



› **WE RESPECT, WE ACHIEVE, WE LEARN** ‹

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, can I welcome you back to school after what has been a really difficult six months for all of us. A very warm welcome to our new families and children who are joining us. We are so excited to be seeing the children and to focussing on lots of nurture and educational support to fill gaps and ensure all children thrive again. We have worked so hard to organise school so that our classrooms and site is as safe as we can make it for everyone. We now need you to support us as you always do in making this work.

So lots of information to share with you, some you have already had and some will be new or adding detail. As always we are here to answer your questions, call us or send an email to [talktoschool@monkwickinfant.school](mailto:talktoschool@monkwickinfant.school).

### **Keeping everyone safe**

In order that we all stay safe we now need , children, staff and parents and carers to be extra vigilant about following government restrictions around social interactions. Especially as we move into the autumn and winter, people will be meeting more indoors, it is vital that you follow the rules around household mixing and distancing. Many of us still miss close contact with family and friends but for now we must continue to stay safe.

### **Preparing your child to return to school**

Some children have been in school since the start of the pandemic but for many this is going to be a new start after a long time. Please prepare them for the fact that school will be different to how it was. You must prepare your children for the fact that they need to distance as much as they can from staff and pupils and that they must stay in their class bubbles in order to keep everyone safe. We will do lots of work with them around this, but they will be staying in their class bubbles across the day including lunchtimes and playtimes. We know by now they are used to seeing this done in the community and in supermarkets but some have not done this in school. We will be posting support materials for this online this week to help you so watch out for these.

We understand that coming into a new environment and getting to know new staff will cause some anxiety but we will do this very kindly and have planned activities to help the children settle.

We will be supporting children around the new 'safe' behaviours that are needed and know that for some we will need to work together with you to ensure your child can follow what is needed.

### **Coming to school**

In order to socially distance in what is a horribly congested area outside our school and the Junior school we ask that you do not drive down **School Road**. We are having to operate a pedestrian one-



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way system to support social distancing and keep everyone safe and this will involve two crossing points for families with their very young children. Parking enforcers will regularly attend and you may not drop off outside school. Because of the need to cross twice, it will be unsafe to bring cars down the road. Please support us and **avoid School Rd.** The safest option is of course to walk avoiding public transport but if this is essential please wear a mask.

You will need to follow the marked routes to ensure all families move in one direction past the school entrances. See the photo below.



### **Arriving and departing**

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

We sent the times to you last term but here they are again:

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.

**We ask that all adults must wear a mask whilst on the school site delivering their children and picking up. All visitors to school will be required to put on a mask too.**



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	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

The current symptoms of Covid 19 are a temperature, a dry continuous cough, or a lack of taste and smell. If your child, or anyone else in your household, has symptoms, your child must **NOT** attend school under any circumstances for 14 days, as the whole household should self-isolate. You will need to seek a test. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> to book one. It is expected that all members of the school community comply with NHS Test and Trace.

Anyone who has tested positive for Covid 19 must now self isolate for 10 days.

We will need to know if you have had a positive test within your household, so that we can liaise with the Sigma Trust and the local health protection team and follow their advice.

### **What will happen if my child has symptoms at school?**

If your child develops any symptoms at school, you will be contacted immediately to come and collect them as soon as possible. Your child will be isolated from others within the school until you arrive. They will be supervised by an adult during this time, but the adult may be in the doorway rather than in the room with them. They may also need to wear PPE whilst supervising your child. If more than one child is waiting to be collected they will be kept at least 2m from one another.

You will then need to seek a test, by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>. We will need to be informed of the result, and we will give you further advice. We will also need to contact the Sigma Trust and the local health protection team to ensure we follow any advice they give.

### **Face coverings**



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Whilst you may have seen talk about face coverings in schools in the media, this is advice for children in secondary school, not primary schools. Children will not be expected to wear a face covering, and are very unlikely to be mixing or passing other bubbles in corridors as they are based in one classroom.

If you want your child to wear a face covering on their journey to school, they will need a small plastic bag to store it in for the day. Please ensure your child knows how to remove and put on their covering safely. We will not prevent children wearing a face covering if their parent wants them to do so.

There may be times where staff need to wear a face covering, especially when they are working in shared areas, or at drop off and collection times. Any essential visitors to the school will be expected to wear a face covering.

**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.

**Additional info for returning to school**

- Your child will stay in their class bubble at all times. They will not move around between classes or around the school, this will limit interactions.
- The school kitchen will be providing lunches for all pupils as usual although children will not mix outside their class groups to eat them. A copy of the new Autumn lunch menu can be found on the school website under the 'parents heading'.
- Children will need to wear school uniform as usual from September. We ask that this is washed daily please.
- 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 will provide a plastic wallet for a reading book if you do not have the reading bag.
- We will provide equipment for children such as pencils etc. Sharing is minimised and rotation is in place if it is used between bubbles.



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- Unfortunately, at this time we will not be able to open the school office to see parents and carers face to face. We are on the end of the phone and email to answer any worries for you. Teachers also cannot meet with you yet face to face but phone us and they will make contact in all the ways we have been doing through lockdown. We still want to work as closely as we can with you. We ask that you distance at all times when dropping to classrooms. There will be marked area outside each class. You can continue to message us on tapestry and Dojo.
- A reminder that entrance 1 is the early Years black gate to the side of school. Entrance 2 is the main gate that you use to access the school facing the school office.

We will continue to update you with info as and when we need to, so please ensure we have contact emails and phone numbers. Can I thank you for your understanding and support as we put new procedures in place to keep everyone safe.

Mrs. C Holmes