



Olney Middle School

Yardley Road, Olney, Bucks. MK46 5DZ

Telephone : 01234 711323

Fax: 01234 714389

Email: office@olneymiddle.milton-keynes.sch.uk

www.olneymiddle.milton-keynes.sch.uk

a *CARING* school

Headteacher: Mr Glenn Young

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are well and have had a good half term. This week has definitely felt more like spring than winter, and it seems quite poignant that this is the week that we start to see the 'roadmap' out of lockdown.

As I have mentioned many times before, there is nothing quite like a buzz of having pupils back in the building, and as a school we look forward to having all the pupils back. As such we were pleased to see the announcement from the Prime Minister to have all pupils back on the 8th March. Therefore, we have been working hard to commence our analysis and planning of how we can:

- fulfil the expectations required of us
- ensure that the safety of everyone is paramount in all our decisions and actions
- continue to provide a high quality, well balanced curriculum to best support our pupils in their education.

This week I have met all staff, and leaders within our Trust, to ensure we are clear as to the way forward.

In order to cover as many of the aspects needed to ensure everyone understands the next steps, we wanted to provide a FAQ for parents to try and answer as many of your questions as possible. If you are unsure of anything, please ask!

On Wednesday next week (4th March), teachers will be phoning home across the day to speak to pupils and parents, please use this as a start for any queries.

Olney Middle School Returning to School March 2021	
Frequently Asked Questions for Parents	
When is school reopening?	In line with government guidance we will be open for all pupils from Monday 8 th March 2021.
What will happen in the run up to school opening	In order to ensure the school is fully prepared for reopening, and classrooms and activities are ready, a number of things will happen next week. Lessons will continue to take place next week, via Google Meet, as normal, with the exception of Wednesday 4 th



(week beginning 1 st March)	<p>March, when there will be NO live lessons, instead teachers will spend this day, phoning every home to talk through the reopening - we feel this personal touch will be far more important and give pupils the personal and bespoke chance to discuss anything. For Wednesday 3rd March, learning activities will be set via Google Classroom for the day.</p> <p>All lessons next week - as they currently do - will have learning activities and work associated with these. However, any feedback for these activities will be completed either in the lesson, the following lesson, or completed when the pupils return, rather than in the afternoon, teacher's marking - this time will be preparing for the wider opening to ensure an effective start to the following week.</p>
Will the children be in bubbles?	The children will be in the same group bubbles as they were before Christmas.
Will there be whole school assemblies?	No, until further notice we will not have whole in-person school assemblies but we will use Google Classroom and Google meet to share and celebrate.
How will the classes be organised?	<p>In line with government guidance, full classes will be returning. We will endeavour to minimise furniture in rooms and to have tables organised in such a way as to ensure as much social distancing as possible. Where at all possible, all activities will be kept in classrooms and we will limit the number of adults actively working in each year group.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff will be situated in the classroom behind a 2m demarcated line ✓ Staff will be requested to avoid close face to face contact and minimise time spent within one metre of anyone ✓ Pupils will be encouraged to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers ✓ Pupils will be seated side by side and facing forwards ✓ Staff will be undergoing lateral flow tests twice weekly as advised by the DFE.
What should children bring to school?	Children can bring their bags to school but should limit what is in there to what they absolutely need for example a lunchbox, water bottle, pencil case and planner. They will have access to a peg to store it on. They should not bring their phone to school as we are unable to store them securely and in line with national guidance such as GDPR, without the risk of cross-contamination.
What should children wear?	Children should wear normal school uniform other than on the days when they come 'PE Ready' when they will wear their school PE kits. These 'PE Ready' days will be the same days as the Autumn term. It may be of use to ensure they have extra layers available on the colder days, as we continue to ensure the school is well ventilated.
What time will school start and finish and where	School will continue as before Christmas, therefore being a start at 8:30am and end at 3:10pm. However, the doors will as before, be open from 8:20am to 8:45am - if pupils



