



Meadowside School

Wirral Education Authority

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Head Teacher: Miss P. Wareing

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Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding in working with us during what has been an extremely difficult time for our school and your children.

In accordance with Government guidance we supported the NHS by remaining open to children of Key Workers and some vulnerable pupils when the country went into Lockdown on 20th March 2020. As the transmission rate has reduced we have complied with changing guidance and have increased the number of children attending the school. Now the commonness of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased and the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, and we are clearer about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within the school, we are now expected to fully open the school in September.

September 2020

We have been planning how fully opening in September can be done safely for pupils, staff and visitors. We are reviewing our whole school risk assessment (RA) in line with new Public Health advice and are assessing individual's within that context, where required. The updated whole school RA will be posted on the website.

How it will work:

We have decided to open for our existing pupils as planned on **Thursday 3rd September 2020 and introduce our new pupils on Monday 7th September.**

Bubbles

We are opening as 2 large over-arching bubbles with 9 sub-bubbles to help reduce the risk of cross-contamination. This is to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school without limiting the quality or breadth of teaching and learning, or access for support and specialist staff and therapists. Initially, to build confidence, we will encourage both staff and pupils to try to only mix within the smaller bubbles. Hopefully we will then move to facilitating staff to deliver their specialism in specialist rooms, before considering returning to how we have previously delivered the curriculum in some class based groups and some, where pupils move around the building or hold mixed gatherings. This means assemblies will not take place.

Shared areas

It is intended to trial a one way system to try to maintain social distancing. Other areas, such as the pool, hall will need to be regularly cleaned between groups. Lunch times and breaks will be staggered.



Staff are asked to socially distance in the staffroom and in other areas, where reasonably practical.

We will keep all these arrangements under continual review to monitor that the controls are effective, working as planned, and updated appropriately considering any issues identified and changes in public health advice.

Education

Many children and young people have been out of the school environment for a considerable length of time. Some will have engaged in home-learning more than others. Some in school have had to adapt to different ways and environment to previously, including being in groups with varying needs and abilities. This has made teaching, learning and assessing more difficult. In September we will be assessing each child's starting point and planning with you how best to move forward or catch up. We plan then to deliver a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, bespoke to the needs of individuals and their future plans and aspirations.

Resources

It is required that each pupil maintains their own equipment, assisted by staff, eg: for those who it is appropriate, they will need their own named pencil case with their own pens and pencils etc. If required to wear a mask on transport all will need to bring in a sealable plastic bag to place the mask in, to take home daily. Staff will use their own equipment too so as not to share.

Larger items including standing frames, wedges, trolleys will be regularly cleaned before and after use. Frequently touched surfaces and communal areas will be regularly cleaned. Classroom resources will be regularly sanitised. Shared areas/equipment such as the pool, hall, sports gear, musical instruments will be sanitised between individuals and bubbles as required or rotated so they are left unused for a period of 48 hours (72 for plastics) between use. Therapy equipment will be assessed as to whether it is for single use, whether cleaning as recommended may damage it or its use is rotated.

Physical activities/education

There will be no contact sports.

Outdoor learning and activities will be prioritised by staff. We may be able to work off-site or with other providers, schools and offer extra-curricular activities or lettings when we are satisfied that this is safe to do so.

Sports equipment will be regularly sanitised or rotated so it is not used for 48 hours (72 for plastics)

Catering

Our kitchen will be fully operational in September and to err on the side of caution initially we will provide "finger food" as we have had to place our orders now

Hygiene and Health

Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill should stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school and wherever possible minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

All staff members and parents and carers need to understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they are displaying symptoms - staff and pupils must not come into the setting if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them when at the setting - all children and young people can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the [NHS website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

By the autumn term, the school will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that we can give directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at work, where we think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them getting tested. Advice will be provided alongside these kits.

We ask all parents and staff to inform the school immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating (they could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu - in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better - other members of their household can stop self-isolating)
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and must self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste (this is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone - the 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill - if they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal, and other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days)

Hand washing is supported on entry and exit to the school, before and after lunch, at various times in the school day for pupils and staff are expected to wash their hands frequently.

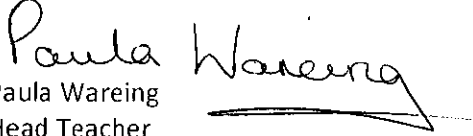
Please ensure that your child brings a packet of tissues each day.

Thank you

This has been a team effort and my sincere thanks go to the staff who have stayed supportive of the pupils throughout, Transport who have tried hard to accommodate everyone safely, to the LA & SEND department for support, catering staff for keeping everyone fed and to the school nurses who have remained positive. All of this has been achieved in a fast-changing situation. We have all learned a lot and have made plans to deal with future cases and outbreaks.

We look forward to welcoming back everyone in September.
Enjoy the summer and stay safe.

Kind regards


Paula Wareing
Head Teacher