

# Milton Primary School

## The Plan to Return in September



15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well. The end of term is fast approaching, and I don't think any of us would have predicted the situation we are currently in when we started the year. However, with a huge team effort and fantastic community support, for those who have been able to, we have given every pupil the opportunity to return to school over the course of the final 3 weeks of the summer term.

It has been lovely to see lots of smiling faces arrive and leave each day, with everyone making the best of the very difficult situation.

As you will be aware, Welsh Government announced last week that all schools will fully **re-open by 14th September**. Operational guidance was published on Wednesday of this week, and we have been very busy putting together a plan for our return which is detailed below:

### Transition

All transition this year has been carried out remotely, with videos and leaflets published on our website. If you haven't already done so then please take a look!

In order to support transition in September for all pupils, we will be inviting children in half a class at a time for the first fortnight. This is so they can get to know their new teachers in smaller groups where they will feel more comfortable and to also support them to get back into a routine!

We will also have planning and preparation days for staff during that first fortnight, so we can reflect on how effectively the start to school has been and adjust our risk assessments as necessary.

The plan for the first fortnight is as follows:

Date	Group
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Group 1
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Group 2
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September onwards	All children

**Please note, school will be closed to pupils on Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup>, Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> for planning and preparation days.**

We will write to you by the end of this week to let you know which group your child is in. As with this term, siblings will be in school on the same days.

### **Nursery**

Mrs Wells will contact families separately this week to arrange 'Doorstep Visits' and 'Settle and Stay' sessions.

### **Reception**

As is customary, Reception children will attend for half a day to begin with, working towards attending for full days by the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> September. Again, the Reception teachers will be in contact by the end of the week to inform you of your child's allocated sessions and times.

### **Class LD**

Mrs Lee and Mrs Dack will be in touch shortly to inform you of arrangements for the first few weeks of term.

## Attendance

The most recent guidance from Welsh Government states that from September, '**school attendance will be compulsory.**' It is vital that your child attends the sessions during the first fortnight so that they can settle into their new classes and get used to new routines. We will of course be available to support with any issues around attendance. Parents must report to the school office if their child is going to be absent.

## Protective Measures

The new guidance acknowledges that there will only be limited social distancing within classes. Transmission in learners under the age of 12 seems to be particularly low and therefore schools will focus on a variety of protective measures. It will be essential for adults to continue to socially distance. We will minimise the risk of transmission by taking other mitigating measures:

- Minimise contact between pupils and limit contact with year group 'contact groups.'
- Maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- Minimise contact with individuals who are feeling unwell by ensuring anyone displaying symptoms does not attend school.
- Increased cleaning, including frequently touched surfaces.
- Continuing to clean hands thoroughly and regularly.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Where possible, ensure good ventilation in classrooms
- Maximise the use of additional rooms and spaces around the school to enable children to distance while learning.
- Maximise the use of the outdoors for learning.

## Contact Groups

Your children will be part of a year group contact group. Each group will have teachers and teaching assistants allocated to them to minimise contact. When teachers are taking their PPA time, the class will be covered by the same adult, again to minimise contact. There will be teaching assistants in each year group that

will frequently take groups to complete activities in different parts of the school, such as the playground or the hall. This will mean that there will be more opportunity for the children to maintain a social distance.

Across the school there are times when contact groups will come together for different activities. This will always be controlled and is allowed as the medical evidence suggests children are at low risk. For example, Foundation Phase children using the outdoor area.

There may also be times during the day where children will have playtimes with another contact group. These sessions will always be outdoors, so the risks are significantly reduced.

## Dropping Off and Picking Up

In order to minimise risk to all who are accessing the school site, we will continue to give an increased amount of time for drop off and collection. **We would ask that parents / guardians stick to these allocated points each time they pick up and drop off and observe social distancing at all times.**

All classes will enter and exit school through their usual doors (i.e. Reception and Year 1 through their classroom doors etc).

As prior to school closing, parents will not be able to access the school building or approach entry or exit points to the building at any time. Any parent who wishes to speak to school staff with an urgent matter will need to ring the school office and we will arrange for that parent to be called back (urgent matters only).

**Doors will open from 8:50- 9:15am** to allow for an extended start time to the school day and to limit the number of people on site at one time.

**School will finish at our normal times, 3:15pm for Foundation Phase and 3:20pm for KS2.**

**Please note that Nursery sessions will run from 9-11am for 'Morning Nursery' and 1-3pm for 'Afternoon Nursery.'**

## Uniform

All children will be expected to wear uniform from September. Please see the school website for further information about school uniform.

## School Dinners

All children will be expected to bring a packed lunch with them to school. Chartwells will be back on site, but they will only be providing packed lunches for those children who are eligible for Free School Meals. This will be the case initially but will be reviewed during September.

## Breakfast Club/ After School Clubs

In order to allow us to prioritise a safe and successful return to school, there will be no provision for Breakfast Club, or after school clubs to begin with. This will be reviewed at October half term.

## Milton's Recovery Curriculum

We have had the most turbulent few months and are very much looking forward to getting back down to our core business in September- learning! Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to our parent surveys. We have used your comments and suggestions to guide our plans for learning for the Autumn Term.

Our aims for our learners at Milton are to:

- Provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment for learning which creates happy, confident citizens of the future.
- Teach children how to become independent, lifelong learners so they are able to realise their full potential.
- Provide a relevant, inspiring, authentic and inclusive curriculum which reflects the needs and interests of our school community and the wider world and supports learners to recover learning which may have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

With these firmly in mind, we have planned for the first half term to focus on:

- Re-balancing our curriculum to ensure equal focus on well-being and academic learning.
- Unlocking learning by practising and developing key skills such as Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence.
- Ensuring a variety of learning activities that will develop creativity, problem solving skills, social skills and the ability to respond effectively to feedback.
- What it means to be a good learner and how to self-regulate.

## Distance Learning

Unfortunately, there is a real possibility that at some point in the future there may be local outbreaks of Covid. Although we all hope and pray that this doesn't happen in our community, we have to be prepared. We may face scenarios where we have to reduce the numbers of children in school, close school to a certain year group, or close school entirely!

In this eventuality, we will resume with our use of Google Classrooms, Seesaw and Class Dojo to communicate and share learning. We will also provide video tutorials for children as in their survey many pupils commented that the thing they found hardest about their remote learning this year has been not seeing their teacher!

Our policy and parent guides to support distance learning are all available on our website for parents to read and will be kept updated.

Can I just finish by extending my thanks to each and every one of our families for your patience, support and understanding as we all try to make sense of rapidly changing guidance and plan for September. I have never been prouder to serve such a wonderful school community.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and remain mindful of the role we all have to play in protecting our community from further disruption next academic year. So, switch off from Dojo and Seesaw, have fun with your family and friends, but please behave responsibly and with care, so that we can give our children the best start to their new academic year and what will be our new normal in September!

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Burke