

Middleton St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School

Moor Flatts Road, Middleton, Leeds. LS10 3SW

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

Headteacher: Mrs Naomi Wood

Telephone: 01132717206

Email: enquiries@msmleeds.co.uk

Website: www.middletonstmarys.co.uk

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week you will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement, that primary schools will reopen on **8th March**. All children will be expected back to school on this day unless they are isolating. Breakfast club will be running as usual for children who attended previously, entrance for them will still be through the main office entrance for breakfast club.

School uniform items may be ordered online via our eduspot shop. Please remember, children are expected to wear **full uniform**, on PE days, children can wear non-uniform (joggers, t-shirt etc).

From Monday, the gates will be opened at 8.20am to allow Year 5 and Year 6 to enter as they have been, then parents may enter the playground from 8.30am. We will be continuing our staggered start to the school day to ease congestion, so please drop and go and do not loiter in the playground/outside the school. Children will be in larger bubbles as they were in September – a Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and a Year 3 / 4 and Y5/6 bubble.

When dropping off and collecting, please maintain social distancing and try to keep to one adult collecting and dropping off. Our Reception children will now enter school **via the playground** and no longer through the nursery gates. Nursery will open their gates from 8.30am, gates will close at 8.40am. Registration will be stricter, please arrive on time. There is now a 10 minute window as previously, prior to Covid-19. **All parents and carers must wear a face mask/covering on entering the school grounds.**

	School Opens	Registration Closes	Collection Time	Place to drop off/collect
Breakfast Club	7.30am	8.20am		Main office
Year 6	8.20am	8.30am	2.40pm	Y1/Y2 playground gate
Year 5	8.20am	8.30am	2.40pm	Y1/Y2 playground gate
Nursery	8.30am	8.40am	3pm	Nursery gate
Reception	8.30am	8.40am	3pm	Walk through Y1/Y2 playground gate
Year 2	8.30am	8.40am	3pm	Y1/2 playground
Year 1	8.40am	8.50am	3.10pm	Y1/2 playground
Year 3	8.40am	8.50am	3.10pm	Walk through Y1/Y2 playground gate
Year 4	8.40am	8.50am	3.10pm	Walk through Y1/Y2 playground gate

Below are a series of questions and answers. Please take a moment to read these.

How is school going to be organised?

Following government guidance, all of our classes will be fully open from March 8th for all year groups. Year groups will have staggered drop off and pick up times and designated entrances on Moor Flatts Road. Each class will be kept apart from the other classes as far as possible. Older children will have their own designated desk,



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equipment and chair. We will avoid sharing other equipment and resources by keeping these in the designated classroom only.

Do I have to send my child to school?

Yes, government guidance is that all children return to school in March. Our normal attendance procedures will re-start. Please phone/text the office before 9.15 stating the reason that your child is off school/ill.

What if a child has symptoms of Covid 19?

Any child showing symptoms will be isolated in a designated room, supervised at a safe distance by a member of staff, and must be collected straight away. To ensure the safety of other children and staff, we will ask you to have your child tested as soon as possible and then let us know the results. If a child tests positive, all the children and staff who have been in their group who have been in close contact (within 2m of the positive case for more than 15 minutes) must self-isolate for 10 days starting the day after the symptoms started. The NHS track and trace system should come into operation. If a child tests negative, they can come back to school.

What if someone in my household shows symptoms?

You must not come onto the school site or send your child to school. Follow the government guidance and book a test. Please contact school to inform us.

Will the children be socially distancing?

The adults will be socially distancing from the children and each other, as far as possible. The government's safety measure is to keep the children "bubbles" to lower the possibility of infection, and to contain infection as much as possible if it does happen.

My child is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable – should they be coming to school?

No, they should continue to stay at home until you have received your GP's advice; please keep school informed as we hope they can come back into school as soon as possible.

Someone in my household is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, can my child come to school?

The guidance says they can come into school. If you are in this situation, please contact us to inform us.

Will school provide a breakfast club?

Yes, to children who are on the list. They will enter breakfast club via the main office between 7.30am and 8.20am and will be separated into phase bubbles across the school bays and the hall instead of being altogether in the hall. Children must still be escorted into school by an adult. They will wash their hands on entering school before being provided with breakfast and activities.

Will school still provide a lunch?

Yes, lunchtime will continue to be staggered so that children can remain in their "bubble" and we will be using the outside picnic benches and the bays also to ensure that there is enough space. The kitchen has provided a new menu which is attached to this email.



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Is the behaviour policy staying the same?

