



Monkton Park Primary School  
Sadlers Mead  
Chippenham  
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(01249) 652395

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December

## **School to reopen as normal on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you and your families and I hope very much that you enjoyed the festive period.

As you are aware, December was a particularly challenging time for the school with several confirmed cases of Covid-19. Unfortunately many schools both in Wiltshire and nationally faced similar challenges, causing much anxiety for school communities. Since then, Chippenham has been placed into tier 3 and this will undoubtedly have implications for us all.

Following this we have spent time reviewing our risk assessment so that we can further improve the measures in place for keeping our pupils as safe as possible in school whilst also ensuring measures introduced at the start of the pandemic remain in place. However we always strive to ensure a careful balance so that measures do not impede children's learning and their primary school experience. [Please click here to read the risk assessment in full.](#)

### **Start and End of the Day**

- Children can arrive at school any time between 8.45am and 9am. As we have two site entrances and pupils can walk straight to their classroom door we do not require a staggered entry time. Due to the number of siblings across the school this would be logistically very difficult for many parents.
- To reduce numbers on site at any one time we are encouraging Key Stage 2 children (Y3-Y6) to be dropped off at either the red playground gate or green field gate.
- We now ask that all adults wear masks on site. Staff on the gates in the morning will also be wearing masks.
- We strongly encourage all children to leave the school site as soon as they have been picked up. Please do take care to maintain social distancing as much as possible on site.
- We ask that any communication on the door between parent and teacher is kept to an absolute minimum and conversations should be avoided. Where a conversation is required we ask that you leave a message with the office so that the teacher can call you back.



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### **Increased Safety**

- Hand sanitiser is located throughout the school and regular handwashing is encouraged throughout the day.
- Children use allocated toilets and the numbers using them are limited at all times.
- Staggered lunchtimes and playtimes are in place and from January only Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will be sitting in the hall for lunch. Key Stage 2 children will eat in their classrooms.
- Close contacts are carefully monitored. A close contact at school is defined as being within 1 metre of someone for 1 minute or less than 2 metres for 15 minutes. As this is very difficult for children to assess for themselves we will usually take the decision to close a whole class if there is a positive case.
- Key Stage 2 children will usually sit in rows (or a horse shoe shape) to help reduce the risk of transmission and all children have been provided with their own pencil case and stationery.

### **Continued Support**

- We know some children will be really worried about coming back in after the Christmas holidays and we will make sure we spend time helping them get settled back in.
- We have committed around £10000 to improving Covid-19 safety measures around the whole school since the start of the pandemic. Unfortunately we have not received any governmental support for these costs but will continue to invest where improvements can be made.
- Support will be provided for children who have to isolate and do not have access to a computer at home. We will soon have access to 14 Chromebooks which will be loaned to children if they do not have a computer to use at home.
- We will continue to offer support to families whenever possible. Our family link worker, Mrs Marshall is on the gate most mornings and if you need to discuss a particular concern or worry, I am always able to speak to you over the phone.

I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Rafferty  
Headteacher