



20th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an interesting few weeks and we now find ourselves well into planning for partial re-opening for a wider group of children. EYFS, year 1 and year 6 have been identified by the government as the first cohorts to return to school. The final decision regarding this partial re-opening is due from the government on 28th May. We have worked hard on our planning for this and with the support of the Trust have a myriad of measures in place. We are also grateful to the Community Centre Charity for allowing us to use the Small Hall, which increases our floor space, number of toilets and therefore capacity to safely welcome more children back.

We have remained open for the entire COVID emergency for children of essential workers and pupils with EHCPs – this will remain the case going forward. These children will also be kept in small groups of no more than 15 and also have staggered lunch/play times, their own allocated toilet facilities and consistent staff members. If your child/ren fall into this group and your work rota means that you might need our help, please let us know.

As we gradually re-open, one of the measures we have had to put in place is to limit the number of adults entering the school building and school grounds. Therefore, all key worker's children will now need to enter through the main hall doors **with parents to remain outside**. Please ring the bell at the school entrance door at drop off or pick up if there isn't someone on the main hall door, then move to the hall door to collect your child. Also all queries will have to come into school via email or phone.

Next week, being half term week (blurred as the lines are!) will mean that work packs will not be sent home for children. We would, however, still encourage you to keep reading with your child/ren and to practise counting/number bonds/times tables (TT Rockstars) depending on their age.

Following the retirement of Mrs Webb – we will mark this properly when gatherings and assemblies are permitted again – we have welcomed Mrs Casey to our staff as a HLTA. Mrs Casey joins with many years experience in primary education; she has met many of our key worker children is looking forward to working with us.

Please continue to contact your class teacher via the new class email addresses set up if you have any questions related to the work. Any general queries are welcome using the email address admin@mendleshamschool.org.uk or via phone.

Thank you to you all for your good wishes and messages of support, it has really meant a lot to us.

Best wishes

Tessa Sait

Support with Online Safety

Our Trust subscribes to The Key, who have produced a package of resources to support parents with online safety for their children – click below for details:

<https://parenthub.thekeysupport.com?uuid=1d9a67fd-465a-4659-887c-7a16e12a337b>

Work Packs

Work packs will continue to be available for years 2, 3, 4 and 5 after half term. Please continue to communicate with your class teacher and ask for any help you need. We will still be able to print packs for anyone struggling with their home printer. We have enjoyed seeing the work your children have produced and many examples have been shared on the class pages on the website. If you have any photos you want to include, please email them to your class teacher with your permission for them to be used on the school website.

Work packs for any pupils whose parents choose for them not to attend are unlikely to be the same as they have been receiving, as the class teacher will be planning, teaching and resourcing work in school. We will provide direction on where to access suitable resources and support you wherever we can.

Class arrangements for September 2020

We are as yet unsure of the return arrangements for Autumn in terms of the COVID 19 emergency, however, we have planned the following, given the varying number of children in each year group:

EYFS – unchanged, Mrs Wesley plans to return in December

Year 1 – Mrs Owen

Year 2 – Miss Sutton

Year 3/4 - Miss Churchill

Year 5/6 – Mr Singleton

We continue to plan to welcome specialist French teachers and sports teachers from the high school for children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Support for Mental Well-being During the Lockdown.

You can always call us for advice and support, the school nursing team is still operating and we can sign post you to a variety of organisations for additional support – for yourself or your child. You might find the following useful:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

www.samaritans.org.uk

Here is a short activity to do with your child if they are worrying about coronavirus

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/cco-childrens-guide-to-coronavirus.pdf>