<p>will they need to go?</p>	<p>are in before 8:30am they are expected to come in, get themselves ready for the day and read. Pupils are not expected to congregate on the playground, but come straight in.</p> <p>At the end of the day, Years 5 and 6 will be let out at 3pm with Year 3 and 4 at 3.10pm- Should there be a problem for Year 5 and 6, with regards to picking up from infant schools, please let your child's teacher know.</p> <p>Year 3 will enter through the Year 3 door.</p> <p>Year 4 will use their classroom doors</p> <p>Year 5 and 4CF will enter through door 2</p> <p>Year 6 will enter through the Year 6 door.</p> <p>All staff who will be on the playground will be wearing facemasks.</p>
<p>Are parents allowed on site?</p>	<p>We are proud of being an open, welcoming school but regrettably ask that to minimise people on site, we ask pupils to come onto the school site alone where at all possible. We appreciate that this will not be possible for all children, especially at the lower key stage, and we ask parents to be mindful of social distancing when coming on site.</p> <p>If you need to speak to a member of staff, we ask that you phone the school office or email the class teacher rather than visit in person in the first instance - we have been very used to having meetings via Google meet, and we can continue to use this facility if needed.</p> <p>As before, we ask that ALL parents (unless for a medical reason) wear facemasks when coming on to the school site.</p>
<p>How will social distancing be observed?</p>	<p>In line with government guidance, we have taken proactive steps to enable the children to observe social distancing as much as possible and we will explain this to the children when they return. The main corridor will be demarcated so that children know which side to be on and how to maintain their personal space. We will encourage use of the vast outside areas to help them stay in their space whilst being able to socially communicate and interact. If they struggle with this, they will be gently reminded and supported in child-appropriate ways. We want to keep everyone safe but we also understand they are children and it takes time for them to learn new things. We will make full use of our available space and keep year groups distinct.</p> <p>All staff when moving around the school, will be wearing facemasks.</p>



Inspiring Futures Through Learning

<p>How will playtimes and lunchtimes be managed?</p>	<p>Playtimes will be staggered with Years 3 and 4 going out 9:45-10:00 and Years 5 and 6 10:00-10:15. and make use of all outdoor space with different groups allocated different areas.</p> <p>Lunches will be eaten in the classroom (or outside where at all possible) and any time outside staggered.</p> <p>We will make full use of our outdoor areas including the field (weather and ground condition permitting), playground and ball court (for clubs) with each group allocated a different area - these will be the same as before Christmas. Please note that we do not want pupils bringing in toys or pocket toys to ensure no cross contamination.</p>
<p>Will wrap around care be offered?</p>	<p>Wrap around care will be provided. Children will be required to sit in year group micro bubbles within the available space. Please contact ABS to book.</p> <p>Please note we are consulting with all parents on the expected need as we move forward - please take the time to complete the survey.</p>
<p>What will the children be learning about in school?</p>	<p>The priority in the first few days will give all the opportunity to get the pupils back in to the school experience. We expect to run a full curriculum with all subjects delivered whilst remaining Covid secure, so lessons such as PE (when appropriate) will be altered to ensure safety. We will also do everything we can to ensure we cover any gaps we have identified as soon as possible but in a carefully planned and engaging way to ensure that the children feel that their learning is purposeful but achievable for all. As well as filling gaps, the curriculum of the year group they will now be in will also be taught but will remain as much as possible in their Year areas.</p>
<p>Are there any special rules for PE lessons?</p>	<p>Yes. The government have confirmed that schools have the flexibility to decide how physical education, sport and physical activity will be provided whilst following the measures in their system of controls. Pupils will need their normal PE kit in school for PE lessons. We shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● keep pupils in consistent groups ● clean sports equipment thoroughly cleaned in between each use by different individual groups ● prioritise outdoor sports where possible ● large indoor spaces will be used where we are unable to use outside spaces <p>We will update you in the next week with arrangements for Hotshots and SSG clubs</p>



