

# Foundation Phase Return - February 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to welcome the pupils in the Foundation Phase (**Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**) back to school to resume face to face teaching!

**All pupils in the Foundation Phase (FP) will return to school on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.**

**Please continue to read the remainder of this letter 😊! It contains some important amended information.**

All protocols that were running efficiently during the Autumn Term 2020 will be re-instated, including the staggered start and finish times. The document, '**MPPS Operational Guidance for Parents**' is attached for your reference.

Hopefully, if the reopening of schools across Wales is a success in that the 'R Rate' remains below 1 at the time of the next review by Welsh Government, we will be in a position to extend the opening to our pupils based in Key Stage 2 soon afterwards. I'm sure you will agree, this cannot come soon enough but for the time being, the vast majority of these pupils must remain safely at home; some will continue to attend the Key Stage 2 Hub for the children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Pupils after the half-term break.

You have already received correspondence from me earlier this week, including the letter from the Newport Association of Primary Head Teachers. As mentioned in that letter, you will now find more information in this document regarding the planned return to school for pupils in the Foundation Phase at Malpas Park.

## **The Environment and Social Distancing**

All measures that have been put in place since our return to school in September 2020 remain in place and further strengthened to reflect the new operational guidance. As you are aware changes to many areas of the school have been made to ensure that social distancing is continually promoted by all members of staff for the benefit of their own safety as well as that of the pupils.

I am sure you can all appreciate that these measures are necessary but our intention is not to over-do the 'hazard warnings' to the point that the pupils become 'blind' to the key message and that their school environment feels too alien to them and impacts their wellbeing.

**Signage:** This clear and child-friendly. We have had to put in some two metres distancing markers, rainbow tape, 'Waiting Spots' and hand-washing posters to support the pupils and minimize transmission.

**Outside:** The pupils will be spending as much time as possible outdoors to minimise the possibility of transmission. As you are already aware, a system of orange stars operates on yards and pathways to promote social distancing when the pupils are waiting to enter school and depart school and avoid the mixing of 'bubbles'.

**School Office:** During the remainder of the Spring Term there will be no access for parents or visitors to the School Office. If you have an enquiry, or family emergency, please telephone or email the School Office and Mrs Kindred will respond accordingly. In the case of an emergency at school or if your child is unwell, you will be contacted in the usual way.

**Indoors:** There are 'Waiting Spots' on the floor to encourage social distancing and to address all the 'pinch points' such as the toilet and cloakroom areas. Pupils will be moving around the school very little due to the small corridors. The only indoor areas that they will be using are their classroom and an allocated toilet, including a single cubicle for each 'Bubble'. 'Bubbles', including pupils and staff are not permitted to mix at any point. Whether based in a FP classroom or the KS2 Hubs, each group will have a teacher in the classroom 'Bubble' and an additional adult.

All pupils at school will need to bring in their own water bottles **containing water only**, a fruit snack and lunch in a sealed container. Please ensure that younger children have food items that are easy for them to open independently. We will be re-instating 'Hot Box Lunches' for pupils in the **FP only** from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March; at this stage, pupils in the KS2 Hub will still need to bring a packed lunch with them each day until further notice.

In order for all the pupils to begin feeling like they are part of a school community again, we encourage the wearing of school uniform by FP pupils and those in the KS2 Hub. We recognise that some pupils may have outgrown items of their school uniform and the purchase of new items at the current time is not permitted by Welsh Government. A flexible approach will be applied to all year groups until further notice.

## Learning and Wellbeing Provision

On return to school, staff and children have the exciting opportunity to spend time together, in a safe environment that nurtures confidence and the rebuilding of our school community; wellbeing and learning will be priorities.

<b>Foundation Phase</b>
Face to face teaching for all pupils in the FP will resume from Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February. Pupils in receipt of a valid Shielding Letter, will continue to access Blended Learning at home.
<b>KS2 Learning at Home</b>
The vast majority of our pupils based in KS2 will, for the time being continue to access Blended Learning at home via Google Classroom with the support of their Class Teachers.
<b>KS2 Hub</b>
This provision for the children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Pupils will continue to operate as has been the case since the beginning of January, in the presence of a Class Teacher. If your child is part of this group, <b>please see the attached document 'KS2 Hub Protocol Feb 2021'</b> as this does include some amendments in-line with the operational guidance and the risk assessment.

All well-established routines to address hand and respiratory hygiene by both pupils and staff remain in place to minimize transmission. All surfaces will be sanitised regularly throughout the day and after every activity in each 'Bubble'. Access to toilets have to be carefully planned to ensure all pupils adhere to social distancing.

Hand sanitisation stations are available throughout the building but regular hand washing with soap and warm water will be a priority.

At the current time, no visitors will be permitted into school where they may come into contact with pupils. The school will be cleaned in line with Welsh Government guidance and the contract provider's daily schedule will be signed-off by the Premises Manager each day.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Protocols for the wearing of appropriate PPE by staff are fully embedded as normal practice and are in-line with the operational guidance. Pupils are not required to wear face coverings at the current time. Parents must continue to wear face coverings at all times at the perimeter railings and the 'Drop and Go, Collect and Leave' protocol must be swift and fully adhered to.

## **Free School Meals**

If your child is eligible for free school meals, the current supermarket voucher scheme will continue during the half-term break and the week commencing Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for pupils in the FP and KS2. During the week commencing Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March, vouchers will only be provided for pupils based in KS2 as those in the FP will be able to access their free meal in school.

## **Illness**

If your child, or someone in your household, becomes symptomatic, you must follow self-isolation protocols.

It is very important that if your child is showing any symptoms of Covid 19, that they stay at home and you follow WG guidance; please notify the school immediately.

If a pupil becomes ill with symptoms of Coronavirus whilst at school; there is a designated Isolation Room and you will be contacted immediately to collect them.

In the event of a pupil becoming unwell with any of the usual childhood illnesses, normal medical procedures apply.

## **Staggered Start and Finish Times**

The pupils attending the children of Critical Workers' and Vulnerable Pupils' Hub will begin arriving from **08:45** and collected at **15:30**.

The use of gates each morning essentially remains as it was during the Autumn Term; please read the document attached carefully as a reminder; '**MPPS Operational Guidance for Parents**'.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document; I hope you have found it useful. In the event you feel your concern or question has not been addressed within the contents, do not hesitate to contact the school via email: [malpaspark.primary@newport.gov.uk](mailto:malpaspark.primary@newport.gov.uk).

Kind regards,

Kate Guest