



Nine Mile Ride
School

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*Learning for life - together we discover, nurture, achieve and shine.
Respect, Resourcefulness, Resilience, Reflectiveness*

Wednesday 15 July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Nine Mile Ride is looking forward to opening our doors to all children from the autumn term. COVID-19 has not gone away; however, the circumstances have changed. The prevalence of the virus has decreased and there is now increased clarity around the measures that need to be in place to create a safe environment for our whole school community.

Returning to school is vital for our children's education and wellbeing and it will be wonderful to have corridors and classrooms full of children's voices; however, we must continue to be vigilant and follow all safety procedures rigorously to ensure that our children's safety is a priority and education (albeit different) can be resumed in a manner which delivers the lowest practical risk of cross contamination between children, staff and NMR families.

The government has set out clear guidance for the full opening of schools and all of our procedures are designed to comply with health and safety law and minimise the possibility that our pupils could spread the infection to their or other families, or staff, as a result of being unwitting asymptomatic carriers and will be evaluated regularly and changes made as appropriate.

Essential Measures include:

- A requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Active engagement with NHS Test and trace
- Reducing contact and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible so far as is reasonably practicable

Reduced contacts will include:

- Grouping children together into class sizes (bubbles)
- Avoid contact between bubbles
- Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- Staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

I have added additional information below that I hope will provide clarity around our 'new normal'.

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Section 1: Prevention

Minimise Contact:

- No pupils or staff to come into school if they have COVID-19 symptoms. [Click here to access NHS Test and Trace: how it works](#)
- If anyone becomes ill with a continuous cough, high temperature or a loss in taste or smell they will be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home' guidance which sets out that they must self-isolate for 7 days and arrange to have a test. Other members of their household should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. [Click here to access.](#)
- Government is clear that there is no need for PPE to be worn unless staff wish to or work closely with the children (i.e. first aid, intimate care needs) –Face masks may be used by staff that are supervising children that are ill/showing symptoms in school while we wait for parents to collect.

Clean hands thoroughly:

- Regular and thorough hand cleaning will happen throughout the school day

Good respiratory Hygiene:

- Catch it, Kill it, Bin it approach will be promoted in all classes
- Posters promoting this message can be found in class and around the school

Enhanced Cleaning:

- A robust cleaning schedule to remain in place and additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces to continue
- All doors (except toilets) kept open to limit the touching of handles
- Toilets cleaned regularly

Contact

- The overarching principle is to reduce the number of contacts between children and staff through keeping bubbles separate and maintaining distance between individuals
- Children will be kept in class bubbles and will not mix with other year group bubbles
- Some staff will operate across bubbles; however, will minimise risk by adhering to social distancing procedures.
- Children will be seated side by side and face forwards, rather than face to face or side on
- No large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one bubble
- Movement around the school will be kept to a minimum with children entering/exiting the class through main doors.
- Toilet blocks zoned and allocated to ensure bubbles do not mix
- PPE equipment will only be needed if an individual becomes ill
- Staggered break times and lunch times will continue

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- Staggered entry for all year groups
 - 8:30-Years 5 & 6 (Main gate)
 - 8:40-Years 3 & 4 (Main gate)
 - 8:50-Years 1 & 2 (Main gate)
 - 9:00-Reception (Foundation Stage gate)
- Staggered exit for all year groups
 - 15:10-Years 5 & 6 (Main gate)
 - 15:00-Years 3 & 4 (Main gate)
 - 14:50-Years 1 & 2 (Main gate)
 - 14:45-Reception (Foundation Stage gate)
- Children should only bring essential equipment into school each day. This includes:
 - Pencil cases, water bottles, hats, coats, books, packed lunches
 - School bags can be brought into school; however please note that from September key Stage 2 children will be allocated a locker so please be mindful about the size. The locker sizes are:
 - Year 3/4-d450mm h448 w300
 - Year 5/6 –d450mm h600 w300

Response to Infection

- NMR will promote and engage with the test and trace system with staff and promote this process to parents and carers too. [Click here to access](#)
- Parents and staff are asked to inform schools immediately of the results of a test:
 - If someone tests negative but has symptoms of another virus, the child should stay at home
 - If someone tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home' guidance. [Click here to access.](#)

Managing confirmed cases

- NMR will take immediate action and follow all processes and procedures given by Public Health England.
- In the event of a confirmed case, a letter will be sent home to all parents/carers as appropriate.

Section 2: School Operations

Curriculum

- The Early Years Curriculum will be followed in Reception.
- The school will endeavour to offer as broad and balanced a curriculum as possible.
- PE will be modified to take into account social distancing rules.
- Staff will make adjustments as needed to the school curriculum over the coming weeks to ensure priority is given to core skills to meet the needs of the children.
- Staff will identify and plan how best to support the education of high needs groups, including disadvantaged pupils, SEND and vulnerable pupils.

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Cohorts

- Class sizes will have a maximum of 27 in any room at any time with at least 1 member of staff
- Where possible, the same members of staff will work with their allocated bubble. Where this is not possible, strict adherence to all health and safety guidance will be followed.
- Children will remain in their allocated classroom.
- The new Year 3 class will be taught in Elm Class (the old ICT suite).
- Children will use classroom doors to enter/exit and not main school doors.
- Unnecessary items in classrooms will be removed and stored elsewhere in the school.
- Groups of children will not mix or come into contact throughout the school day, and children within a group will remain 1 metres apart as much as possible.
- Where this is harder to enforce, staff will exercise judgement and adhere to control measures:
 - Clean hands more than usual.
 - Promote Catch it, bin it, kill it.
 - Clean frequently touched surfaces.

Hygiene

- Hand sanitiser in all classrooms will be provided.
- Hand hygiene will be promoted throughout the day.
- Posters will be on display reminding children of hygiene expectations.
- Staff will clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.
- Toys and equipment will not be used by other groups and will be cleaned.
- All soft furnishings, toys and soft toys that cannot easily be cleaned every day will be removed.
- Stationery will not be shared.
- Shared areas and surfaces will be cleaned daily and disinfected frequently.
- Doors will be propped open, and rooms will be well ventilated with windows open.
- A one-way system will be introduced in parts of the school to ensure people only walk on one side. This will be clearly marked with tape.
- Children can go to the toilet throughout the school day; however, this will be managed to limit overcrowding.
- Exercise and breaks will be staggered, and groups will not mix.

Attendance

I fully appreciate that many of our children and families will be anxious about returning to school and I cannot guarantee a totally risk-free environment; however, I am confident that the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of our children returning to school. As a result, the government is making changes to attendance expectations:

- From September, school attendance is a non-negotiable. The Government has made it clear that all children (who are not self-isolating or shielding) must return to school in order to minimise the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.
- NMR will record attendance and government has made it clear that schools must use sanctions for those children who do not return.

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Site

- Outdoor equipment/apparatus/play equipment/climbing frames will not be used in the first instance.
- School meals provision will be packed lunch only and must be ordered in advance. Further information will be provided.
- Packed lunches will be eaten in class or outside on the playground.

I would like to thank each and every member of our whole school community for being so supportive throughout these unprecedented times and I am confident and hopeful that our return to full-time school will be a positive, exciting and happy experience for all.

Kind regards



Ali Brown

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