

Millbrook Junior School



Churchill Way, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 5DP

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Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your support over the last four months. While the school has been busy teaching the Year 6 and Key Worker children, you have been busy helping the children with their home learning. Many of you have emailed the class teachers to share some of the exciting things you have been doing and we have really enjoyed seeing them.

In September, we look forward to welcoming all the children back to school. Whilst the school will not be the same place the children left it, will be lovely to be all back together again.

We have spent a lot of time examining the latest government guidance and putting together a plan to ensure our school will be as safe as possible. Nationally, the situation is very fluid and we will ensure our plans are updated to reflect the most recent guidance. The government plans to update the guidance further on 11th August 2020.

Please read the newsletter below to find out more about what our school will look like in September.

I hope you have a restful summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back at the start of the autumn term.

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 will be advised of your child's start and finish time during the week beginning 24th August 2020 as well as which gate they will be expected to enter. Start time 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 – we will be sending a further communication about this. 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 an allocated gate via a one-way system.

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 are bringing between home and school. Children will not be able to use the cloakrooms in school so it is important that if they bring a bag into school, it is only a small bag as it will need to be stored under their desk. Children may only bring a lunchbox, water bottle, small bag, coat, hat, planner, reading book 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 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 in September.

If your child has any symptoms of COVID19 or have 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, continuous 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 must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). 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 2nd July 2020

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 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 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 develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)*

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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 7 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 7-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 2nd July 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. 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 currently talking to NMPAT and reviewing their risk assessments to see how we can continue to provide these lessons.

We do recognise that some of these changes will be inconvenient and we 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 not be in our control.