

MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newton Lane, Darlington, DL3 9HE

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Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Opening of school March 2021

All of the staff are very much looking forward to having our Mount Pleasant family back together. It is essential that all children resume their schooling. Please read this opening information. If you have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please be reassured you that we have carefully planned for all children to return to school. There will be differences to what has happened in school before the pandemic but I can assure you that your child's safety is at the forefront of our plans. The differences in practices are to ensure that your children and the school staff are as safe as possible. The Trust have had regular meetings and are more than happy with our plans and strategies.

Please follow the link below for comprehensive guidance that we have used to inform our decisions and complete the necessary risk assessments.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

We have followed all the guidance and school will be ready to open for the children in Little Learenrs to
Year 6 on

Monday, March 8th 2021

Class Organisation: March 2021

Early Years Team			
Class	Year Group/Class	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Little Learners	Two year olds		Mrs. Pratt Mrs. Briggs
Nursery AM/PM	Nursery	Mrs. Bateman and Mrs. Turnbull	Miss. Snowden Miss Humphries
RW	Reception	Mrs. West	Mrs. Swan Miss. Hilton Mrs. Stein

Key Stage 1 Team			
Class	Year Group	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
1L	Y1	Mrs. Lees and Mrs. Gorman	Mrs. Cheeseman
2D	Y2	Mrs. Doran	Mrs. Gormley

Lower Key Stage 2 Team			
Class	Year Group	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
3T	Y3	Mr. Taylor	Mrs. Watson Mrs. Deery Mrs. Betts Mrs Jackson
4S	Y4	Mrs. Spink	Mrs. McDowell Mr. Swan

Upper Key Stage 2 Team			
Class	Year Group	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
5D	Y5	Mr. Foulds	Miss. Austen
6T	Y6	Miss. Geddis	Mrs. Wallis Mrs. James

Specialist Provision			
Class	Year Group	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
The Woodland	KS1	Mrs. Lupton	Miss Markham Miss Bowe
7M	KS2	Mrs. Minikin	Miss Hewitt

Home/School Mentors	Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Bradley
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Office Manager	Mrs. Ward
School Administrators	Mrs. Boston

The School Day, Dropping Off & Picking Up.

School will be able to be accessed through the entrance on Newton Lane and Whitby Way. Please adhere to social distancing and do not congregate around the school gates or in the yard. It is recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff and adults in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible. Again, to reduce the number of people on the school site at any one time, start times and finish times have been staggered. The times shown will be a temporary measure and will be subject to change as we return to normality in the future.

Class	Entrance	Registration Time	Exit Point	Home Time
Nursery	Nursery	08:45	Nursery	15:30
RW	Reception	08:50	Reception	15:10
1L	Year 1	08:50	Year 1	15:10
2D	Year 3/4 door	08:50	2D Fire exit	15:10
WR	WR Fire exit	08:50	WR Fire exit	15:10
7M	Patio	09:00	Patio	15:20
3T	Year 3/4 door	09:00	Year 3/4 door	15:20
4S	Year 3/4 door	08:55	Year 3/4 door	15:15
5D	Patio	08:55	Patio	15:15
6T	Patio	09:00	6T Fire exit	15:20

Outside each entrance point is a 'hand over' zone. This is to reduce the amount of adult to adult contact. Please respect this area. Under no circumstances should parents be entering the classrooms or the hand over zone. Markings will be on the yard (2 metres apart) for you and your child to wait.

Hand Hygiene

Hand washing & sanitising will still be frequent. We will be educating children on the importance of washing hands properly. We will also have anti-bacterial hand gel available in classrooms. We will aim for hands to be washed/sanitised as follows:

- before leaving home (please support this at home)
- on arrival to school
- after using the toilet
- after breaks and sporting activities
- before and after eating any food including snacks
- before leaving school
- when arriving home (please support this at home)

School Lunch

School lunches will return to normal. If you pay for your child's lunch, please continue to do so, each week, on Sims Pay. For any log in queries, please contact the school office.

The free school meal vouchers will be discontinued. Those who are eligible for free school meals will still receive their meal at school. If you think that you may be eligible for free school meals and you're not already receiving them, please contact the office. There will be a hot meal service in the hall which will be on a rota system throughout the week. If your child's class is not in the hall, they will be provided with a 'take-away' lunch in their classrooms. The kitchen staff will prepare a range of picnic style lunch bags with a varied menu weekly. This will allow for distancing measures around school.

Classrooms & Curriculum

The children will stay in their class bubbles and there will be no movement around school. The curriculum will be taught as it would have been with a full timetable of lessons. We will be planning a 'catch up' curriculum and will concentrate on ensuring the mental health and wellbeing of all children and particularly those who have not accessed school since lock down in January.

Visits / visitors

School has decided that we will focus on having visitors into school to provide curriculum enrichment during the summer term. School trips will hopefully resume in the summer term.

Uniform

Children will be expected to come to school in full school uniform unless it is a P.E. day (please refer to our Uniform Policy on the website). On the day when your child has P.E, they will be able to come in their P.E. kit. This will reduce children moving to other areas to get changed. Please remember that shoes should be black and plain. Please could you provide an outdoor P.E kit consisting of a black or navy blue jogging bottoms, shorts and hoodie and white t-shirt (no designer/logo sports wear). Bags and rucksacks will be allowed to carry packed lunches and reading books.

Home Learning

Homework and further learning will continue to be put on our school learning platform – Class Dojo. Teachers will continue to be available through their Class Dojo messaging service or by ringing the school office. Please be aware that they will not be able to answer messages immediately as they will be teaching.

Appointments / Parents in school

For now, we ask that no parents attempt to enter school in any way, either through the main entrance or the entry / exit points in school. This is to safeguard the measures we have put in place to ensure the risks are as low as possible for our children, staff and community. The office staff are available on the phone. If you need to speak to someone in school, please phone to make contact and we will endeavour to find the best way to communicate. Due to the circumstances, teachers will not be available for lengthy conversations. Our Home School Mentors, Mrs Blackham or Mr Dyer will get back to you with any queries.

Behaviour Policy

Clearly, some adaptations to our behaviour policy are needed during this time. We will continue with the fabric of what we have always had: Code of Conduct, warning system and team points. However we feel that in the current climate, any threats, deliberate coughing on other children or derogatory comments made by children towards others will be treated incredibly seriously, as they are being in wider society. **If this occurs you will be telephoned and asked to come into school immediately to collect your child.**

Child's health & Medication

If your child has medication, please bring it to the office and complete a medicine administration form. It must be clearly labelled from a pharmacy. Care Plans are currently being updated. You will be contacted if you currently have a Care Plan that needs updating. If there are any changes to your child's current health condition, please inform the office and make an appointment to complete a Care Plan.

If we suspect a case of coronavirus, we will follow procedures in school and you will be telephoned immediately.

Attending School

Attendance at school is vitally important to ensure that your child has the maximum opportunity to catch up on work that has been missed over lockdown. If you have any concerns regarding attendance, please contact school.

The usual attendance practice will be in place. If your child is ill, please contact the office. Please see our 'Attendance Policy' on the website.

Please be aware that all of this information may be subject to change due to the ever changing landscape and risk assessment processes.

Once again, thank you for your continued support during this uncertain time. Please stay safe and continue to follow the government's guidance.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Blackham".

Mrs Blackham