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*Making a Difference for our Future*

## Meadowside FAQs - September 2020

- Why are we having staggered starts in the morning?

DfE guidance states that children must be kept in their class bubbles throughout the day. We can't mix and mingle in the playground like we used to, before or during the school day. Every child must wash their hands, on entrance to school. After all the class have done this (approx. 10 minutes), a member of staff needs to sanitise surfaces, before the next class can then come in.

As we improve our efficiency, we may be able to adjust times, but will continue to use the same system.

- How does The Rule of Six apply, on the school site?

If you are waiting to drop off or collect, you should wait in socially distanced groups of no more than 6, including any children with you. **In England, each child with you counts as 1 person in the group; they are not exempt from the rule.**

Our school staffroom has to be used in the same way.

Children can still operate in bubbles of 30/31 during their school day.

- Why are classes in bubbles?

DfE guidance stipulates this as essential. We are working really hard to ensure that each part of the day (arrival, learning, play and lunchtime) are carefully timetabled, so that bubbles do not come into contact.

Please help us by being as careful as you can, when waiting on the school site and when planning social activities with your children.

- Why do we have to collect from the playground, using a one-way system?

Classes have their own pick up times, to limit numbers on site. It is essential that parents arrive punctually to collect each sibling. The children wait outdoors in class groups and parents should be socially distanced when moving round the site, rather than gathering together. So far, the weather has been on our side!

- How can I get in touch with the class teacher/the office/Miss Thomas?

All emails and phone calls need to come through the school office initially. We have an online system running throughout the day so that messages are relayed to classes immediately. One of us will phone you back as soon as we can, if a conversation is better. Messages can also be passed on via gate staff. We are all

adjusting to this, but have to operate in this way, while face to face conversations carry increased risk.

- Will there be a Parents Evening this term?

Yes, but this will be managed online. We are working out a plan of action and hope to be able to call you on Microsoft Teams accounts for a virtual video conversation. Details will come out very soon, including dates and how to book.

- What about all the Friends of Meadowside events we usually have?

Miss Thomas and Mr Port have held a planning meeting with the team and we have reviewed our usual calendar and suggested some creative, covid-friendly alternatives for fun and fundraising! You will hear more about these throughout the year.

- How will Reading be organised?

We are now allowed to use our reading and library resources again! Each class has devised a schedule of when to change and quarantine books. We will continue to ensure reading activities, (including phonics in KS1) always form part of our daily diet throughout the school.

- What is the Recovery Curriculum for?

At Meadowside, we are identifying key skills in all subjects which children will need to be secure in, as they move forward after lockdown. Some children will have missed several months of school-based learning and everyone will have had different experiences of home-schooling in lockdown! Our job is to help everyone rediscover their thirst for learning, wake their brains up and move forward happily and confidently. School s are being given some additional funding to help with this.

- If my child has to self-isolate during term time, how will they be able to keep up with their learning at home?

If children are in isolation and well enough to learn, they should not be held back from doing so! We plan to provide you with guidance, resources and ideas, as well as ways for your child to continue receiving feedback from their teacher and their peers, if they are working at home.

Our approach will be different from the summer lockdown system – DfE expectations have changed too.

We will be ready to share this system with you at the end of September. Let's hope we have to use it as little as possible!