Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that the Government has announced their intention for all children to return to school in September. Unless the local or national picture changes, we are fully prepared at Morningside to welcome all of the children back for the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Children in Rainbow Nursery, School Nursery and Reception have slightly later start dates as you will have been made aware.

Please take good care to read all of this letter as there is a lot of information about the details of the return and some things that you will need to be aware of. These are some of the things that you will need to know about following the Government guidance:

**Attendance**

All children are expected to return for the full week from the beginning of the Autumn Term. School attendance will be mandatory once again. Should your child not be able to attend school because they are unwell, you should follow the usual arrangements to let us know. If you feel that your child is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, you must follow the guidance in this letter.

**COVID-19 Protective Measures**

We will have in place a number of measures and systems of control:

• Full and thorough risk assessment

• Routines of good hygiene that are part of everyday routine and school culture

 •Regular handwashing and sanitising will be required

• Additional cleaning routines will be in place

• Class shared resources such as reading books will be regularly cleaned/ quarantined

If your child or anyone in your family becomes unwell with any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they will be required to obtain a COVID-19 test. Children must stay at home and follow the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. The guidance states that they should stay at home for 7 days and should arrange to have a test. You must inform the school of the outcome of the test. Other members of the household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. If an adult or child in school tests positive for COVID-19, it may be necessary for all adults and children in that class / year group to self-isolate. You will be informed if that is the case. All families returning to school will be required to comply with the measures stated above.

**Uniform**

School uniform will be worn and is available to buy on the school website. Parents are advised that uniform does not need to be washed more regularly than normal. If your child is not able to tie their own shoelaces they should wear shoes with Velcro fasteners. On days that the class has PE children should come to school wearing their PE kit.

Children should only bring essential items to school such as their packed lunch, a reading book and a coat, hat and gloves when it becomes cold. Children can bring their book bag to school but they must not bring any soft toys or non-essential items. Children are allowed to take reading books to and from school. Reading books will be changed on a schedule. They will be cleaned between uses or stored for a period of 48 hours, prior to being given to another child.

In and around school Children will continue to be grouped in classes of 30 children and each year group will form a “bubble”. This is because at some points in the day children will mix with other children from their year group. This is necessary so that we can deliver the full curriculum and to facilitate play and lunchtimes effectively. In key stage two we will be implementing a ‘no touch’ policy for children when playing. This will help them to try and stay at a suitable distance from each other and decrease the risk of catching the virus.

The school will continue to teach the broad and balanced curriculum that is outlined on our website. This will include an increased focus on positive mental health and wellbeing. Pupils will be seated side by side and facing forwards. This is because the transmission of the virus is less likely this way. There will be no large gatherings such as assemblies and workshops. Assemblies will continue as normal but will be provided electronically for children to watch in their classroom.

Children will be provided with additional resources in school such as scissors, a glue stick and an individual whiteboard and pen. They will remain with the child and will not be shared with others. We will provide a fully-stocked pencil case for all children. Each child will be given their own school water bottle as communal drinking fountains will not be in use.

**Wraparound Care**

Play Centre and Breakfast Club provision will be available to working families from Monday 7th September. Sessions need to be booked and paid for in advance. Please call the main office from Tuesday 1st September for details.

It will be possible for us to run some extra-curricular provision and you will be informed of this at a later date. Normal booking procedures will apply. Outdoor non-contact sports are encouraged.

Coming into the school buildings without an appointment will not be possible. To make an appointment you should contact the school office by phone or e-mail. For parents who have questions or who want to pass on information to teachers, the pastoral team or senior leaders should call the office. You will receive a call back on the same day.

Parents are encouraged to travel to school without using public transport or cars if possible. Parents should encourage their children to walk, ride or scoot to school.

**Staggered start and end to the day**

It will be necessary to have these in place for the foreseeable future to ensure that we are as safe as possible.

We request that you let us know if Y5 and Y6 children have permission to come to school on their own and that any other children are accompanied by one adult only. We have organised the starts and ends of the day so that the amount of overall teaching time is not reduced. The times will be as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year group** | **Collection/ Drop-off point** | **Drop-off time** | **Collection time** |
| Nursery am | Nursery gate | 9.00 | 12.00 |
| Nursery pm | Nursery gate | 12.30 | 3.30 |
| Nursery full time | Nursery gate | 9.00 | 3.30 |
| Reception | Small front gate | 9.00 | 3.20 |
| Year 1 | Back gate | 9.00 | 3.20 |
| Year 2 | Back gate | 8.50 | 3.10 |
| Year 3 | Small front gate | 8.50 | 3.10 |
| Year 4 | Large front gate | 9.00 | 3.20 |
| Year 5 | Back gate | 8.40 | 3.00 |
| Year 6 | Car park | 8.30 | 3.00 |
| Breakfast Club | Small front gate | From 8am | n/a |
| Play Centre | Small front gate | n/a | 3.30-6pm |

 • Do not stay and talk to or socialise with other parents and do not congregate outside of the school gates, or any other designated drop-off or pick-up areas. We need to consider the safety of every member of our school community

• Only one parent may accompany their child to school to reduce the amount of adults on site

• The routes into the school will be clearly signposted and there will be signage to support you with keeping a 2 metre distance. Please follow this at all times

• If you have to bring a young sibling with you to drop and collect your child, the sibling MUST remain with you and by your side at all times. Please be on time for your allocated slot to support the smooth running of the drop-off and pick-up as much as possible

• If your child is upset, please stand aside to let another child through. It will not be possible for staff to physically intervene

• If a child is going to be late for their start time at school, parents/carers must rearrange a new drop-off time with the school office directly. This is only if lateness is informed in advance due to a reason such as a medical appointment

• If you arrive late, we will ask that you wait outside the main entrance (at suitable social distance) and your child will have to enter the school though the office– PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE dropping off or picking up your child/children. If you are bringing more than one child to school, please try and keep to the arrival times as stated.

**School Meals**

The kitchen will be providing a hot meals service from Monday September 21st. For the first 2 weeks we will be serving a cold lunches. Some children will eat in class, some outside and some in the dining hall. We are using this time to develop a new hot menu that meets all of the nutrition guidelines and can be safely served to all of our children within a realistic timeframe. Parents should pay for school lunches in the normal way.

We have planned for September with the intention that we will be ready to implement all of these arrangements should nothing change. Our school planning and risk assessments do factor in things like local and national infection rates. If things do change between now and September, we may have to adjust our plans. If things do change at all, please be assured that we will communicate this to you. The Government have issued some information for parents about school in the Autumn Term. If you wish to read it, the link is here.

**What Parents and Carers need to know about school in the autumn term**

 If you have reached the end of this letter, well done and thank you! The amount of communication from the school over this period has been huge. I have tried to keep you all informed as much as possible, whilst not to overwhelm you – I hope that I have achieved that. I would like to say thank you to you all once again. The last few months have been challenging for all of us in ways that nobody could have predicted. I hope that we have continued to provide the right information and support both for you and your children. I sincerely hope that the worst of this dreadful virus is now behind us and we can begin to return to some kind of normal during the Autumn Term and beyond. I look forward to seeing you all again in September. Yours sincerely



Janet Taylor

Head teacher