



Meltham CE Primary School

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Headteacher Phil Gibbins

Monday 19th July

Re: Arrangements for September 2021-22

Dear Parents and Carers,

In September, if everything goes to plan, school will revert as much as possible to its pre-Covid routines. But what does that mean for the children at school? Many of you, if you're anything like me, might struggle to recall some of the things we did before the onset of the pandemic. I can't hope to include everything here, but hopefully this will act as a reminder of everything you should need to know in order to get your child happily to and from school and understand the major changes we have planned. I'll try to keep it as brief as possible, but if you have questions, I will be on playground duty in the mornings and afternoons through the last week, or you can email.

Coming to school

School starts at 8:45am and all children should be in class by 8:55 am ready for register and learning at 9:00am. Please be on time as the children have missed too much learning this year already and it causes disruption when children arrive late.

All children will come in through the foot gate at the front of school, to the right of the entrance. They should walk through the Key Stage 1 yard to get to class. The carpark will no longer be used as a way in and out of school. Each class will enter the school via the following doors which will be clearly marked:

| Class | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------------------|------------------|
| Entrance door | Classroom fire door | Conservatory | Classroom fire door | Y3 & 4 door | Y3 & 4 door | Y3 & 4 door | Y5 door | Y5 door | Classroom fire door | Butterfly garden |

In Key Stage 1, your child will be met at the door by their teacher or the classroom support. In Key Stage 2, children will enter the school and make their own way to class. In the first week of the new term, parents of Year 3 children are encouraged to bring their children into the Key Stage 2 playground to help them settle. From Monday 13th September, all Key Stage 2 children will make their way independently to class unless other individual arrangements have been made. Members of school staff will be available in the mornings to help your children should they need it.

Home time

The school day ends at 3:15pm. The gate will be opened shortly before this time and Key Stage 1 children can be collected from the classroom door as always. Many children in Key Stage 2 will make their own way home and those who are being collected can meet their parents in the Key Stage 1 playground. Please encourage your children to walk into and out of school sensibly and safely as they will need to walk through the Reception playground in order to get to and from class.

PE and Forest School

Your class teachers will send a newsletter home in the first 2 weeks of term. It will tell you which days your children have PE and Games. If your child's class is having its Forest School sessions in the autumn term, the letter will also detail this. Don't worry if your child doesn't have a scheduled Forest School time, as all children will receive Forest School sessions at some point next year. Children will need to wear a PE kit to school on their PE days. We will no longer be changing for PE or Games in school. Their kit must follow the school PE kit uniform. I intend to be tighter with the PE uniform next year so please ensure that when you buy your child a PE kit, it meets the school's PE kit requirements (dark shorts or tracksuit bottoms, plain t-shirts and a plain sweatshirt. **No football or Rugby kits please**). If you are having problems, please let us know and we can help. On Forest School days, old, durable clothes are needed, just like this year. Please make sure any and all clothes coming into school are labelled with your child's full name.

Uniform

You know all about this one. There are no changes planned to the school uniform, but please be aware that we will be continuing with our Daily K runs next year. When you buy your children's black school shoes, they should ideally be shoes in which children can safely run. They also need to be durable. Full details of the uniform can be found in the school prospectus which can be found on the website. Please ensure all uniform is labelled clearly with your child's name so it can be safely returned should it go astray. In Reception, Key Stage 1 and Year 3, children will need a book bag to carry their reading books to and from school.

What does my child need to bring to school?

Your class teacher will tell you what you need and on which day it is needed in September. To start with, children need only themselves, a water bottle (containing water!) and a healthy snack if they are in Key Stage 2. If your child is on packed lunches, they will of course need their packed lunch box.

Break and lunchtimes

Presently, I am planning to allow children to mix outdoors with their friends in the parallel class at break and lunchtime. This has been greatly missed by the children this year and I know many of them are looking forward to this. I also plan to resume all year groups eating in the hall.

What about isolation and remote learning?

From August 16th, fully vaccinated adults and children under 18 will not be required to isolate if they are identified as a close contact. Should your child contract Coronavirus, they will need to isolate and follow NHS advice. NHS will be responsible for contact tracing in the new year (so I am informed). In the event of isolations, a local outbreak or another lockdown, your child's teacher will revert to remote learning through Purple Mash as has been the case this year. The Remote Learning offer can be found on our website.

Purple Mash needs a little time to switch the children over to their new classes. This cannot be done before September. In the event of isolation at the start of next year, your teacher will provide work for you via email or through School Spider.

What will we be doing to ensure that children are safe from Covid?

The windows will remain open once again next year to provide the all-important ventilation. The enhanced cleaning regime using chlorine based chemicals will continue, provided by the Kirklees Cleaning team. We will make sure all children wash or sanitise their hands before eating, although this will be less frequent than it has been this year.

In addition to this, we will begin the year by restricting the number of visitors in school. This means less chance of bringing infection into the building and a reduced risk of interruption to learning (and of course fun!). If you need to speak to teachers, please contact them by email or phone; access to the building will be granted only by appointment as it has this year. During the Autumn Term, we will not be holding

assemblies with parents in school, but will send videos as we have this year. I will keep this under review and hope that we can return to inviting you into the school during the course of next year.

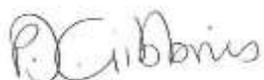
Staff and parents entering the site at pick-up and drop-off will be free to choose whether or not to wear a face covering. Nobody will be made to feel uncomfortable should they make this choice and I would expect that everyone be considerate of this choice. Playgrounds will be busy, so please consider each other's space.

What if there is an outbreak or another lockdown in the winter?

Then we will revert to class bubbles. We will revert to staggered starts (although there would be only two start times and two finish times). We will revert to eating and playing in two shifts and to eating in classrooms for some children. We will revert to sanitising hands whenever children come in from outside. We will revert to compulsory mask wearing both in school and on school premises. In essence, we would resume the current systems of in-school measures we are currently using to keep children safe and infection to a minimum.

If you have any questions once you have read this letter, please don't hesitate to contact school and we will do our very best to help.

Take care and stay safe

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Gibbins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Phil Gibbins
Headteacher
Meltham CE Primary School