

Millbrook Junior School



Churchill Way, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 5DP

<http://www.millbrookjuniors.co.uk/>

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Dear Parents/Carers

Below is a copy of the newsletter sent to you in July. We have added in some additional information where this is relevant and we ask that you read it carefully so you know what is happening on your child's return to school.

I would personally like to say thank you so much for your support. These have been very difficult and unprecedented times for everyone. I do recognise that some of these changes will be inconvenient and thank you for your support with this. We anticipate that these plans will be in place at least until December but as the situation could change quickly, either nationally or locally, please bear in mind that our plan could also change quickly. We will always do our best to give you as much notice as possible but this may be beyond our control.

Mrs. Danielle Warren

Coming to School

In September, school will be compulsory for all children. They will be taught in bubbles of up to 30 children (their class). These 'bubbles' will not be able to mix with any other 'bubbles' in the school. To ensure bubbles do not mix, we will stagger the start and end of the day. You have already received the start and finish times for each class and the gates the children will be using. A copy of the letter can also be found on our website. Start times will range from 8.30am to 9.00am and finish times will range from 2.50pm to 3.20pm. Children's breaktimes and lunchtimes will also be staggered.

Parent/carers are not allowed to enter the school site without an appointment. All children in Years 5 and 6 will be released at their allotted time where they have been given permission to walk. We ask that you arrange to meet your child off site whilst maintaining social distancing. Year 3 and Year 4 parent/carers will be allowed to collect children from their allocated gate via a one-way system. Please try to avoid (wherever possible) congregating on Churchill Way. There will be holding areas within the school where you will be able to wait at your allocated time. Please do not arrive early as this will cause unnecessary congestion. If you are not sure, there will be staff around to ask.

Our behaviour policy has been updated in the light of the new expectations of safe behaviours in school. It is available on the school website. Please make sure you have read this with your child to ensure that they understand the new rules.

We will need to minimise the number of items children will bring between home and school. It is important that if children bring a bag into school, it is only a small bag. Children may only bring a lunchbox, small bag, coat, hat, planner, reading book, water bottle and if absolutely necessary, a mobile phone.

Children will be required to wash their hands regularly at school and will be monitored doing so. It is not necessary to send your child with hand sanitiser as this is available in every classroom.

There will be no opportunity for your child to change before PE lessons in school so we will ask all children to come to school wearing their PE kit on the days that they have PE. Children will also be taking part in outdoor science learning. On these days, the children must dress appropriately for outdoor learning and should wear a coat, hat, gloves etc. if required. We will communicate these days via the planner.

If your child has any symptoms of COVID19 or has tested positive in the last 7 days, it is important you do not send them to school.

If your child demonstrates any symptoms during the school day, they will be sent home and you will be asked to get them tested. These are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). All schools must follow this process.

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms.

Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Guidance for full opening: schools 7th August 2020

Face coverings

Children are not permitted to wear face coverings in school as per the government guidance. School staff will also not be wearing face coverings routinely in lessons although there may be occasions where PPE will be worn by some staff.

Track and Trace

The school will engage with the government 'Track and Trace' process. This means that as parent/carers, you must be willing to adhere to the following requirements:

- *book a test if they or their child are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit*

- *provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace*
- *self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)*

Guidance for full opening: schools 7th August 2020

If you access a test for COVID19 you must inform the school immediately of your result.

- *if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.*
- *if someone tests positive, they should follow the [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.*

Guidance for full opening: schools 7th August 2020

If we have a positive case of COVID19 in school, we will inform Public Health England and take further advice. It is likely the ‘bubble’ affected will be closed and given a date when children are allowed to return to school. More than two confirmed cases could result in the temporary closure of the school.

Wrap-around Care

In September, we will be unable to provide a ‘Breakfast’ Club or after school provision. In order to provide wrap-around care, our ‘bubbles’ would need to mix and this is a risk. As soon as we are in a position to start the club back up again, we will let you know.

The Curriculum

We recognise that many children have missed a significant period of time away from school. Although you have done a great job in supporting your child’s learning at home, children may have developed some gaps in their learning that we now need to fill. In order to do this, we will be prioritising some subjects for the first two terms. This will give us the opportunity to focus on filling the ‘gaps’ quickly. We will review this as we go but we hope to be back to the school’s normal curriculum by January.

Wellbeing

We know that some children have found the last few months difficult and inevitably this will have impacted their wellbeing. Our family support worker, Ros Fombanu, is in school (full time) to support any families that need help and we have employed a full time TA who is responsible for wellbeing. One of the benefits of

prioritising some subjects of the curriculum from September to December is that it will give us more time to focus on wellbeing in class and support the children more thoroughly.

Peripatetic Music Lessons

Many children benefit from peripatetic music lessons in school and are members of the school orchestra. We are continuing to liaise with NMPAT and reviewing their risk assessments to see if and how we can continue to provide these lessons.

Get Back to School Safely

Northamptonshire County Council is supporting the new government campaign to reassure parents and students that schools and colleges are ready for their return.

Parents can access up to date guidance and key publications by accessing the NCC Parent page by clicking on the link provided:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/Pages/schools-advice-for-parents.aspx>

The aim is to provide parents with up-to-date advice and guidance around the full reopening of schools. Parents can access the statement from the UK Chief Medical Officer and the study supporting the Government approach. Both documents can be accessed below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-schools-and-childcare-reopening>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/study-finds-very-low-numbers-of-covid-19-outbreaks-in-schools>

And finally,...

We recognise that many of you are anxious about pupils returning to school and the many changes. I am sure, that after a couple of days, the new routines will make sense. Please be assured that we are taking all necessary precautions in line with the government guidance. The decisions made are based on keeping our staff and children as safe as possible. We are looking forward to seeing you all again and starting the new term!