

Mexborough St John The Baptist C of E Primary School

Together we believe, together we succeed.



Sedgefield Way, Mexborough, South Yorkshire, S64 0BE.

Headteacher: - Mr A Minor



Date: 22.05.2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As you know schools have been asked to welcome back a wider group of children from the start of June. This is an initial date and we are awaiting an announcement on Thursday 28th May to confirm whether the government tests have been met and that this plan can proceed.

I am sure that you'll agree, this is a difficult time for schools, parents and children in navigating through this national crisis. As schools, we are responding to advice and guidelines from the Government, Unions and other sources to seek to ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff. We understand that distancing in schools with young children is going to be impossible and as such we are looking at a wide range of measures in a risk assessment to create groups of children or bubbles, which limit the wider contact between children. I would ask parents to look through the attached risk management summary to see the measures that we will be implementing for the safety of the children and staff.

It is important for all parents to realise that the school will be a different place to before this crisis. Certain staff members will not be in school, due to shielding or specific medical issues. The start and end of the day will feel very different, as will break and lunchtimes. Each classroom will have a maximum number that has been deemed safe for a group of children. The government had set a maximum of 15 and in our school we have assessed this to be between 13 and 14 for infant and junior children and 10 for nursery (F1) and reception children (F2). The furniture will be spread out and resources identified for individual children. In the Foundation classrooms much of the equipment will have been removed, as soft furnishing, water, sand, malleable materials like playdough and other equipment do not meet the guidance. In many bubbles, children will be taught by an adult who may not be their class teacher.

Some of our key worker and vulnerable children have been in throughout lockdown, within local hubs. We decided that we wanted to go above and beyond to support essential workers during this time and extended the school day, worked through holidays and offered full days to part-time children. This group of children will be able to come back to Mexborough St John's on **Monday 1st June**. Due to the wider opening of schools and the need to protect each bubble we must revert back to school hours and for F1 children their original half day offer.

Today, Doncaster council announced that at this point school in the Doncaster borough are not in the position to open to any other group beyond vulnerable children and children of critical workers. This means that we will not be opening for pupils in nursery, reception, year 1 or year 6 until we have had further notice from Doncaster local authority.



E-Mail school@msj.imat.org.uk

Website: - www.mexboroughstjohn.co.uk



If you think that your child qualifies for a place because you and your partner (both parents or one in a single parent household) are critical workers, then please contact school via email. The start time and finish time for children in this group will be 9:00am until 3:00pm. In addition, School will close every Friday afternoon for a deep clean. On this day your child will need to be collected at 12:00pm.

WHAT IS THE PLAN IF WE OPEN TO MORE GROUPS OF CHILDREN IN JUNE?

Although we do not know whether the wider opening of schools will go ahead until we hear from Doncaster local authority (possibly the second week in June), we want to outline the plan that we are working to at present. It should be recognised that we may need to be flexible with this plan and we will try to communicate effectively with parents. The safety of our children, staff and the wider community has to be our first consideration in all our decision making.

When school is given the go ahead we plan to open in the following order:

1st – Nursery (F1)

2nd – Reception (F2) will open two working days after F1

3rd – Y1 will open 2 working days after F2

4th – Y 6 will open 2 working days after Y1

By setting out this staggered start we will ensure each learning space is prepared for the children to be welcomed into. We will also stagger the start and end times of our day. In addition, School will close every Friday afternoon for a deep clean. There will be no Nursery (F1) session on this day and the collection times will be as follows.

	Y6	Key worker / Vulnerable	Y1	F2	F1 AM	F1 PM
Start	9:10 am	9:00 am	9:20 am	9:30 am	8:50	12:10
Finish	3:10 pm	3:00 pm	2:50 pm	3:00 pm	11:30	2:50
Friday Finish	12:10	12:00	11:50	11:50	11.30	

We ask that only one parent brings the child to the school gate, is vigilant about social distancing and leaves the area as soon as is possible. **This also includes Y6 children.** They will need to be dropped off and collected and will not be permitted to walk to or from school on their own. Unfortunately, due to infection control parent will not be permitted to enter the school playgrounds or building.

As a school we cannot provide the building space and the staffing numbers to continue to roll out this plan fully in the future. We will need to prioritise the children we can bring into school and the government has specified we must look to offer this to key worker and vulnerable children and then onto the youngest children in school. We will be publishing further guidance in the coming weeks on this matter. If the school can accommodate a future request, we would need a parent to provide a week's notice.



As parents can see in the risk management summary, we will focus on hygiene and cleanliness. This will mean the regular cleaning of hands, surfaces and resources. We will be increasing the cleaning of all spaces in school and will need to close the school at lunchtime on Friday to provide the school with a more rigorous clean each week. This means that our school will be open for full days on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and a half day on Friday. We apologise for this inconvenience, but believe that parents will understand the necessity for this measure.

Where possible we ask that the children wear a clean uniform each day as it keeps some normality for them, however, if you cannot manage this, we ask that you ensure your child wears clean clothes each day (even if this is not uniform). We also ask that you provide your child with a clean water bottle which they will need to bring to school and take home each day. Any bottles left at school may need to be disposed of.

The staff will have a choice about whether they wear PPE during the day. We do not want to scare the children and DfE guidance is that we don't need it in schools. Some staff may decide that wearing gloves/masks is an added layer of protection and that is a personal choice. However, when administering first aid and also during support with toileting, staff will be expected to wear PPE (this will be in the form of gloves, mask and apron).

The guidance is that children do not need to wear PPE. We will not be asking any pupil to wear PPE in school.

We will not be able to offer breakfast club or after school clubs as we cannot protect the integrity of each bubble of children.

If a child falls ill within school they will be escorted to a safe, isolated room within school. The member of staff will put on PPE and will stay with the child until parents collect. Parents will be expected to answer their phone if school rings, and collect their child if school informs them that they are unwell. We will book a test for a child or staff member as soon as possible. If a child or staff member within their bubble has fallen ill, parents within that bubble will be informed by text if there has been a positive diagnosis. Further tests will be booked for all those within that bubble if they are over 5. If they are younger your child and your family will be asked to maintain a self-isolation for 14 days.

Please be aware that if your child attends school and continually fails to follow our new hygiene and social distancing protocols they may lose their place.

Please can I ask parents/carers that you still don't promise your child that they are going back to school after half term at this stage. I know we all want to prepare our children, but promises at the moment may only increase anxiety and stress to the children if changes are made.

Many thanks,

Mr A Minor
Headteacher

