



› WE RESPECT, WE ACHIEVE, WE LEARN ‹

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

We have now come to the end of the academic year. As I reflect and plan for September I am left with a strong sense of the amazing 'community' in which we live and work.

We have missed seeing so many of you but have loved seeing your posts to teachers and talking on the phone. We are sad to say 'goodbye' to our year 2 pupils but are so pleased that we were able to get you into school to say 'goodbye and good luck'. We know you will make us proud as you move forwards.

For those that have been able to return we have enjoyed a different experience of school. We know you have missed your friends but you have got to know some new staff and pupils.

We could never have predicted the implications of a global pandemic on our lives and the education of our children. We begin now to plan for September when we will get all the children back safely into school and we will start our 'recovery curriculum'.

On behalf of all of us here we want to 'thank you' for the ways you have responded. Your support for us as a school was constant and you reached out when you needed us. We do not underestimate the challenges that parents have faced during these last few months. We know how hard you worked with us to put in place home learning and the difference it has made. We appreciate that the home learning experience will have been different for many families depending on your circumstances and that at times it may have been very difficult for you. The engagement that you have had with your child's teacher, myself or our family support worker during this time will make it easier for teachers and staff teams to help all children to catch up and keep up.

We know that September will be different, we will still be operating in new ways and it is for us to keep this as safe as possible for all of you. This is the reason I am communicating some of the preparations that we are making in order to follow government guidelines. The safety of children, parents and staff is, and always will be, our number one priority. We will be needing your support to do this.

Current restrictions on class sizes will be lifted, but schools and settings will keep children in class or year group 'bubbles' to minimise the number of daily contacts with others that each pupil has. Protective measures, such as regular cleaning and handwashing, will, of course, continue as will social distancing where possible.



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### Arriving and departing

**There will not be any 'early birds' in the first half term in order to maintain bubbles staying separate.**

We have decided because of the age of our children and space, that we will allow parents and carers onto the school site but as yet not into classrooms. We will have a 'one way' system that takes you past each class door where your child can enter. We will still be operating a staggered start and finish but over a much shorter period. When you drop off the first child you will also be able to drop siblings to their class following a strict one - way system. It will be essential that you arrive for these drop off and collection times. We ask that only 1 adult accompanies the children only and that you do not congregate with any other families whilst on site. School staff will be outside supporting you to follow routes and more info will follow on the detail of this in the first week in September.

	Entrance	Drop time	Collection
Nursery 3 and 4 yrs (after induction)	Entrance 1	8.30	11.30
Nursery 2 yrs (after induction)	Entrance 1	12.30pm	3.30pm
Year R (after induction)	Entrance 1	9.00	3.00
Year 1	Entrance 2	8.50	2.55
Year 2	Entrance 2	8.40	2.50

**Please note for Nursery and Reception this will be your timetable after your induction weeks have been completed.**

### Keeping safe

Testing will be widely available, and schools and settings will alert parents should concerns arise. It is vitally important that if your child has any of the COVID-19 symptoms they do not attend their school or setting and schools will ask parents to collect their children straight away if they become symptomatic during the school day. It is also important that your child is tested as soon as symptoms start to occur. The majority of tests are being returned as negative, and therefore your child can return to school at this time. If your child tests positive, your household will be asked to self-isolate as per the NHS guidance. Appropriate actions will be taken in the case of any outbreak, and remote education will be made available to any pupils who might have to self-isolate. As throughout this period, every school and setting's approach will be different and will reflect local context and circumstances.



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### **Attendance from September**

The risk to children of becoming severely ill from COVID-19 is very low and we know there are negative, and sometimes lasting, health and educational impacts for pupils who are out of schools and settings for long periods of time. It is with this in mind that the government's guidance states that pupils will be expected to attend their school / setting, as normal, at the start of the Autumn Term 2020. From September it will therefore be compulsory for you to send your children to school. A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19. Shielding advice will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of COVID-19 transmission. This means that those pupils who remain on the shielded patient list can also return to their school or setting, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Some pupils who are not required to shield but who remain under the care of a specialist medical professional may need to discuss their care with that professional before returning to their school or setting. Please advise the school or setting if the guidance you receive is that your child should remain at home. Other than in these exceptional cases, or where a pupil's absence is otherwise authorised, it will be the schools or settings expectation that pupils attend as normal. It is important that you discuss any concerns on attendance that you may have about attendance with your school as soon as possible to avoid further escalation.

### **Additional info for September**

- The school kitchen will be providing lunches for all pupils as usual although children will not mix outside their class groups to eat them.
- Children will need to wear school uniform as usual from September.
- We will not be able to keep bikes on site because of other children touching them.
- On PE days children will be asked to come into school in their PE clothes to avoid additional bags and changing. You will need to ensure they have suitable footwear for these days.
- Children will be asked to only bring a school book bag and a water bottle. No other bags can be bought in to minimise space at coat pegs which have to be spaced.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school in the new academic year. All this information and more details will be repeated for you in September on our usual platforms so don't worry if it feels a lot right now!



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Thank you, again, for everything you are doing to help prepare your children to make a strong and safe start. On behalf of all the staff here at Monkwick Infant and Nursery we wish you a lovely summer holiday.

Mrs C. Holmes