

## No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND NO 3 IN 2018

## Top 10 National Pupil Progress

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



**4th March 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and that you are all taking care of yourselves.

As promised, I am writing to you to share with you further details and arrangements regarding the wider opening and return to school for all children from **Monday 8th March**. We have been working hard to ensure that our arrangements for next week are in place and that we are fully prepared to safely welcome back all of our children.

The arrangements that I am sharing with you should look familiar to those that were in place in September as we continue to work hard to ensure everyone's safety. We are aware that the children at home have been out of school for a number of months now so we would be grateful if you would take the time to share this information with your child so that they feel as prepared as possible about what school will be like next week.

As a school, we have been working across the Trust with other Heads and leaders, including our Trust Premises and Safety Lead, ensuring robust planning to support all children to return in a safe and happy way. The welfare and safety of our children and whole school community is paramount in all that we do and our Risk Assessments have been updated to reflect the new guidance. The National Lockdown is still in place and we are following the same stringent systems of controls we were in the Autumn Term. I know the vast majority of us are all familiar with these now but this letter will hopefully be a timely reminder of these.

A parent version of our latest whole school risk assessment is also on the school website.

### **Bubbles for March**

The updated guidance advises that to accommodate the full return to school for all children that the children are in consistent bubbles. This will ensure that we are able to offer a broad and balanced curriculum whilst maintaining standards of hygiene and cleaning in line with government guidance relating to the systems of control. At ASM the children are in their class bubbles with their teacher and a teaching assistant. They have breaks with their Key Stage but in separate playgrounds, taking in turns to use the equipment at different times of the day. Children will continue to eat their lunch in their classrooms with their class bubble.

### **Drop off and Pick up times**

As we make a full return to school, we kindly ask that only one adult drops off and collects their child. It is very important that you keep promptly to your time slot to help us to ensure our bubbles remain safe, limit the risk of cross-contamination and reduce the number of people in one area at the same time. This will help us to control the risk for our whole school and the wider community.



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# TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

To make drop off and collection easier for parents with children in more than one key stage bubble, we ask that drop off and collection time for families with 'multiple' children are at the back door. **Please collect your children if they are in different key stage bubbles at 3.00.**

Group	Drop off time and location	Collection time and location
KS1 - Forde & Bradley	8:30am - 8:45am  Back Door	2.45 - Forde (without siblings)  3.00 - Forde with older siblings  3.00 - Bradley (plus siblings)
KS2 - Courtenay & Templar	8:30am - 8:45am  Main Entrance	2.50 - Courtenay (without siblings)  3.00 - Templar (and Courtenay siblings)

Please can all adults and children over 12 continue to wear face coverings when coming to the school site. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Attendance and Uniform**

From March, government guidance states that **attendance is compulsory** as it was prior to lock down. We are expecting to see all of our children in school uniform from Monday 8th March. In line with Government guidance, the expectation is that all children will return in full school uniform (including sensible school shoes). Further information can be found on our school website regarding uniform expectations. We do appreciate that shops are not yet open and that buying new uniforms might be problematic or uneconomical. If you feel that you are experiencing (or foresee) any difficulties with this, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club will continue to operate in the same way. Please can you continue to book your child's place in advance using school money in the usual way.

### **Lunches**

All children will be able to have a hot dinner in school if they wish. As always these need to be **pre ordered** on School Money. These will continue to be free for Reception, Key Stage 1 children and those entitled to Free School Meals funding. Key Stage Two children will also need to pay online and select their meal in advance using school money in the usual way.

### **Equipment**

All children should bring their **own water bottle** to school (and packed lunch, if they are having one). Initially we **do not want** the children to bring book bags or bags to school. PE kits should



be worn to school on Wednesdays when children have their Spire's P.E. lessons. Please can you ensure that your child is wearing PE kit inline with the school uniform policy. Again, if you are experiencing any difficulties with this then please do not hesitate to let us know.

### **Hygiene and Cleaning**

There will be a continued focus on enhanced hygiene measures throughout the day to keep our children and staff safe whilst they are in school. Your child's teacher will be on hand to remind them about the importance of regular handwashing and the use of tissues to "*catch it, bin it, kill it*" for any sneezes or sniffles. We ask for your support in reinforcing these messages at home with your child. Strengthened cleaning procedures will also continue to be an important component of the school day.

