

MILTON ABBOT SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mr Luxford, Milton Abbot School, Milton Abbot, Nr Tavistock, Devon PL19 0PS,

Tel: 01822 870273

Website: www.miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk, E-mail: admin@miltonabbot.devon.sch.uk

THIS LETTER WAS SENT OUT DIRECT TO THOSE PARENTS REQUIRING PROVISION IN NURSERY, RECEPTION, Y1 AND Y6 ON 22 MAY 2020

Dear Parents,

We are writing to advise you what provision will look like for your child after half-term. However, as you are aware, the **decision to extend school provision remains subject to the success of the Government's five scientific tests**, which we may not know the outcomes of until nearer the proposed return date. If all our plans are put on hold, rest assured it will be for the health and welfare of children and adults. If you decide you no longer wish to take up this place, please inform the office.

The following information contains vital expectations, routines and protective measures that we have put in place to meet the Government and Public Health Guidance received by schools.

Symptoms

If your child or anyone in the household has symptoms of the Coronavirus (Covid 19) then they should **stay at home**. You should seek medical advice via 111 coronavirus helpline. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

To protect others, do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital if you have any of these symptoms. **Stay at home**.

Symptoms at school

If we believe a child has symptoms then we will be sending them home immediately so please ensure we have correct emergency contact details. We will keep all our families in touch should the need arise. If at any stage a child or adult in the group is tested positive then the likelihood is that all group members will need to self-isolate for 14 days and seek medical advice as stated above.

Handwashing

We will be following guidelines concerning handwashing/sanitising and this will be done regularly in class. Please can we ask that your child washes their hands before school and when they return home, to try and keep the risk of transmission as low as possible. We have trust that everyone in the household will be maintaining critical hygiene and handwashing guidance when returning from work, etc., and thank you for your consideration in advance.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

DfE guidance states that adults in school are not expected to wear face masks, gloves or aprons when leading the children, other than when supporting a child with possible symptoms.

Social distancing – effective infection protection principles

DfE guidance acknowledges that **it is not possible for children and adults in Primary Schools to stay two metres apart**. We will adhere to the following principles from Public Health England for effective infection protection and control:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene - promote the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

Attendance: We are expected to maintain a register of attendance as part of our safeguarding duties. Please inform the office in the usual way (i.e., telephone Mrs. Jones at the beginning of the day), if your child will not be attending school for any reason.

Return date: There is a need for whole school training around the numerous changes to routines and environment at school and this will take place on Monday 1st June. To ensure our systems are effective, we will be asking groups to return on different first days:

Group B and C: Year 6 and Year 3 and 4 children of Critical Workers return on TUESDAY 2nd JUNE

Group A: Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children return on WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE

Changes to routine:

In this first phase of return, we have sought to keep year group children together. Your child will be in a group that will eventually reach a maximum of 15 pupils and they will have a group leader, a group base classroom and a group play area. They will not mix with other groups at any time and they will take their lunch in their group base classroom. As further year groups return, there is the possibility of a change of group leader, but it will obviously always be someone the children are familiar with. Groups below:

Year Group		Group name /Group leader	Group location	Group playground	Drop off (am)	Collection time (pm)
Nursery	One group	A Mrs Hurdwell	Snowy Owls Class	Snowy Owls garden	09:15	14:30
Reception		A Mrs Weatherston	Snowy Owls Class	Courtyard	09:00 – 09:15	14:30
Year 1						
Year 6		B Mr Walkerdine	Eagle Owls Class	MUGA	08:45 – 09:00	14:45
Additional Critical worker children		C Miss Pawlik	Tawny Owls Class	Small playground	08:45 – 09:00	14:45

Drop-off and Collection routines:

In order to avoid unnecessary gathering at school gates, we will be operating staggered drop off and collection times for groups and it is vital that both teachers and parents are very strict with themselves and are not outside their stated times (see above). Please ensure that all messages are sent via Dojo before the start of the school day.

We will be operating a one way queuing system in the car park and you will be greeted by Mr. Luxford the ‘Parking Marshal’ who will direct your child to another member of staff at the main gate. Please stay in your car

until your turn. Indeed, for the older children, we would hope that parents **would not need to leave the car**, so it would be helpful if your child has their bags and packed lunch already with them to allow the queue to run smoothly. Pre-school and Reception parents will be able to park and walk their child through the school garden to the Snowy Owls classroom gate where they will be met by Mrs. Hurdwell. Guidance states that only one parent per child should be on the school site.

Walking to school routine

If you are walking your child to school then you should say goodbye to them in the morning at the white school gate, and your child will walk to their classroom door directed by school staff. If you are collecting your child at the end of the school day please come to the white gate and follow the systems in place to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Gates will be locked from 09:30 to allow us to monitor the arrival of external visitors. To gain access during school hours outside of drop-off/collection times, parents should ideally ring ahead. All visitors will need to phone the office to inform the school they are waiting at the gate. This system will be reviewed over time.

