Dear Parents/Carers

By now I am sure you will have heard that the government expects all children to return to school in September. The staff and I are looking forward to this return, as the months of lockdown have been as frustrating for us as I know they have been for you. It will be lovely to welcome all of our families back – we have missed you all!

The Government has set out detailed guidance for School Leaders, so we can put proportionate protective measures in place for children and staff. By putting certain controls in place (these are explained below) we aim to reduce the number of contacts that the pupils and staff have during the school day. A detailed risk assessment has been carried out and approved by the Local Authority and Governors, to help us ensure that all measures in place adhere to the guidelines set out. Below is the information for the return in September. Please read carefully and if you should have any questions, or wish to confirm your child’s new class, the school office will be open on Wednesday 26 August and Wednesday 2 September.

**When does school open?**

We are staggering the start and finish times on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 of September to ease congestion and ensure that it is not too overwhelming for the children. Key Stage 1 will attend on Thursday 3 September and Key Stage 2 will attend on Friday 4 September. All pupils will then return in full on Monday 7 September (with details to follow regarding start and finish times for week beginning Monday 7 September).

**Thursday 3 September**

**Key Stage 1 ONLY – no Key Stage 2 on this day**

Daffodils – 8.45am drop off 2.30pm collection **enter via the main gate on Littlemoor Lane and follow the one-way system to exit via Huddersfield Rd**

Sunflowers 9.00am drop off 2.45pm collection **enter via the main gate on Littlemoor Lane and follow the one-way system to exit via Huddersfield Rd**

Violets – 9.15am drop off 3.00pm collection **enter via the main gate on Littlemoor Lane and follow the one-way system to exit via Huddersfield Rd**

**Friday 4 September**

**Key Stage 2 ONLY - no Key Stage 1 on this day**

**Year 3 and 4**

Acorns - 8.45am drop off 2.30pm collection - **enter via the main gate on Littlemoor Lane and follow the one-way system to exit via Huddersfield Rd**

Willow – 9.00am drop off 2.45pm collection **- enter via the main gate on Littlemoor Lane and follow the one-way system to exit via Huddersfield Rd**

Beech - 9.15am drop off 3.00pm collection **- enter via the main gate on Littlemoor Lane and follow the one-way system to exit via Huddersfield Rd**

**Year 5 and 6**

Cedar - 8.45am drop off 2.30pm collection - **enter via the back gate on Huddersfield Rd (opposite Asda) and follow the one-way system to exit via the Children’s Centre gates on Leamington Street/Vincent Avenue**

Banyan – 9.00am drop off 2.45pm collection **- enter via the main gate on Huddersfield Rd (opposite Asda) and follow the one-way system to exit via the Children’s Centre gates on Leamington Street/Vincent Avenue**

Oak - 9.15am drop off 3.00pm collection **- enter via the main gate on Huddersfield Rd (opposite Asda) and follow the one-way system to exit via the Children’s Centre gates on Leamington Street/Vincent Avenue**

All pupils will then receive a letter on the day they are in, to indicate where they should enter the school from Monday 7 September, as different timings will apply when all pupils are in the building.

**New to Reception Pupils – Snowdrops and Buttercups - have been issued with information regarding Taster sessions on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 September, and should attend on the days stated in their letter.**

**What will the focus be from September?**

• To ensure that the school site, building and procedures are adapted to reflect the latest safety guidelines.

• That children and staff have positive mental health and well-being following the Covid-19 crisis.

• That gaps in children’s learning are addressed and that resources and interventions are implemented in the most effective way.

**What will school look like?**

Littlemoor school will look and feel different to your school before the pandemic.

All children in school will stay within their own classrooms. Each class will be a ‘Bubble’ and where possible there will be little or no contact between the Bubbles. Your child will be in contact with only a limited number of adults.

**What do we ask of parents bringing pupils to school?**

Only one parent to bring pupils to school. Teachers and teaching assistants will meet the pupils at the gate or door in order to hand sanitise them.

As far as possible we expect the pupils to enter on their own. This will avoid congestion at entrances and exits. When you have dropped your child off, we ask that you leave promptly to ensure we do not have large groups of parents in close contact. Please arrive promptly at the allocated time and please keep your own social distancing.

Urgent messages only to be passed onto staff at drop off, please ring or e-mail us at info@littlemoor.oldham.sch.uk with anything non-urgent. At this time we cannot invite parents or carers into the school.

**What will my classroom look like?**

• Desks will all be facing the front with 2 pupils per desk sitting side by side. The Nursery and Reception classroom will still be set up as an early year’s classroom in order to deliver the Early Year’s curriculum. Year 1 will also start by following the Early Year’s curriculum until the children are settled and we have assessed where they are up to. Movement around the classroom will be limited as much as possible.

