

26th February 2021



MEADOWS FIRST SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

A Message from Mrs Hewitt

We have had the wonderful news that all children will be returning to school on March 8th. See below for our parents' information guide which outlines the safety procedures for the full reopening of school. These are very similar to the procedures in place in the Autumn term. We will issue a children's guide next week, for you to share with your child over the weekend prior to returning to school. We are excited to see them all back at Meadows.

We welcomed Mrs Rowley to our staff this week; she is job sharing the SENCo role with Mrs Dodman. Next week is World Book Day, so we hope you enjoy sharing lots of books with your child and please look out for activities to celebrate reading.

CASTLE NURSERY

Castle Nursery will resume before and after school provision from Monday 8th March.

Wellbeing links on our school website to support MHWB including useful mindful activities that don't involve sitting in front of a screen and books to help explain coronavirus

<https://www.meadowsfirst.co.uk/parents/covid19>

<https://www.meadowsfirst.co.uk/curriculum/wellbeing>

The BBC has a website and app called <https://www.bbc.com/ownit>. The website helps children navigate their online lives, and the free smartphone app comes with a special keyboard which can intervene with help and support in the moments that children need it the most. It can be downloaded for free in the Google Play Store and Apple App Store

[SafeToNet](#) is an app for parents to help them protect their children from online risks like cyberbullying, while respecting their child's rights to privacy. The SafeToNet Foundation is providing UK families with free-for-life access to SafeToNet during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Lunchtime supervisor vacancy

5 hours per week - Term Time only to start ASAP, Temporary contract to 31st August 2021. (with the possibility of extending). Please contact the school office: 01527872508 or office@meadows.worcs.sch.uk

Meadows First School

Parent Information



for a full opening 8th March

In preparation for a full return to school on **8th March**, where we are delighted to be welcoming back all of our children, we have put together a list of frequently asked questions, which we hope will help you with the changes to procedures in school ready for 8th March. (if government guidelines allow for this). *Please note that there are some changes to previous times for year groups.*

What can my child wear to school? School uniform will be required again as usual, except on days where the children have **PE** or **Forest School**. For PE the children will need to come ready dressed in their outside **PE** kits (joggers/ trainers/ sweat shirts etc). They will also need a change of footwear in case it is muddy outside on these days. For Forest School, they will need to come wearing their warm **Forest School** clothing with easy to fasten shoes. Their wellies **will be kept in school** for use. You will need to provide them with waterproof jackets and trousers as we cannot share our school ones. All shoes need to be easy to fasten (Velcro) if children cannot tie their own laces.



What does my child need to bring to school? Children only need to bring in their book bag into school on **MONDAYS & FRIDAYS** for their reading books to be issued/ collected in (see below). They will bring in a clean named water bottle each day and a lunchbox (if having a packed lunch). They will need their coat. **(No rucksacks or large back packs in school) please.**



Where do I go at the start and end of the day? The car park is **not to** be used for dropping off or for collecting. Gates will be locked for the safety of the children. We have staggered times for each year group to minimise overcrowding and we will continue to use our one way system. For Nursery through to Year 2 there is a one way system from the service road into Y1 playground, through to year R playground and out via the Nursery gate. **Follow the arrows!** Year 3 & Year 4 will enter school via the front playground by themselves and be greeted by teachers. We politely ask parents **to adhere** to their times. Only one adult can accompany their child to school. Children will need to enter the classrooms by themselves as we cannot allow parents in classrooms at present. We politely ask all parents to move swiftly around the school site and **NOT** to linger chatting to other parents. **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW** younger siblings to play on the equipment on the school playgrounds and outside **NURSERY**. We have to maintain 'bubbles' and the equipment is only to be used by certain classes to avoid sharing of resources and to minimise risk of spreading the virus.



What time do I come to school? Please follow the one way system around school for N–Y2

Nursery: 9am drop off—collect 3pm **Reception:** 8.40-8.50am drop off—collect 3pm **Year 1:** 9-9.10am drop off—collect 3.15pm
Year 2 : 8.50-9am drop off—collect 3.05pm **Year 3:** 8.45am drop off—collect 3pm **Year 4:** 9am drop off—collect 3.15pm

Please do not enter the playgrounds before your allotted time. There will be a member of staff on the gates to let you in and take messages if needed.

