimes and lunch playtimes will be staggered.

Classroom set-up

It will be more important than ever that your child has their own equipment in school, to ensure that what needs to be shared is minimised. We will provide basic equipment in a little personalised pack, so please do not send in any pencil cases from home. Classrooms will be set up according to safety guidance and seating arrangements are being carefully considered in line with latest safety guidance.

Uniform

All pupils will be expected to wear school uniform from September 7th. Updated DfE guidance now says that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

Anxiety and support

We would like to reassure those of you who have not had your children in school since March, that children are incredibly resilient. Those that have returned in Reception, Years One and Six have just settled back quickly into a routine, thriving on the consistency and familiarity of school. They have adapted back to school life with very few issues, despite the media and people who do not work in education making a lot of noise around mental health and the return to school - which does not help you as parents! The children have been incredible so far, and so will all of our September returners. We want to reassure you that we know your children well, and care for their well-being deeply. We have an experienced staff, trained in mental health and well-being, and we will support pupils as needed. The odd wobble and bit of nervousness is completely normal, and we are well prepared for it.

Moving forward and getting back to teaching and learning!!

As parents and carers you have worked very hard with your children using our remote learning resources provided, but we are fully aware that learning has been lost whilst your children have not been at school. We are adapting our curriculum and timetables to make sure that our pupils catch up and get the learning and knowledge that they need to achieve. We will also be providing additional support for learning where this is required, through additional teaching time with our own teachers, which I will be able to inform you about in more detail in the new term.

We are not setting homework for children over the summer, but please click on these links if you would like to explore some of the learning for the next year. Do remember we will be revisiting previous learning throughout the Autumn term with the children when they return, so please do not worry unduly if you get the response: 'I've forgotten that!'

[Click here if your child is going into Reception](#)

[Click here if your child is going into Year 1](#)

[Click here if your child is going into Year 2](#)

[Click here if your child is going into Year 3](#)

[Click here if your child is going into Year 4](#)

[Click here if your child is going into Year 5](#)

[Click here if your child is going into Year 6](#)

[Click here if your child is going into Year 7](#)

Thank you all for your support and understanding throughout this time. On behalf of all of the staff we wish you a happy and safe summer and look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Kind regards,



Sophie Gosden
Headteacher