



MUGGINTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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Headteacher: Mr J Green

Dear Parents,

### **Covid 19 (Coronavirus) Update March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021**

Thank you for your support during 2021. I hope you will agree that staff have made a herculean effort to offer your child a quality remote learning curriculum in January and February. I must say, that the quality of work your children have produced during this period has been exceptional. Thank you for your support. Because of this, I am cautiously optimistic that the children's academic progress will not have been significantly affected by this school closure.

This letter aims to give you important information about school reopening on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> and, specifically, about the next four weeks of this half-term term.

### **School Reopening from Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Throughout the pandemic our school has worked hard to keep health and safety practices as unobtrusive as possible. This is because it is not only our children's academic progress which concerns us, but their mental health also. I believe strongly that primary school children are happiest (and learn best) when they have a clear structure, lots of activity and lots of opportunity to mix and play with their friends. With this in mind, school will follow the same health and safety practices as we did in December 2020. Unfortunately, this means that parents will not be able to come into school to drop off or collect children. It remains my ambition to restore this system as soon as is safely possible.

Children need to come to school in uniform with their sports kit and a packed lunch (if they do not order one from the kitchen). The school day will run as normal from 9am (8.50am on the playground) until 3.15pm. Early birds (from 8am) and after school club (until 4.30pm) will be on from the first day back.

It certainly feels as if we are on the home straight with regard to the pandemic, particularly as more and more of us are vaccinated. However, I would ask you to remain vigilant for coronavirus symptoms:

- 1) A new continuous cough
- 2) A temperature of 37.8 degrees or greater
- 3) A loss of taste or smell.

If you, somebody in your family or your child have a sustained cough, a sustained loss of taste or smell and repeatedly measures a temperature of over 37.8 degrees, please do not come to school. Remote learning will be available to any child forced to quarantine, using the school blog.

There is no requirement for primary schools to administer covid tests to children (please see p31 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964351/Schools\\_coronavirus\\_operational\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf))

However, school does have access to home testing kits and are happy for you to use these whenever required. As in December, with the strong caveat that you must test your child if you are at all worried that they have one of the major symptoms, evidence continues to indicate that typical mild cough/cold symptoms (sore throat, headache, runny nose) do not necessitate a quarantine period. I know what a difficult decision it is to make, however, and understand completely if you need to telephone or email me for a discussion about what to do for the best if your child feels unwell.

### **The first four weeks back**

We are so excited to have all of our children back together. The first week will be a simple one – lots of time outside, lots of time socialising and gentle reminders and support about our expectations for behaviour and work in school. The Juniors will read *Future Friend* by David Baddiel and engage further with the topic of climate change, whilst the younger children will focus on animal life-cycles and the rainforest.

An additional area of focus will be the children's fitness and activity levels. As you know, we are investing in Fitbits for all junior children. These activity trackers will be used to promote the benefits of an active lifestyle – something which is much easier to maintain in school than during a lockdown. I would like to emphasise to parents that this will be done positively. Children will be encouraged to see the 'fun' in being outside and playing. Focus will be given only to 'Steps' and all children will be given the opportunity to increase their step count by running, playing games, walking Monty or at Forest Friday.

Finally, we intend to assess the children in the second or third week back before offering you a Parents' Evening appointment to update you on your child's academic profile either remotely or face-to-face in the final week of this half-term (week beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March).

### **The Summer Term**

Our ambition is to have as 'normal' a summer term as it is possible to have. This means we hope to be able to have a sports day (and obligatory staff and children vs parents football match!) at the cricket pitch and a junior summer production, which Corrina and Miss Beresford are chomping at the bit to begin! Additionally, we hope to provide a supportive and exciting transition process for our Year Six children. I hope you can understand that these plans cannot be guaranteed because they depend on the national picture over the next few months. In the classroom, our Big Idea will be 'What Makes a Hero?' which will allow us to learn more about famous figures such as Nelson Mandela, but also about local people such as nurses, supermarket workers and bus drivers.

The three remaining INSET days for this academic year are Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June; Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

I hope this gives you the information you need regarding our return to school from Monday. If you need further information or would like to discuss the contents of this letter with me, please email or contact the school office.

Thank you very much, we can't wait to see you all on Monday

Mr Green