



28 August 2020

This is a revised letter that was sent to all families in the last week before the summer holidays.

Dear Parent/Carer,

The information in this letter is a guide to what you can expect when the pupils return on the first day at MBMS in September. The Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body have looked very closely at the guidance provided by the DFE and designed a school return that is safe and allows pupils to be catered for both emotionally and academically.

The first day back for pupils - Wednesday 2 September

All pupils will come into the backyard at their allocated times. This will ensure a staggered start to the day. As explained in previous letters, we are adopting a year group bubble approach for which we have designed a comprehensive risk assessment. The times of entry for pupils into school are:

Year 5 - 8.45am

Year 6 - 9.30am

Year 7 - 10.15am

Year 8 - 11.30am

As you will see later in the letter, there are staggered start times each day and finish times also. It is really important that pupils **do not arrive too early for school** as this could mean pupils from different year group bubbles coming into contact with each other.

On the first day pupils will remain with their new classmates and new class teacher, they will take part in activities which familiarise themselves with school, re-stimulate friendships and get them to reflect on their own experiences over the last 6 months in a safe environment. The pupils will also be given information about changes to school procedures and systems that they will need to get used to in order to help them get back into school life. Children will stay within their pastoral class for all of the first 3 day week. Curriculum/subject lessons will start on **Monday 7 September**.

At the end of the school day, the pupils will be dismissed as follows:

Year 5 from the back of school (Lovaine Avenue) at 3.25pm

Year 6 from the front of school (Sports Centre entrance) at 3.25 pm

Year 7 from the front of school (Sports Centre entrance) at 3.35pm

Year 8 from the back of school (Lovaine Avenue) at 3.35pm

We will be insisting that the pupils make their way home immediately and do not hang about the school gates; this could mean mixing of year group bubbles which we wish to avoid. If siblings need to meet in different year groups, they should arrange to meet at the front of the sports hall, on the path next to the disabled marked car bays.

The school day entry points for pupils from Thursday 3 September will be:

Year 5 from the back gates (Lovaine Avenue) at 8.40am

Year 6 from the front of school (Sports Centre entrance) at 8.40am

Year 7 from the back gates (Lovaine Avenue) at 8.50am

Year 8 from the front of school (Sports Centre entrance) at 8.50am

School uniform

Pupils should wear their normal school uniform for school. This is the uniform described in the pupil planner and on the website. On days when pupils have PE, they may come to school in their PE kit and wear this throughout the day. The reason for this is to avoid the need to change. We will always look to have PE lessons outside. Pupils should bring their purple MBMS jumper in case they need to change from one to the other if an item is wet from rain.

The curriculum

Pupils will study the full breadth of the curriculum that can be found on the website. However, with practical based subjects like art, PE, DT, science, and music we have had to make some curriculum adaptations to ensure that any risk of sharing equipment is minimised. Some lessons will last longer than others; this is to cut down on the amount of pupil movement points during the day which further protects the integrity of the pupil year group bubbles. Please note that by the end of each half term, every subject will have had their allotted amount of time they would usually receive. With longer lessons, we also have the option of building in additional, literacy, and numeracy support for pupils if their needs dictate this.

School dinners and lunchtime

For the first two weeks, all pupils will have a packed lunch. This is to make the lunchtime period as manageable as possible at the start of the year. Pupils may bring a packed lunch in from home or if they usually have a school dinner, a packed lunch will be provided by the school (paid for through Joinos). Pupils receiving Free School Meals will also get a packed lunch. It is our intention by week 3 that we start to offer a hot option of food again for the pupils. Pupils will eat lunch in different parts of the school and have different sitting times to avoid year group bubbles mixing. Pupils will have social time in different areas of the school where they can play and socialise with their friends in that year group. It will not be possible for pupils to see friends in other year groups.

Before and after school provision

We are committed to ensuring that we have the right ratios of provision for staff and pupils whilst also maintaining the integrity of pupil year group bubbles.

Breakfast club provision is available but it must be booked in advance; **it is not possible for pupils to turn up without notice.** The cost of the breakfast club is £1 per day.

After school, we do have a provision that runs until 5.45pm. Due to staffing ratios, we can only offer this to **Year 5 pupils at the start of this year.** Once we are able to determine how popular the need is for this provision is we may be able to extend this to other year groups moving upwards from Year 6. When attending this provision, the pupils will be able to use computers, read their own books, play a selection of board games, and complete their homework. Both the breakfast club and after school provision will start on Thursday 3 September. A letter will come out on the first day back at school giving finer detail of how the after school provision will work.

Movement around the school site

This will be the biggest change for current pupils to adjust to. To keep the integrity of year group bubbles pupils will move around the school at slightly different times. It will no doubt take a little time to get used to but once pupils have been guided and supervised through this by the adults in the school they will acclimatise to the new systems. There will be signage up around school and advice posters to help them get used to these systems. These systems will also be discussed in detail on the pupils' first day back at school.

After school clubs (Sports, academic, cultural)

These clubs will start later in the term but we hope to get them running as soon as possible. Because of year group bubbles, it will not be possible to mix year groups for these activities and so it is likely that we will need to have a rota system for clubs and year groups across weeks of the school year. We know that the clubs and activities are a vital part of MBMS school life so we will work on a plan over the summer that ensures there is equality in the provision for all four year groups. We will share this information with you in the second week of the school term.

Health and hygiene

On the first day, we will go through health and hygiene routines with the pupils. This will include the 'catch it, bin it kill it approach', pupils will also sanitise their hands at three points during the school day. Pupils if they wish, may bring their own hand sanitiser to use themselves, they may not share it with their friends. For pupils, without hand sanitiser the school will provide this for them. Hot water and soap will be available in the toilet areas. Where pupils are required to move around the school, they will wipe down their work desk and chair with a paper towel and disinfectant before they leave, so it is clean for the next person. Teachers will oversee this process. Cleaning staff will be on hand throughout the day carrying out cleaning duties also.

Pupils with medical conditions

If your child has a medical condition that dictates they may not be able to return to school on 2nd September, please make contact with the school. We will then hold conversations so we can move forward together to support your child's well being and learning. Please do this before 2nd September by sending an email to the school office.

Pupils who are unwell

Any pupil who exhibits a continuous cough, fever, or loss of smell or taste will be isolated immediately and sent home. Parents/carers will be asked to arrange for a C19 test as soon as possible. If a pupil does exhibit symptoms and is sent home, they will **not be allowed back into school** until the results of the test are shared with the school. We will ask to see evidence of pupil test results. If a positive test is returned, the school will work closely with Public Health England and engage with track and trace systems. We will follow the advice and inform parents accordingly.

We have been clear in our focus for return to school in September: we want to get back to an enjoyable, stimulating environment whilst at the same time ensuring that we minimise any potential risk of C19, we must keep pupils and staff safe.

We have a comprehensive risk assessment that will be published at the end of the first week of school on our website. The reason for this is we wish to go through all of the changes with the pupils in a consistent way, so everybody gets exactly the same message at exactly the same time. If you would like to see the RA before sending your child back to school this is available on request from my PA Lisa Dawson at lisa.dawson@mbms.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Newport
Headteacher



Marden Bridge  Middle School

Lovaine Avenue, Whitley Bay, NE25 8RW
Tel: (0191) 349 9538 | Fax: (0191) 200 8727
Email: info@mbms.org.uk | Website: mbms.org.uk
Headteacher: Mr John Newport BEd. (Hons.)