Lunchtimes and Drinking bottles

Lunch will be held in the group base classroom with effective infection protection routines applied. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer hot school dinners for pre-school children at this time but all other groups can order in the usual way. The menu will not alternate week on week, so what is on a Monday will be the same every Monday until further notice. Hot dinners will be covered and brought to the room.

Packed lunches – it would be extremely helpful if your child’s packed lunch contained items, where possible, that they can manage independently in terms of packets and cartons, etc. Group leaders will be asked to ensure that lunch boxes go home daily for cleaning.

Drinking bottles – please can you supply your child with a drinking bottle rather than use the one at school as normal, to avoid children getting muddled and accidentally using the wrong bottle. As with the lunch box, this bottle will go home each day for cleaning.

Learning Outdoors – Safety in the Sun

We will make the most of learning in the fresh air outside but it is the time of year when we remind the children about safety in the sun. However, we will not be able to share our school sun hats and it will be difficult to apply sun screen at school this year. So, please can we ask that you consider the weather at the start of the day and provide sun screen and a named sun hat for the school day - these will come home with your child each day.

Curriculum Provision – guiding principles:

We will continue to put the health and welfare of all our children first, taking time each morning and throughout the day to settle any anxieties. The teachers know their children best and will be responding appropriately to any needs presented in the best way they know. Our ethos will remain a caring one, although familiar routines and learning will no doubt support the majority of pupils to feel a greater sense of ‘normal’ or ‘usual.’ The Government guidance lists the following as key learning areas to focus on:

- Changes to routine and hygiene expectations
- Resocialisation into new style school routines
- Cleaning and hygiene routines
- Speaking and listening activities
- Regaining momentum with early reading, including application of phonics
- Transition for Year 6 – preparing for secondary school life (!)

As a School team we would add the following:

- **Maths** continues to be a whole school focus through mental skills development and game formats.
- **Singing** – ‘A Happy School is a Singing School’ so says our Expressive Coordinator Miss Pawlik and we will be applying this to our return, following pupil interests and using an interactive scheme called Charanga

Resources:- All resources will be managed and cleaned according to the principles of effective infection protection. For example, your child will have their own school stationery not to be shared. **Please support us by ensuring that your child does not bring in toys or equipment from home.**

Events:- We are not permitted to hold ‘social gatherings’ currently as we usually do to celebrate the end of another academic year of fun and success, as well as wishing a fond farewell and good luck to our brilliant Year 6 (plays, obstacle race, Graduation at the church, trip). As a team we will be exploring what versions of these events we can put together within the guidance and will keep you informed.

School uniform

The guidance states that normal hygiene around school uniform should be applied. We will certainly be flexible about anyone who has outgrown elements of their uniform since we saw you last and you decide to not buy new uniform currently – or maybe your next uniform will be for college! I would advise that trainers/comfortable shoes be worn instead of school shoes because no doubt feet will have grown since last worn for many of you and we will be hoping to spend a lot of time outdoors.

PE kit - The guidance states that Physical Education can be taught but it should be non-contact (which I hope we were anyway!). Your child’s group leader will inform you when PE kit is required; it should come in on the day it is required and returned home for cleaning on the same day.

Taking books home

The guidance states that we should limit the transfer of resources between school and home. Therefore, Key stage 2 children will have a reading book kept at school for daily reading – it will not be permitted to go home and home books should not come into school currently. Early Years and Key stage 1 will be able to bring phonic books home for practice and we will have a returns system that will quarantine books until they have been prepared for re-using. If you would prefer to not have books from school at all please let your child’s class teacher know.

Everything in this letter will be under constant review, as will all the associated risk assessment documents, by the school leadership team and our Governing Board. Your feedback will be welcome and appreciated.

Milton Abbot School’s motto is: ‘A Place of Happiness and Learning for All’, and despite the current guidance being applied to schools, we will seek to maintain this vision with determined pride and bright smiles to support our children and their families. We will need to work together. Thank you for your continuing support and patience.

Best wishes

The Milton Abbot School Team

Information to share with your child

Before returning, it may be helpful for you to share some or all of this information taken from the Department for Education 'Planning Guide', depending on their age of course. This is not compulsory and group leaders will also be sharing these expectations in a language and method suitable to the age-group they are leading:

Every child will be supported to:

- follow any altered routines for arrival or departure
- follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- follow instructions on who pupils can socialise with at school
- follow expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus/feeling unwell
- follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- amend expectations about breaks or play times, including where children may or may not play
- use toilets as directed
- follow clear rules about coughing at or towards any other person