



# Mesne Lea Primary School

Working together for individual excellence

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## Returning to School Procedures

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that everyone is well! We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school, so we have been busy planning how we can make this as safe as possible. I would like to update you on the following procedures that will operate in school from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

In order to deliver on the above priorities, we have decided to keep some of our daily routines and procedures the same as they were in the summer term. These controls include:

- Access to the school building and site will be strictly controlled – no-one will be allowed in school unless they are healthy and invited
- Handwashing for staff and children will be mandatory
- Playtime and lunchtime rotas to avoid large numbers of pupils mixing
- Additional cleaning will remain a feature of normal operation
- Staff will be expected to social distance from each other
- All social gatherings will continue to be delivered remotely, this includes assemblies, staff meetings and performances
- Parents exiting and entering the school site from different entry points
- **PE Kits** - pupils should wear their PE kits to school on PE days and ensure that they have a named waterproof hooded coat so that they can still access the outdoors. Your child's PE days will be confirmed by your class teacher via Class Dojo by next Wednesday.

Some restrictions will **cease** and will only be reintroduced in the event of an outbreak, subject to Public Health guidance.

### The main changes are:

- **Stationery** - Y2 – Y6 children will be permitted to bring in pencil cases into school, but it is expected that all resources will remain in school.
- **Water bottles** - children will only be allowed to bring the following items into school named water bottle can be taken home on a daily basis to be washed and filled with fresh water
- **Start and Finish Times** - for all pupils, school will start at 8:50am and finish at 3:30pm, but we will still ask parents to follow the one-way system in place. For more details, please refer to the Parent/ carer handbook. Pupils who access the Cherry Tree Room will arrive at 8:55am and 3:25pm.



- **Lunchtimes** – a rota will be in place, with all pupils eating their lunch in the dining hall. Pupils who have packed lunches will be able to bring their lunch in a lunchbox.
- **Tracing close contacts and isolation** - close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.
- Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, if any of the following apply:
  - they are fully vaccinated
  - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
  - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
  - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

I want to reassure you that we have undertaken a comprehensive risk assessment and reviewed our systems and policies to ensure that we are following the recommended infection control protocols.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the main school office, who will be happy to help you in this matter.

Thank you for your understanding during this very difficult time.

Best wishes

*A. Nelson*

**Ms. Nelson**  
Headteacher  
Mesne Lea Primary School