As much as possible. We will still use our rewards and praise and will be mindful of the stresses that many children will have endured. There will be some alterations to ensure social distancing is maximised, e.g. no head teacher's tea reward, no whole school, key stage or Family Worship. I aim to carry out worship from my office via Zoom.

How will my child be supported in school?

We have developed a revised curriculum to support your child's transition back to school. This includes a greater focus on wellbeing and mental health which takes into consideration the difficulties children may have faced over the past weeks.

Does my child need to wear uniform?

Yes, your child should wear uniform. Uniform helps children feel like they belong to school. The government guidance recommends that normal hygiene and that clothes washed every day is enough.

Does my child need spare clothes?

Nursery, Reception – yes, please send one set of spare clothes, in a named plastic bag on the first day, this will stay on their coat peg until needed. Children should not bring to school other bags unless they are needed for their medical needs.

Does my child need PE kit?

From March we are asking that children in Year 2 upwards come to school in PE clothes on their PE day. We will send out a list of PE days once the timetables have been finalised. This will minimise 'touch'. This should be a t-shirt, black, grey, navy jogging bottoms, black/navy leggings or shorts and a pair of trainers. They will remain in this clothing all day. Please ensure that you encourage your child to take a shower/bath after their PE day to encourage good hygiene routines. We will be teaching PE outside as much as possible. Once regulations relax a little, we will go back to getting changed in school.

Will my child go swimming?

Usually Year 4 children take part in swimming lessons for part of the year, this year we have booked sessions so that all of Y4 will go all year and some of Year 5 will go also (as they missed out on their lessons due to Covid-19). Lessons will commence 15.03.2021. We will resend the consent form via email this week. Children will need a full swimming costume or shorts and a towel in a named carrier bag when they go (no bikinis).

Does my child need a school bag or book bag or other equipment?

Please try to avoid bringing anything from home, apart from their book bag and lunch bag if needed. The children should not be bringing any pencil cases, toys, or other equipment. We will avoid passing anything to and from school apart from reading books. Where it is essential for a Year 5 or 6 child to have a phone as they walk to or from school unaccompanied, these will be stored in individual boxes within their classroom. No other child should have a mobile phone in school. Year 5 and 6 children may bring in bikes and scooters.



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Can I pass on messages to my child's teacher?

Yes, but not at drop off or pick up time, as we need to avoid a bottleneck of adults at the gates. Please use the office email to contact your child's class teacher: enquiries@msmleeds.co.uk or text the text line: [07786208446](tel:07786208446).

My child goes to a childminder and mixes with other groups, what should I do?

The government advice is to limit the number of wraparound providers you use where possible. This is to reduce the number of people who would have to self-isolate if your child tests positive for Covid-19.

What if I am late dropping off?

Please try to be on time. Our attendance and late procedures still apply. If your child's gate is still open, please drop off at the same gate. If there are no parents waiting, please ring the buzzer at the office.

What if I am late picking up?

If there are parents waiting to pick up still, please wait in your normal area. If there are no parents waiting, ring the buzzer at office and a member of staff will bring your child to you.

What is the procedure for absence?

Our attendance procedures are the same as prior to lockdown. Attendance is required for all children, unless they are clinically extremely vulnerable or need to self-isolate due to having Covid-19 symptoms or being in close contact of someone with Covid-19 symptoms.

If your child is ill and cannot attend school, you must call school and inform us of this. If we do not hear from you, we will telephone you and if we cannot make contact we will home visit. We will, as always, be closely monitoring attendance.

I need to speak to the office staff, can I come into the office?

We do have a window to talk through so it is safe but only between 9.30am and 2pm due to classes entering and leaving the school. We would advise you not to come on site where ever possible. Please email us on enquiries@msmleeds.co.uk . Please only telephone if you have an urgent issue. You may be able to make an appointment if it is essential.

I've forgotten my child's packed lunch, can I bring it to the office?

No, please telephone school and we will arrange for your child to have a school lunch that day.

My child has new medication or a changed medical condition, can I come to the office?

Please telephone to make an appointment, so that you can come safely to the office and complete the paperwork. Please do not send any new medication in with your child, until we have the paperwork completed.

Will all these changes carry on until the end of the school year?

We are waiting for any further changes to be announced by the government. At the moment, we are planning to carry on as above, until further notice. We will send any updates as soon as we are made aware of them.





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Thinking of you all in our prayers. Take care and stay safe. We have missed you all and can't wait to see you. See you on Monday 8th March!

N Wood

Mrs N Wood, Headteacher.

