



1<sup>ST</sup> March 2021

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

### SAFE RETURN TO MEON JUNIOR SCHOOL FROM MARCH 8TH

Dear Parents and carers,

I hope you and your family are well.

As we prepare for re-opening to all pupils on the 8<sup>th</sup> March we continue to work closely with our Trust (Thinking Schools Academy Trust) and follow the Government advice to ensure the safest welcome for our students on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

As we take steps back to normality, please be aware that remote learning is still very much a possibility now that fast and easy-access testing has become more widely available, leading to more self-isolation.

School attendance will be mandatory from the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

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#### MAIN CHANGES

While there are many changes happening as we make the first steps to welcoming back our students, the main ones to be aware of right now are;

- Face masks for Primary pupils and teachers are optional – so we ask that everyone respects decisions made. Staff at Meon Junior are required to wear masks when outside their classrooms.
- Coastguards wrap around care provision reopens from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. All other after school clubs will resume after Easter. Unfortunately, Chelsea breakfast club has decided not to continue due to low numbers. We have a new provider Maia McGilp who runs our street dance lessons who will be offering a breakfast club for us at Meon Junior School.
- Ventilation in classrooms is paramount. We will be keeping external windows and doors open where possible for air circulation, so please ensure your child has light layers to add/remove as necessary.
- Class 'bubbles' no longer exist, adults are allowed to move between classrooms and pupils will be part of a number of groups e.g. Year, class, Breakfast club, after-school provision, intervention. These groups will be kept in small sizes. In the event of a positive case in a child, pupils in the relevant groups will be required to self-isolate for the government advised 10 days.
- At breaktimes children will play together as a year group. Children will only be together as a year group during this time to minimise the risk of transmission.
- Year 5 and 6 will finish at the normal time of 3:10am. All other start and finish times remain unchanged from the Autumn term – see below.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE:



STAY  
SAFE



STAY  
LEARNING



STAY  
CONNECTED

Year Group	Drop off time	Pick up time	Entrance and Exit
3 and 4	8:30-8:50am	3:05pm (Gate opens at 2:50pm)	Shelford Road Gate
5	8:30-8:50am	3:10pm (Gate opens at 3:05pm)	Crofton Road Gate
6	8:30-8:50am	3:10pm (Gate opens at 3:10pm for pupils to leave the site) (Please note that parents picking Year 6 pupils up will use the Crofton Road gate to enter and exit the playground.	Garden Gate (Meon Road)

**LARGE GATHERINGS:** There will be no whole school assemblies taking place throughout the Spring Term to ensure safety.

**BREAK/LUNCHTIMES:** Break and lunchtimes will be staggered so that the year groups do not mix. Please provide your child with a healthy break snack as usual. We will be offering a hot meal option as usual, alternatively please provide your child with a healthy packed lunch. All pupils will eat their food in the classroom this term.

**SCHOOL RULES:** We expect our pupils to return in full school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform is important to our identity, and school community and we recognise the importance of establishing our school as a family of learners together and uniform is integral to this.

All normal school rules will apply as well as additional expectations around behaviour in corridors and the maintenance of social distancing. If pupils choose to ignore these expectations then the school will apply the normal range of sanctions.

**SAFETY AND CLEANING:** Regular cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, and toilets.

### **STILL THE SAME**

The safety of our school community remains our utmost priority and as such the following guidelines, whether vaccinated or not, still apply;

- Social distancing of 2 metres during school drop off and pick up
- Face coverings at all times during school drop off and pick up
- Frequent washing and sanitising of hands upon entering school grounds

### **VACCINATED?**



STAY  
SAFE



STAY  
LEARNING



STAY  
CONNECTED

Should you or your child/ren be offered a vaccine, we will do everything to support you in accepting, please do let us know if it clashes with any school timetable commitments, and we will do our best to accommodate.

Please be aware that should you or your family have the vaccine, or already be vaccinated, you and your family will still need to adhere to the 'Stay Safe' rules regarding social distancing when on school grounds. This includes face coverings, hand hygiene etc.

While you may be protected from Covid-19 many in our school community are not, and even vaccinated people could still carry the virus.

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NEWS PUBLISHED BY GOVERNMENT – YESTERDAY 28.2.21

*Whole families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8 March. Tests can easily be ordered and collected from local sites, or administered through workplace testing programmes. See [Link](#)*

I will share further information about this when it is released.

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With this letter I have attached an updated version of parent handbook that will have more detailed information.

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back from March 8<sup>th</sup>, and in the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe.

Warm Regards,

**Mrs Sara Paine**

Head teacher