• Classrooms will be well ventilated and internal doors open.

• Each child will have their own pen/pencil but resources can be used and shared within the individual Bubbles. Any shared resources across the school will be thoroughly cleaned between uses.

**What hand washing is in place?**

• Soap dispensers have been placed in all sinks in school and soap blocks removed.

• There will be a hand sanitiser in every classroom and children will use the hand sanitiser as they come into school in the morning.

• Children will be washing their hands more than usual.

• We will aim to promote good respiratory hygiene and will be displaying ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ posters around school, as well as talking to the children.

• Each class will have its own supply of tissues and a bin to dispose of waste. If possible please send the children in with their own pack of tissues.

**What will the curriculum look like?**

• We will be returning to a school timetable, curriculum or teaching style that was in a place prior to school closure. Homework/home reading will also be set.

• There will be an emphasis upon reading and phonics. Please bear with us until we have had time to properly assess which level your child is reading at so we can give them the appropriate reading book.

• Outdoor learning will be incorporated where practical and as far as possible, remaining in Bubbles only.

**What should pupils wear?**

• The children will need to come in their full school uniform, including black school shoes.

• Please bring in waterproof coat and shoes/wellingtons to change into at break times as they will be playing on the field and it can get wet and muddy.

• P.E. kit should be brought into school and taken home after each use. All P.E. lessons will take place outside so as the weather gets colder the children will need tracksuits and trainers.

**What will pupils need to bring with them?**

• Book bags can be brought into school.

• Reading books will be changed. We will be sending reading books home in September. All reading books sent home before the lockdown must be returned during the first week. If books have been lost or damaged during lockdown then a charge will be made to replace the books. Books will be given out on a Monday to be returned on Thursday where they will be stored for 72 hours before sending home to another pupil.

• The children must bring a named water bottle. This will remain on the child’s work station. The water bottles will be sent home for washing every day, please ensure these bottles are clearly labelled.

• Pupils may bring their own packet of disposable tissues and hand sanitiser if they wish. Please label both.

**Will my child need PPE?**

• Children are not required to wear a face mask, as advised by the Government.

• Most staff will not be wearing PPE equipment unless completing first aid or advised differently by their own health professional, as per Government guidelines.

**What cleaning measures are in place?**

• All areas of school have been thoroughly cleaned.

• All used areas will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day.

• We will aim to clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.

• The Government has advised that there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes.

**What will lunchtime and break times look and feel like?**

• Lunchtimes will be staggered in Bubbles. The school kitchen can provide a warm lunch to be eaten in the classrooms at the cost of £2.40 per day, if required. For example:

• Free school meals, for those eligible, will continue to be provided with a school lunch. Please note FSM vouchers from Edenred will not be available from September 20.

• For those pupils bringing their own packed lunch, please bring this in a named disposable bag, which can be thrown away at the end of lunchtime or in a named lunchbox which will need to be cleaned thoroughly each night.

• Break times will be taken in their own Bubbles.

• Each group will play out in different zones, and the number of zones will be limited.

Will there be Before and After School Facility and Extra Curricular Activities?

• There will be no extra-curricular activities as there must be limited mixing across bubbles.

**Does my child have to attend school, and will I be penalised if I choose not to send them?**

• School attendance is once again mandatory.

• Fixed penalty fines may be issued if children do not attend.

**Are there any groups of pupils who should not be attending school at this time?**

The majority of pupils will be able to return to school. However if you fall into any of the categories below please contact school:

• a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

• https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19

• some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment).

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will continue to offer provide home learning opportunities.

Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalized.

**What should you do if your child or someone in your household displays symptoms?**

If your child or any family member displays any of the coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms listed below (taken from the latest Government advice).

• a new continuous cough

• a high temperature

• a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If children display any of these symptoms during a school day we will ring for you to collect them immediately and they will be kept in isolation from other children. Please ensure we have your up to date contact details.

**What if a member of my family or child displays any of the symptoms?**

• You must inform school.

• Pupils showing symptoms should self-isolate for 7 days.

• Pupils living in the same household as someone showing symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days from the day the symptoms started.

• Please do not attend school under any circumstances.

• Where a child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

All of the plans we have informed you of in this letter remain subject to change if the Government, Local Authority or Teaching Unions recommend a course of action, at which point we will change our plans accordingly and communicate with you all once we have considered the recommendation fully.

We are all looking forward to seeing the children back in school in September and we would like to thank you for your continuous support. Please continue to take care, follow the safety guidelines and look after yourselves and your family.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Kelly

Sent behalf of Littlemoor School Governing Body