

MEREVALLEY FEDERATION

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Soheila Mathison
Chair of Governing Board: Mr Nick Sharp

Wednesday 24th February 2021

Return of all children on Monday 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Governments announcement on Monday that all children in all year groups will be returning to school on Monday 8th March 2021, I am writing to inform you of our plans for this reopening.

Many of the arrangements that we will have in place are the same as we had when we reopened to all pupils at the start of Autumn term, and therefore much of the letter that is to follow is a reminder of the procedures that were in place before this lockdown period.

A special welcome goes to all of the children and families that have joined our school since January. We look forward to welcoming the children into school for the first time. I am sure their classmates will look forward to meeting them and helping them settle in to life at Emerson Valley.

Please see below information regarding arrangements that we will have in place until further notice. All of this is under constant review and may change depending on guidance we receive from the Government and / or Milton Keynes Council.

The school day

Staggered start and end times

Times for drop off are based on your child's **surname** as follows:

Arrival time for surnames A-L	Finish time for surnames A-L	Arrival time for surnames M-Z	Finish time for surnames M-Z
8:40-8:50am	3:00pm	8:50-9:00am	3:20pm

Please continue with the arrival and collection times that you had last term. You do not need to inform us again if it had previously been agreed for your child to move to a different time slot. As before, if within your family children have different surnames, please follow the times for one group, e.g. the A-L group.

We will not be operating the Walking Bus at this time.

Morning drop off

All school gates will be open for children to enter the site. This includes the main gates at the front of the school on Hodder Lane, and the back gate at the top of the school playground on Holton Hill. Staff will be available to greet children in the mornings at these gates from 8.35am. Children should not be on school site before this time, unless they are attending Breakfast Club.

Prior to the January Lockdown, all children were coming onto site independently and saying goodbye to their parents or carers on the gate. We will be continuing with this arrangement in the morning, so please adhere to this rule. Staff will be waiting to receive the children once they have arrived at their year group.

End of the day collection

Please collect your child promptly at the allocated time, but do not arrive more than 5 minutes before your child's collection time. This will help reduce the number of parents and carers on the school site at any one time. School staff will be present at all entrance and exit points to the school and children in years 5 and 6 are encouraged to meet their parents off the school site at the end of the school day at an agreed place slightly away from the school. Parents of our younger children are asked to wait behind the designated line in front of the year 3 and 4 cloakrooms when collecting their child. Please do not congregate in this area once your child has been released; leave the school site as soon as possible.

Face masks/coverings

As per the Government guidance, the children are able to wear facemasks to school and after school. However, when they enter the school site, they will be expected to take these off and leave them in their bags. Please teach your child how to take this off safely without touching their face. As per the Government advice, Primary age children DO NOT need to wear face covering, and cannot wear them in school.

All parents and carers are expected to wear a face covering if they are entering the school site to collect their child at the end of the day. This also applies to Secondary School age pupils that may be collecting their younger siblings. If you are medically exempt, please communicate this with a member of staff when entering the school site.

Our Bubbles

We will continue to operate our Year Group Bubbles. This means that, during the school day, your child will only mix with other children from their year group. Teaching staff, which includes Teachers and Teaching Assistants, will only work in one year group bubble.

Where possible, all children will be taught by their Class Teacher. We do have some Teachers that are not able to return to the classroom due to shielding. Parents and carers of children in these classes will be sent a separate letter informing them of the arrangements for their child's class.

PE

Most of the PE will be taught outside, weather permitting. **On PE days, children need to continue to come to school wearing their PE kits.** Please ensure that they bring with them another pair of shoes or trainers so that their footwear can be changed when the lesson has finished if they are muddy.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 4	Year 3	Year 3	Year 6	Year 5
Year 5	Year 6	Year 4	Year 5	Year 3

Curriculum swimming cannot take place at the moment due to swimming pools being unable to open until 12th April at the earliest. We hope to be able to resume this next term, subject to changes in the guidance.

Social times

At break and lunchtimes, children will be able to socialise within their designated outdoor area with other children from their class, and also children from the 3 other classes in their year group.

Lunch

Both hot and cold meals options will be available to pre-order from Chartwells, our external meals provider. Orders need to be placed online via your ParentPay online account by Tuesday at 12 noon for the following week. In order for your child to have a pre-ordered lunch on their return to school on 8th March, the order needs to be placed online by 12 noon on Tuesday 2nd March.

The vouchers for free school meals families will no longer be issued once all children return to school as they can access the meal provision in school every lunchtime.

Children will continue to eat their lunch in their classroom, whether it is a packed lunch from home, or an ordered school lunch.

Music lessons

Any peripatetic music lessons would normally be delivered by external staff. At this time, we will not be offering this provision in school. We very much hope to be able to offer this during the summer term, and will let you know when our position on this changes.

Before and After School Clubs



We are planning to reopen our breakfast and after school club when all children return on 8th March. Bookings for this can be made online. Please remember that all bookings need to be made at least 24 hours in advance.

We do not have any plans to operate any other after school clubs during the remainder of the spring term.

Communication

Our school office will be open from 8.00am-3.30pm every day. Please use our school email address office@emersonvalley.org.uk for general enquiries, or learningmentors@emersonvalley.org.uk to communicate with a member of our pastoral team.

If for any reasons you need to drop something into school or collect something, for example medication, please observe social distancing. Parents and carers are only permitted to enter the main school foyer area. At this time, we cannot authorise parents or carers to enter any other areas of the school, including classrooms and cloakrooms, unless authorised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This will only be in exceptional circumstances. If you need to pass a message to your child's Class Teacher, please speak to a member of staff at the gate when dropping off or collecting your child, or leave a message with the school office and a telephone appointment can be made.

Displaying symptoms of Covid-19

If your child displays symptoms of Covid-19, it is important that they must not come in to school and you book them a test. Please inform us if your child won't be at school and then if they have a test the result. If your child displays these symptoms while they are at school, we will ask you to collect them and give you the same advice.

If a member of your household starts to displays symptoms, please keep your child at home and let us know. They may return if that person tests negative. If a member of your household tests positive, all members of the household must isolate for 10 days. If this is the case, we will offer learning for your child, from home, via Google Classroom.

In school, we will continue with our enhanced cleaning regime and will also continue to promote robust hand and respiratory hygiene amongst our children. Our full risk assessment will be available on the school website before the end of this week and is subject to change in line with any changes made by the DfE and the Local Authority.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school community safe for everyone.

Yours sincerely

HWhite

Mrs H White
Head of School

