



Friday 10th July

Dear Parents,

I apologise that I am writing another lengthy letter to you but as we draw near to the end of term I felt it was important to provide you with an update on life at Mordiford CE Primary School. I am privileged to have been a teacher now for 20 years and have spent 10 of those as Headteacher, never in that time have I experienced such a period of change and challenge within education, or the wider world for that matter. I have been hugely impressed by the response to the pandemic from the children, staff, families and governors and whilst it has certainly been a challenge I am very proud to have been Headteacher at this time.

This past half-term we have been open to children in YR, Y1, children of key workers and then our Y6 children, on average we have nearly 70 children in school each day. This week we have also seen nearly 40 children from Y2 to Y5 for face to face sessions. Those children attending school have been bright, cheerful and resilient. We have very much missed our children who are working at home but have enjoyed the contact of home learning, Zoom chats and telephone calls and been amazed by the creativity of home learning, whilst acknowledging that this has been a challenging time for families.

We now know that it is the government's ambition that from the beginning of the Autumn term all pupils, in all year groups will return to school full-time. The DfE has published guidance for the full September reopening, which includes a set of protective measures which make up a system of controls. The system of controls is based around the prevention of infection and the response to any infection and includes a number of mandatory elements.

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school; (STATUTORY)
- 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual; (STATUTORY)
- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach; (STATUTORY)
- 4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach; (STATUTORY)
- 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible; (must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.)
- 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE); (applies in specific circumstances)

Response to any infection

7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process; (STATUTORY)

8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community; (STATUTORY)

9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice; (STATUTORY)

The fifth item of the system of controls (minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible) is one that schools are required to consider properly and then put in measures that suit their particular circumstances. Over these past few weeks we have gained a great deal of experience in this, nonetheless having significantly more children on site will raise greater logistical and operational challenges for us. I therefore propose to provide you with our skeleton plan for September reopening now but will write to you again during the latter part of the summer holiday, once we have had the time to fully interpret the guidance and what it means for Mordiford, so that we can then furnish you with the finer details that you will require. I ask that you are patient with us as this will take time and cannot be rushed; we also have factors outside of our control such as the local rate of infection and logistical issues such as the completion of our car park (the estimated completion date has this week been pushed back to 19th of August)

Key elements to our proposed plan: (please note that the proposals are for first half-term but are liable to change at short notice, elements of the plan are likely to last further into the term/year)

- Breakfast Club will reopen from 7.45 to 8.30am, £2.50 per session: max of 30 children, children will sit on tables only with children from their own class, places MUST be pre-booked. Drop off MUST be complete by 8.00am using the one way system at the front entrance
- Twilight Club will reopen from 3.00pm to 4.30pm, Monday to Thursday, £3.95 per session: max of 30 children, children will sit on tables only with children from their own class, places MUST be pre-booked. Only one pick up time at the end of the session at 4.30pm using the one way system at the front entrance
- Film Club Friday: TBC
- No after school extracurricular clubs for first half-term at least
- “bubble” system successfully used this term with 15 children or less will be translated into class sized “bubbles” so that all children will be taught within their peer group, as much as possible this class group will be kept apart from other classes, within the class children (especially the older pupils) will be encouraged to keep their distance
- Classroom layout will be carefully considered, each class will use designated toilet areas, where possible equipment will not be shared, when shared the equipment will be thoroughly cleaned
- Enhanced cleaning schedule will remain in place
- Staggered drop off and pick up times: tbc but provisionally:

Group	Drop Off	Pick Up
1: Y5 and Y6 50 children	8.30am	3.00pm
2: Y3 and Y4 49 children	8.40am	3.10pm
3: YR, Y1 and Y2 52 children	9.00 am	3.20pm

- Staggered break and lunch times: zoned areas of the school and outdoor space

Group	Break time	Lunchtime
1: Y5 and Y6 50 children	10.45 am	12.45pm
2: Y3 and Y4 49 children	10.30am	12.25pm
3: YR, Y1 and Y2 52 children	10.15 am	11.45am

- We will need to modify our catering provision to just **packed lunch** provision at least for the first few weeks of term
- Full school uniform , wear PE kit on PE days, Forest School kit on outdoor days to minimise changing and amount of personal belongings on site
- Limit the number personal belongings brought into school
- Each child will have individual pencil cases (provided by school) containing their equipment
- No whole school assemblies or gatherings, Collective Worship will be carried out remotely to join the school together
- COVID-19 annex to the school Behaviour Policy will remain in place
- The curriculum offer will be broad and balanced, children's starting points will be assessed and teaching time will be prioritised to address significant gaps in knowledge, a restorative curriculum will be offered giving time for the children to be creative, be outdoors and have time to reflect upon themselves, others and the world around them. Time will be given to rebuild friendships and social engagement, address and equip children to respond to issues linked to COVID-19, support children with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing
- We are planning on the basis that statutory primary assessments will take place in the summer of 2021
- Catch up support will be given to children who have a significant need, additional government funding is being allocated to individual schools to support this
- We will need to make meticulous plans for specialist teaching interventions, small group teaching, planning, preparation and assessment time, use of school shared areas and corridors
- Sports coaches may begin to work with the children again following strict guidelines
- PGL for Y6 moved from September to March
- Wider Opportunities for Y4 will begin after half-term
- Visitors to the school site will be limited, contractors visits outside of school hours
- Parents will be asked to maintain social distancing whilst on the school grounds, at least initially the school office will remain closed to parents, communication will need to be via telephone/e mail

This list is not exhaustive and much more planning is required before we are ready for the new academic year; however I thought that it may be helpful at this stage for you to begin to be able to talk to your child about how September might feel and for you to be able to make tentative plans for work/family commitments etc. Please do ask if you have any questions.

Thank you for all of your support and compassion throughout these past few months.

Kind regards,

Kerri Finney

Headteacher