

Friday 22nd May 2020

Re: Coronavirus Covid 19 – FAQs – 22.05.2020

This document will be updated weekly with any additional questions received.

Will teachers and children need to wear a mask?

The Government guidance states that children and teachers do not need to wear masks. However, if any members of staff wish to wear cloth masks to feel safe when the school is re-opened, I have agreed to this. Equally if any child wishes to wear a cloth mask to support with any anxieties or worries, they are welcome to do so. However, please note, all children who wear masks will need to be able to manage these independently as staff will not be able to support them with taking these off and putting them on.

Government guidance: *“Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission”*

What happens when dropping off and picking up as its very crowded?

We will be staggering drop off and pick up times. There will be social distancing signs on the floor and around the school site. We will also be operating a one-way system to minimise contact with other parents/carers. The back gate accessed via Cripps Avenue will be closed until further notice. The car park will not be available for parents to access, including those with disabled badges. Further information will be sent out before the school reopens, including a map to show the one system and drop off/pick up arrangements.

If our children need help with going to the loo or getting dressed what happens?

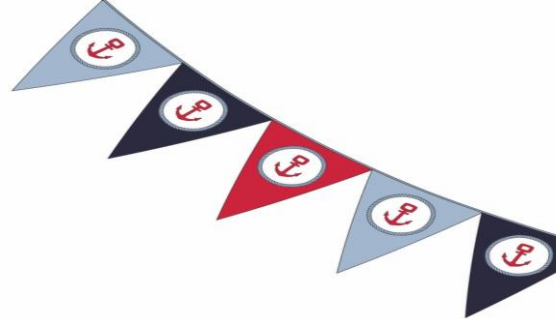
Children will still be supported going to the toilet if needed and there will be restrictions of the numbers of children able to access the toilets at any one time. Staff will wear protective face coverings, aprons and gloves when changing nappies or dealing with toileting accidents. We won't be asking the children to change during the school day to support the issue of helping getting dressed/undressed. If any adult helps a child in close contact children and adults will then make sure that they wash their hands thoroughly afterwards.

What happens if a child needs comforting or a hug during the day?

All adults will continue to support children if they get upset or anxious – we are committed to doing that. In terms of hugs, this will be down to professional decision on part of the adults in the teaching groups as I am

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sure you will appreciate that some adults are worried about managing social distancing during these times. If any physical contact happens, children and adults will wash hands afterwards.

How many children will be in one class?

We will be following strict Government guidance of no more than 15 children per teaching group. Each teaching group will have a designated classroom that will be their base.

What happens at play time?

The playgrounds and fields will be divided up into zones and each teaching group will be allocated a section (which will rotate) to play in with only the children in their teaching groups and the adults in their teaching groups.

I currently receive food vouchers. Will this continue as I presume no school meals will be provided so us single parents still have to provide for our child?

At the moment the Government is saying that for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals will continue to receive food vouchers if they are not attending school. For these children attending school, the kitchen will re-open and be offering hot meals. These hot meals will also be available for any child to order. Also, the Universal Infant Free School Meals will be reinstated for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children.

Are you expecting to have the children back full time 5 days a week?

Yes. The Government has asked schools to reopen for education as normal and no longer offer childcare as has happened during the current partial opening.

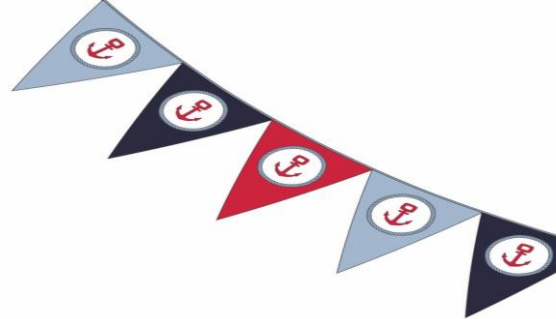
If I was to decide I didn't want to send her back until I am 100% safe or I don't send her back straight away and then think she should go?

The Government is encouraging all those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to come back to school when we re-open. Obviously it is a parental decision and we will support you in the decision you make. If once you have heard about the plans and make a decision to restart your child after the official opening time, you will be welcome to send them in. We would just ask that you let us know in advance of this so that we can ensure the teacher knows and can prepare for a new child to join.

If I was to decide I didn't want to send her back until I am 100% certain it's safe would I have to contact the school every day?

Yes. The expectations remain the same as usual for children not attending school. If your child is in Reception, Year 1, Year 6 or are attending as Critical Keyworker children/vulnerable children and you are keeping your child at home, then we would need to know about this absence. You can leave a message on the voicemail facility via the school office.





How will the cleaning be monitored for each child after they have used the toilet?

All children will be accompanied to the toilet to ensure there are a minimum number of children using this space at any one time. Adults will wait outside. Hands will be washed afterwards. If there is an accident, then EMCOR team will clean. Additional cleaning has been set up with EMCOR for during the school day, including the toilets.

How will you keep the social distancing in place during lunch and break as my child does not fully understand why she will not be able to play with her friends like before?

Play time and lunch times will be zoned so children will only be playing with their friends in their smaller teaching groups. One of our jobs as teachers will be to help children understand why this is in place in an age appropriate way.

Will there be any support to have the transition week or day at secondary school given they are closed or will there be small groups able to go in etc?

I am unsure what secondary schools are planning, although it seems unlikely that they will be offering visits during this time. If I hear any more about this, I will let you know. A large part of the learning planned for Year 6 children in term 6 will be about supporting them with preparing for the transition to secondary school.

PGL – it is very clear that the trip won't be going ahead. So what are the arrangements made for us to receive the full refund before the children finish their Year 6 and leave the school?

We are waiting to hearing from PGL about arrangements for refunds as they hold the money – the school doesn't. As soon as we know more about how you will be refunded, we will contact all Year 6 parents/carers

I hope this helps with your understanding of school arrangements if the Government asks all schools to re-open on 1st June.

I will update this FAQs sheet next Friday if I receive any further questions. If you do have questions, please e-mail me these via office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk

Take care and best wishes to everyone

Kind regards

Ms. Claire Westcott
Headteacher