Will there be any wrap around care for my child? YR to Y4 use Castle Kids for before and after care. They will keep children in separate halls where possible (between year groups and schools to minimise risk) Please contact **Castle Kids** for updated information. Nursery offer-in school wrap around from 8.30-9 and from 3- 3.30. This is payable in school. Please contact the school office to book these sessions if needed.



What happens if my child is ill? If you suspect COVID symptoms you must adhere to government guidelines, and inform the school so that we can follow the Government's Test and Trace guidance. If your child is sick we have a 48 hour policy in school (2 free days of sickness before they return to school) . We will telephone parents for immediate collection if your child falls ill in school. Please telephone the school

What happens to reading, planners and homework? In order to minimise risk, we are trying to avoid physical paper copies being transferred from school to home as much as possible. Children will bring home reading books on a Monday; these will need to stay at home until Friday. They will return all books on Fridays by putting them into a box in the classroom to be left for 72 hours. Parents are asked to fill in the reading records/ planners for the children and send these into school on a **Friday ONLY**. Teachers will be able to stamp the records and return them to children with their new books on Mondays. Homework will be posted on the website and via a weekly class newsletter. There will be no paper homework initially.

Can I send in money to school? School will continue to operate Parent Pay—so please no money is to be sent into school.

What happens at dinner time? We will continue to stagger dinner times in school. YN, Y2,Y3 & Y4 will be eating in classrooms (with full cleaning) and YR & Y1 in the dining hall. Hot dinners will be served from the canteen or taken up to classrooms. Y3 & Y4 will need to choose their lunch from the menu and let the office know by Friday for the following week. All Children can bring a packed lunch from home if preferred.



What will my child be learning in school?

We are very aware of the effect that this pandemic has had on our children. We will continue with our 'recovery curriculum' for the first few weeks back into school. This will involve the children being given the chance to explore their feelings and any worries, catch up on skills missed during lockdown, practise the methods we use to help them develop good mental health and also to teach them how to learn again. For more information see the curriculum and COVID-19 pages on our website.



Will there be clubs on after school? In order to minimise the number of visitors in school and to maintain 'bubbles', we are not holding any after school clubs in the immediate future. We will let you know when we can resume these as soon as possible. Castle Kids will be running their wrap around care as usual. You will need to contact them directly for bookings.

How do I contact the school? Unfortunately, the school office will be by appointment only. Please telephone or email us if you have any questions. We are still here to help! Classes also have their own class email if you need to ask the teachers any information. Each class will send out a weekly newsletter with weekly updates and learning.



Will there be class plays and productions? The guidance states that for now there still cannot be any large gatherings or performances. We are very much a creative school and this is a big part of our school ethos! We will find ways to ensure we maintain our arts and creative curriculum. The children will meet for 'zoom' assemblies each Friday and we will endeavour to find exciting ways for them to learn in school.



Can I send in treats for my child's birthday? Unfortunately, not for the moment. In order to minimise the transfer of items from home into school, we cannot allow the children to bring in treats to share out in class. We will still make a fuss and 'celebrate' your child's birthday in class to make them feel special.

How will school help to minimise the risk of catching COVID-19? We have a risk assessment that we follow and update in line with all DFE guidance. You can see all our risk assessments on the school website, along with other guidance for COVID-19. <https://www.meadowsfirst.co.uk/parents/covid19>. We will keep children in their year group and class bubbles around the school and operate a staggered timetable for breaktimes and lunchtimes. We talk to the children about hand hygiene and 'catch it, bin it, kill it'. All adults wear masks in communal areas around school, but not in classrooms. Where possible adults adhere to 2m social distancing, although this is not possible with our younger children. We will of course, reassure and comfort the children where needed. In case of a bubble closure, we will offer remote learning to children at home. Please see our guidance and offer for this on our 'home learning' and COVID-19 pages on our website.