<p>Are there any special rules for handling resources?</p>	<p>Yes. Classroom based resources, such as books, will be used and shared within the bubble and cleaned regularly.</p> <p>Resources and textbooks that are shared between classes or bubbles, will be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be unused for the recommended time frame. Prior to and after using any specialist equipment pupils and staff will be required to sanitise their hands.</p> <p>ICT equipment will be sanitised by pupils by using specialist wipes prior to each use.</p> <p>Teachers can still provide feedback through exercise books. This is no more a risk than touching items in the supermarket. It is up to colleagues if they wish to wear gloves but normal hand and face hygiene must be followed. Colleagues may wish to quarantine the books for a period before taking them home and if this is desired then it should be built into normal feedback routines. This is not compulsory.</p> <p>If we have loaned a laptop, Chromebook, tablet or phone over the past couple of months to your child, we will be in touch to discuss the next steps.</p>
<p>Do I have to send my child to school?</p>	<p>The government expectation is that all children will be required to attend school - it is a legal requirement. As a school we are doing everything we can to make the school safe and secure so that we can follow government guidance whilst also keeping all our children and staff as safe as possible which is always our priority. Please talk to us if you have any questions or concerns and we will work with you to reach a solution which enables your child to be in school if at all possible.</p>
<p>What homework will the children get?</p> <p>What will happen if we do close a bubble for learning?</p>	<p>This will be through our communication app 'Marvellous Me' with the further addition of any supplementary resources shared through Google Classroom. We are aware of the amount of communication through MM! Should pupils want more independent learning from home, there continues to be the opportunity to become a 'master' of a subject - and pupils have the details and access through the school website. The continued use of Google Classroom, will allow us to quickly resume learning for ALL pupils in the event of school bubble closures similar to how it has been over the past few months.</p>
<p>What if my child is shielding?</p>	<p>Shielding advice for all adults and children has resumed up to the 31st March. Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we are able to immediately offer them access to remote education. We will require a copy of the official shielding letter issued by a medical professional which states your child's need to shield. Please talk to us as soon as possible.</p>
<p>What will happen if we have to close a bubble?</p>	
<p>If your child displays symptoms</p>	<p>The child and any siblings will need to be collected to go home immediately. We will be in touch with the parents/carers of that child to explain exactly what you should do, how to inform us of test results and what the next steps will be.</p>



during the school day.	
If your child has a positive test result.	The child will need to isolate for the time specified in the current national guidance at the time. The rest of the family will also need to isolate for the required amount of time under current national guidance.
If not your child but someone in your child's group bubble tests positive.	We will immediately put additional steps in place to further seal that bubble and inform all parents/carers with children in that bubble immediately via text, Marvellous Me and email- we will endeavour to follow these up with a phone call to ensure all the get the message as soon as possible. All children in that bubble will need to be collected straight away and quarantine at home for the time specified in the current guidance (any other member of your family does not have to quarantine unless they are displaying symptoms). <i>There will be an opportunity to ask questions to Mr. Young and other senior staff via an online meeting the following morning (full details will be in the letter that goes home).</i>
If your child's bubble needs to isolate under the current guidance.	Their educational experience will continue at home within two days through daily - hour 'live lessons' (9am, 10.20am, 11.20am) and supplementary activities via Google Classroom. You will have a weekly well-being phone call and staff will be contactable via email as usual should you have any questions. Paper packs will be available for those that don't have access to the internet (or similar to lockdown, we have a certain amount of data SIM cards, and devices for use).
<u>All parents/carers will be contacted via letter to notify which bubble we have had to close and to assure you that all other bubbles will remain open.</u> In line with current government guidance, only those directly in that year group bubble will need to quarantine for the required amount of time. <u>All children in other bubbles should continue to attend school unless they themselves start to demonstrate symptoms.</u>	

And finally,

Thank you to everyone for the kind messages of support over the past few months, when we broke up for the Christmas holiday, it was never the thought that we wouldn't see everyone properly until March! Whilst school has moved to a virtual world, it has truly been lovely to see how pupils, staff and families have worked so closely to keep pupils motivated, learning and engaged (even on the darkest of days). On the 8th, we are delighted to have all pupils back, and we cannot wait to continue the excellent work the pupils, staff and parents have been achieving at home over the past few months.

The 8th is the start of the way forward, and I look forward to moving on with you all, and as ever, should you need anything from us, please do not hesitate to ask!

My very best wishes

Glenn Young

