

Friday 28th August 2020

Updated Information for Parents about the full opening of Didsbury CE

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find the information that was sent out to parents originally on Friday 24th July below. It has been updated with new information about local roadworks, school lunches, face masks and quarantine.

We are very much looking forward to fully reopening the school from **Wednesday 2nd September** onward. School attendance is now mandatory and so all children are expected to return to school. Nursery and Reception have their own phased opening to school but all children in Years 1-6 are expected in school on Wednesday 2nd September.

As a school we have had approximately 70% of our children back in school in the last four weeks of the summer half term. Consequently, we feel very confident in achieving a full reopening of the school in a quick and safe manner. To ensure such an opening for all pupils we have retained several measures from the Summer term that follow current DfE guidance for the full opening of schools. Please read through the details below so that you are fully informed of the structure of the school day. It is essential that all parents and children follow these procedures strictly in order that all children, staff and parents are kept safe and that the school runs efficiently.

Start and End of School Day – September 2020

In order to minimise contact between children of different class bubbles, there will still be staggered drop off and pick up times using several entry and exit points. Here is a timetable to show these details:

	Drop off	Pick up	Entry/exit point
Nursery	8:45	3:00	Nursery door on Elm Grove
Reception	8:35	3:00	Staff entrance on Grange Lane
Year 1	8:45	3:10	Staff entrance on Grange Lane
Year 2	8:50	3:15	Staff entrance on Grange Lane
Year 3	8:40	3:05	Green gates in playground
Year 4	8:40	3:05	Green gates in playground
Year 5	8:50	3:15	Green gates in playground
Year 6	8:50	3:15	Green gates in playground

- A teacher will oversee the dropping off and picking up process.
- It is **essential** that you are on time to drop your child off and to pick them up. We have made the drop off and pick up routine more compact than previously. This ensures that children have their full entitlement of curriculum time in school and is now more efficient for parents who have more than one child to drop off/pick up.
- Please note that parents will still drop off at the school gate in the morning. At the end of the day, parents will have limited access to the school premises in order that the children are dismissed as safely as possible.
- Only **1 parent** per household is to drop off and collect their child/ren. Please abide by this guidance as it reduces the number of parents who are waiting outside of the school gates.
- Please think about how you get your children to school. We would advise that you walk to school if possible or park a little further away and then walk in. This eases congestion in the surrounding streets. If parents are comfortable with the idea, older children are encouraged to walk to school by themselves to ease congestion and allow for a more efficient drop off and pick up process. An online form will be sent home in early September to allow parents to give permission for this to happen if they so wish.

- **Please note: We have been informed that the roadworks taking place on the roads surrounding the school are still due to the taking place next week on Wednesday and Thursday. This means that vehicle access to the surrounding streets will be restricted and we advise that parents park further away and then walk to school.**
- We ask that you do not gather in groups outside the school gates.
- Staff will **not** be able to physically take a child off you therefore, children who refuse to come in will have to go home with their parent.
- Kids' Club – We can confirm that Didsbury CE Kids' Club will be in operation from Wednesday 2nd September. All parents who have a place for their child/ren at Kids' Club have been contacted already informing them how the club will run in September.
- Please prepare your child for returning to school by talking it through with them and watching the new **'Returning to School September 2020'** video together. Please click on the link for the video:
https://youtu.be/MK42P_n43YM

During the school day

- Children are now organised in **whole class bubbles and not in bubbles of 15**. These children stay with each other throughout the school day and do not mix with other class bubbles during curriculum time and during breaks.
- Class bubbles will generally have the same adult teaching them throughout the week. In the first half of the Autumn term, we have restricted each staff member to being in no more than two class bubbles during any given week.
- To minimise the risk of cross-contamination, please do not drop off things that your children have forgotten at the beginning of the school day.
- Initially, the children will eat their lunch in the classroom as they did in the Summer term with only a sandwich lunch being available for the first week and a half. **From Monday 14th Manchester Fayre will be providing hot lunches again.** An online form has been sent out for parents to indicate whether they wish their child to have a school sandwich lunch or bring their own packed lunch.
- Within the classroom it is impossible for the children to socially distance. Two children will share a desk but in Years 2-6 all children will face the front of the classroom to reduce the possibility of transmission. Children in Nursery and Reception will follow the EYFS framework and therefore will not be sitting at desks. In Year 1 children will be in grouped desks as they transition from the EYFS framework to the more structured National Curriculum.
- Children will have their own, named pack of frequently used resources in Years 2-6

If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19:

- If a pupil has anyone within their household that has [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#), they should not attend school. They should self-isolate immediately and [arrange to have a test](#).
- Following Government guidelines, if a child shows symptoms of Covid-19 in school, we will need to ask you to collect them immediately and again the family should arrange to have a test.
- Pupils who test positive for COVID 19 should self-isolate for **10 days**. Other members of their household (including siblings) should self -isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first has symptoms.

Quarantine

- If you are in quarantine due to return from a country that is not on the Government list of quarantine free countries, then please do not send your child into school. Please inform the school to confirm when the quarantine period ends. We will ensure that home learning for your child will be made available for the quarantine period.

Things your child should bring to school:

- Water bottles – please bring a named, full water bottle into school. This must have a sports cap. It will then go home every day to be washed.
- Snack – children in KS2 need to bring in their own snack. Children in Nursery – Year 2 will have a fruit snack provided by school.
- A small backpack/book bag to carry the above.
- Children will be wearing full school uniform as normal including school shoes not trainers.
- If your child can apply it themselves and wishes to bring it in, they can bring in hand sanitiser.
- PE kits – Children will be getting changed for PE once again. PE kits will be kept in school and sent home at the end of the half term holiday so that they can be washed.
- Children can bring book bags as reading books will once more be going home. Returned reading books will be quarantined for 48 hours.

Things your child should not bring into school

- A pencil case – a named plastic wallet containing frequently used items will be provided for each child.
- Face masks – The DfE still recommend that face masks are not to be worn in school by children in primary school. If children arrive with a disposable mask the DfE have said that it must be removed and carefully put in the bin. Non-disposable masks will be placed in a plastic bag and returned to parents at the end of the day. We would request that you support us in not sending your children onto the school grounds with a face mask.

We are used to operating the school in such a manner and the vast majority of our pupils have also experienced school being operated in 'bubbles'. We would like to reassure you that children who returned to us during the Summer half term very quickly adapted to the new routines and we are confident that any children who have not been in school during the Summer term will likewise adapt in September. However, we are also really conscious that this is a very different time for children and during the first half of the Autumn term there will be an increased emphasis on well-being for our pupils as well as academic revision and progress.

Please note that both our behaviour policy and our safeguarding policy have been updated in light of coronavirus. Both policies are available on the school website:- <https://www.didsbury-pri.manchester.sch.uk/>

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 2nd September.

Please remember, the full opening of the school on Wednesday 2nd September is dependent on there being no change to the Government decision to reopen schools for all pupils.

Kind regard

Simon Ball

Simon Ball

Head of School