



MIDDLETON SCHOOL

25th August 2020

Dear Families

I hope you are enjoying the last week of your school holidays with your children. All of the staff here at Middleton are really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school. This letter is intended to provide you with the appropriate information you may require for your child returning to school in September.

Firstly, can I remind you that our initial return to school is graduated so that we can have less adults and children in the building during the re-introduction of pupils into school. At Middleton, we are returning to school a day earlier than specified in the Hertfordshire calendar. This is to enable us to hold a training day for all staff. Your child will then attend school for one day only next week and begin back at school full time the week commencing Monday 7th September.

Monday	Bank Holiday Monday – NO SCHOOL
Tuesday	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils.
Wednesday	Robins, Toucans, Eagles pupils in school.
Thursday	Penguins, Puffins, Kingfishers pupils in school
Friday	Owls, Swifts, Kestrels pupils in school.

The following Information should support your child’s return to school and assist our whole school community in remaining as safe and healthy as possible;

Health Check List;

Parents/ Carers should carry out the following checklist daily before they send their child into school;

- Take your child’s temperature to ensure that it does not exceed 38 degrees.
- Check that your child does not have a persistent dry cough.
- Check that your child does not have a lack of taste or smell.
- Check the general well being and health of your child.

If your child is suffering from any of the recognised symptoms of Coronavirus or has a temperature over 38 degrees then they **MUST NOT be sent into school.**

Pupils who become unwell during the school day

- Pupils who become unwell will be placed in isolation away from their peers.
- We will take their temperature and assess their current health position.
- Staff will wear PPE as appropriate.
- Parents and carers will be informed and asked to collect their child from school if we suspect ill health which may relate to COVID19.
- We will also ask parents to book a Coronavirus test for their child.
- The child (and family members) will need to self isolate for ten days (or until recovered) unless evidence of a negative test is produced and shared with the school.
- Your child will not be able to return to school until we have seen a copy of the test result.

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BA hons, P.G.C.E, Adv.Dip
Headteacher

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Class Bubbles

The school will operate under a class bubble system. All pupils will remain in their own class bubble and will not socialise with pupils from other classes within the school building. Staff will also remain only with staff from within their own class bubble. Playtimes will be staggered so that only three classes are outside on the playground at once. If the weather is inclement and we cannot access the outdoor space then playtimes will be held within individual classrooms and pupils will not mix within the building. A similar system will operate with regards to lunch. Staggered times will be planned in the dinner hall and only three classes will enter the dining hall and will remain socially distanced while eating.

Pupils will not be moving freely around the school, and all learning will take place outside or within their own classroom. Sadly, we will not be partaking in community events such as assembly or Jolly Time.

A small minority of staff members will need to work with pupils from multiple classes but this interaction will be held outside wherever possible.

Hand and Respiratory Hygiene

Regular handwashing is built into the class timetable and hand sanitiser is held within each classroom and pupils will be taught how to use this safely. It is important that hand hygiene is adhered to and it would be helpful if your child could wash their hands before leaving home in the morning.

Please teach your child how to use a tissue effectively with the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' campaign.

Enhanced Cleaning

Each class bubble has access to cleaning resources so that key touch-points can be cleaned throughout the day. All soft furnishings and resources are removed from classrooms so that resources in use are wipe-able. Key touch points around the school are cleaned regularly throughout the day by site staff. At the end of the school day, class staff will clean down chairs and tables used by the pupils. Each class bubble has their own dedicated toilet area, and they will be cleaned in between use. (two classes in middle school are sharing a toilet and it will be cleaned after each use.) Any shared resources (eg within PE) will be cleaned in between use by differing bubbles.

The School Day

Due to limited parking and drop off capacity at the start and end of the day, our school day timings will differ for a temporary period of time.

LA transport – 8.50 am drop off 3.00 pick up

Parents transporting – 9.00 am drop off 3.15pm pick up

Transport operators will enter the playground and park their vehicles and await further instruction. Parents will park in the layby at the front of the school (by the office) and will then be asked to move into the playground when the buses have vacated. Parents will then park on the school playground as indicated and await further instruction. All engines must be turned off once parked.

Behaviour Expectations

We are aware that many of our pupils can present with challenging behaviour and we are prepared to meet these daily challenges using the Hertfordshire STEPs approach to de-escalation and therapeutic approach.

However, in extreme circumstances a pupil may require restrictive physical intervention. This is not common, but if required will place the safety and well being of others in jeopardy during the current Pandemic. We will always work with families and pupils to find positive solutions but we may need to risk assess attendance for individual pupils if behaviour becomes a sustained risk to others.

I must stress how important it is that we are able to contact parents and carers quickly and effectively if their child becomes unwell. Please ensure that we have the correct emergency contact details for your child. You may also wish to offer details of a further emergency contact who can collect your child from school if you are unavailable or working a distance from school.

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I can confirm that Herts Catering will be returning to school in September and that hot meals will be served as usual alongside a cold lunch option. If you usually pay for school meals then please use the school Gateway payment system ahead of the start of term.

Finally, I must share with parents my concerns regarding the transportation of pupils to and from school. The local authority are at present not able to transport pupils according to class bubbles. This negates all of the work we are doing in school to ensure that exposure to individuals beyond the class bubble are restricted and in some cases denied. I must make it clear that the school does not endorse this decision and has requested class bubble transportation. If you do not want your child to travel on LA transport then there is a Personal Travel Budget available to parents who are happy to transport their child themselves. Please contact the transport team to discuss this option further if you wish to.

I hope that you can make the most of the remaining days at home – assisted by the great British Summer weather!

Kind Regards

Debbie Hartley

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