Another important part of the safety measures will continue to be the ventilation of spaces. We are beginning to see a change in the weather meaning that we are experiencing warmer days. However, with it still being early March, we can't always guarantee that we will experience warmer weather. If you would like to send your child to school with thick tight, black leggings under trousers or a plain t-shirt underneath their school shirt then you are more than welcome to do this.

### **Adults in School**

The overarching principle (as stated in the DfE guideline) is to reduce the number of contact between children and staff. Ideally, adults will maintain a 2m distance from each other and from the children. We are aware this will not be possible when working with younger children. For children old enough, they will be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff where possible.

Staff in schools are not required to use PPE and children are not required to wear masks. Where a child needs first aid or shows symptoms of Covid-19, they will be attended to by a member of staff wearing PPE if necessary following government guidelines. Staff will wear face coverings when not in their class bubble, especially in situations where it is not possible to maintain a 2m distance from other adults within the school setting. Please refer to the school's risk assessment for further details.

### **Social Distancing for Children**

Once in bubbles, 2m social distancing between the children is not required but they should try to stay as far apart as possible and we aim to minimise contact between adults and children. With the younger children, the emphasis will be on separating groups and, with older children, it will be on distancing.

### **COVID Symptoms**

As before, if a child or adult displays any symptoms of coronavirus, we will call the parents immediately and ask you to collect them or request that adults go home.

Upon collection, parents are asked to phone 111 and organise a PCR test. Once the test results are returned, they must notify the school. If the test is positive, national guidelines state that you should isolate for 10 full days from the test result. Family members must also isolate for 10 days and get a test if they begin to show symptoms themselves. If it is negative, they may return to school as soon as they are well enough.

Remote learning will be set for any children who cannot attend school (who are well) and are having to isolate due to family members testing positive. Remote learning will not be set for children who are unwell.

We ask that our families cooperate with us to support the work of the national *Track and Trace* system when necessary.

### **Communication with staff**

As you know it is difficult to talk to class teachers at the start and end of the school day to ensure that a queue does not form. We know how important this is to you, and we value your support in helping us to mitigate the risk of bottlenecks or traffic jams at these key times which may endanger our whole community. Mrs Webber will be available in the school office (via the telephone and school email address) and will pass on emails or messages during the school day. Please can I ask that, at this time, you only approach the school office if you need to bring medicine for your child. The teachers will be teaching throughout the day but they will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

We fully appreciate that every family will have had differing experiences during the pandemic and that, for some children and families, returning to school may be a source of anxiety. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we will be continuing to support your child's wellbeing and mental health as they make the transition back to school. We also understand that some children have found learning tricky during this time and, as a staff, we will continue to carefully consider and assess how we will support each child, identify any gaps in learning and respond to their strengths, moving them forwards on their individual learning journey.

### **Supporting Your Child**

We have set out a number of things you can do to support us in opening up the school safely and to prepare your children for their return:

- Talk to your child about what it is going to be like going back. Help them prepare for staying in their bubbles and the possibility that they will not see all of their friends.
- Talk to your child about social distancing. It may be really hard to see their friend and not be able to hug them.
- Talk to your child about keeping their distance from adults.
- Help your child be informed about the virus and the hygiene measures. Resources can be found here <https://www.e-bug.eu/>
- Talk to your child about the importance of following the school rules for behaviour as this plays an important role in keeping everyone safe and well.
- We ask parents to adhere to the drop off and entry systems we put in place; we need to keep everyone moving. Please do not congregate with other parents, even at a 2m distance, as it will prevent us getting the children into school safely.
- Please do not be upset with us if we are unable to stop and talk like we usually do; it is not that we do not want to but that we want to keep everyone as safe as possible.



- Help us to keep school safe by observing social distance when not in school. Please do not congregate with friends at the park and adhere to the government guidance.

### **Changes to Circumstances**

Because we have not been in school, we may not be aware if any circumstances have changed for your child, such as:

- moving house,
- the birth of new baby or other siblings moving in or out,
- family separation,
- bereavement,
- ill health (physical or mental health),
- changes in your own employment which may impact on your child.

Please do let us know if there are any changes to your circumstances so that we can fully support you and your child. Please remember that we are here for you too and may be able to offer support or recommend other support if you need it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and partnership during the lockdown and the recent difficult times which we have faced. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school next week and, as a whole staff, we are very much looking forward to having the children back at school; it has not been the same without them all here and we have certainly missed them!

If you have any further questions, as always please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

Mrs Edwards

Head of Academy