



# Monkhouse Primary School

Pennygate Spalding Lincs PE11 1LG

Tel: 01775 722006 / 766300

Website: [www.monkhouse.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.monkhouse.lincs.sch.uk)

Email: [admin@monkhouse.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@monkhouse.lincs.sch.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## Returning to Full-Time School

We are really looking forward to seeing all the children back in school. It seems like a very long time since we have all been together. The Government sent out guidance to schools last week and we thought it would be useful to address some points before we all return.

Parents are encouraged to visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](http://gov.uk/backtoschool) for information and practical guidance to help them plan for their children's return to school. This includes our latest update to the [guidance for parents and carers on what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#).

The systems we put in place during lockdown/partial re-opening were very successful, but obviously there will be a significantly increased number of children attending school so you may find that things are altered as we go along. However, we will keep you updated.

The key issues being discussed are:

## Will everyone be back in school in September?

Yes, the Government has been clear that all schools will be open to all pupils full-time in September.

## Will it be compulsory to send my child? What if I am worried about coronavirus?

The expectation is that all children should return to school. From September, school attendance will be compulsory again and non-attendance will be investigated in the usual way. However, if you are worried, please email or ring – this has been an anxious time for many – we are happy to listen and see if we can address your concerns.

## How will you keep my child safe at school?

We are already doing lots of things as part of our "new normal" practice to keep children as safe as possible. A range of measures have been put in place across the school to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. We have practised these systems since 20<sup>th</sup> March – we have had key workers in school throughout and then in June we welcomed Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6. The measures include:

- Handwashing multiple times a day. This will be at least 5 times (on arrival, before and after any outside activities, before and after eating and before going home).
- A new **cleaning** regime – our lunchtime supervisors, teachers, teaching assistants and additional cleaning staff are cleaning tables, laptops, handles, toilets etc. in the middle of the day, as well as our cleaners cleaning at the end of the day when children have gone home. We are using Milton, for any shared equipment.



- Having **staggered drop off and pick up times** to reduce numbers of parents and carers, making it easier to follow social distancing requirements.
- Eating lunch in the classrooms to reduce movement around the school (only packed lunches being offered initially).
- Significantly reducing movement around school – no use of the hall for assemblies etc; access to playground/outside areas via outside doors.
- Working in **bubbles** – groups of children that learn, play and eat together so that we minimise the number of contacts children have in school.
- Having **staggered playtimes** with bubbles having their own box of equipment which is regularly cleaned and using their own area of the school grounds.
- **Using PPE when needed** – staff have access to visors, masks, aprons and gloves and do wear them when needed.
- **Only accepting children who are completely well.** If your child is showing any sign of any illness, they need to be kept at home.
- Rooms are allocated in school to immediately isolate any child displaying symptoms.
- **Using testing.** Please ensure you have read the sheet on ‘actions to take’ if you are worried your child is showing symptoms. Children who show symptoms at school are sent home for parents to get them a test as soon as possible. The Government is sending a limited number of home testing kits to the school – but the testing system seems quick and easy to access. The school works closely with the local health protection team.
- **What if there is a positive test in school?** If there is a positive test, we will be advised which parts of school have to close.
- **What if there is a local lockdown?** If there is a local lockdown we would move immediately to online learning. We would use Seesaw again and are also in the process of introducing Microsoft teams.

### What will the return look like?

See below for a reminder of details of your children’s drop off/pick up times and your entrance points.

- Please ensure that you arrive **no earlier** than this time. If you have more than one child please come at the earlier time and we will arrange for the other child/children to be taken to/brought from their class. Older children should be encouraged to walk in on their own. Gates will be supervised by members of staff so speak to one of them if you are unsure about anything.

		Start	Finish	Entry gate
Nursery	Mrs Kay & Miss Majer	9.00am	3.00pm	Nursery gate
Reception	Mrs Lincoln	8.40am	3.10pm	Bike shed playground
Reception	Mrs Quinton	8.50am	3.20pm	Bike shed playground
Year 1	Mrs Rawling	8.35am	3.05pm	Bike shed playground
Year 1	Mrs Isaac-Pick	8.50am	3.20pm	Bike shed playground
Year 2	Mrs Wickham	8.45am	3.15pm	Bike shed playground
Year 2	Mrs Wheatley	8.30am	3.00pm	Bike shed playground
Year 3	Miss Moscatiello	8.45am	3.15pm	Bike shed playground
Year 3	Miss Dobbs	8.30am	3.00pm	Bike shed playground
Year 4	Mr Myland	8.40 am	3.15pm	Nursery gate
Year 4	Miss Tawn	8.35am	3.05pm	Bike shed playground
Year 5	Mr Price	8.40am	3.15pm	Nursery gate
Year 5	Mrs Roberts & Mr Slater	8.35am	3.10pm	Nursery gate
Year 6	Mr McHugh	8.30am	3.00pm	Nursery gate
Year 6	Mr Roberts	8.30am	3.00pm	Nursery gate



- Other than visiting the office (operating one person at a time), parents **will not** be able to come into the school building. Queries and contacts should be made by email and phone.
- **School uniform** will be expected again and should be washed regularly. We are also happy if children wear black (no logos) leggings or jogging bottoms if necessary. One of our safety measures is to increase ventilation around the building which means that we will have all doors and windows open – staff and children have found this cold even in June/July – so you may want to put leggings or tights under skirts/dresses or put children in joggers for both boys and girls.
- Children should wear their **PE kit** to school on their PE days. Initially we will only be participating in outdoor PE so please make sure they have hoodies/joggers. We will advise you of PE days in due course.
- Children should only bring water bottles, their reading book and lunch box into school. We have learning packs for everyone with their own equipment.
- There will be no whole school gatherings in the hall like worship times and assemblies – we will be having assembly in our classes.
- For the first term we have not planned any after school clubs although BAFTA will be operating. This is because our after-school clubs would involve mixing children from across different bubbles and it involves different children every day in different clubs.
- In terms of teaching and learning, the curriculum will operate as normal, but with a heavier emphasis on outdoor learning. The initial focus will be on settling the children back and addressing any needs/worries that have arisen. There will be an earlier than usual virtual parents' evening so any issues can be discussed.

### What can you do to help?

- Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will need to bring a snack for the first week as fruit deliveries do not resume until week 2.
- Please read and return the new home/school agreement and reinforce the expectations with the children.
- Share social stories and videos.
- Ensure that you arrive at school at the appropriate time and leave the premises as quickly as possible.
- If the area around school is busy please maintain social distancing requirements or use a face covering.
- Do not send your child to school if they are ill.
- Follow the guidance should you notice COVID-19 symptoms and keep the school informed.
- Ensure that the school has up to date contact details and at least 2 contacts for your child/children in case of emergency.
- Contact the school via e-mail or telephone.

Hopefully all will go smoothly this term, but we will be in touch again should we need to make any adjustments to the plans we have in place.

Yours sincerely,

*Sue Goodsell*

Mrs Goodsell  
Headteacher

