



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Returning to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

We are looking forward to welcoming all children back to school tomorrow and offer a warm Manor Court welcome to the children and families who start their journey with us. We are writing to you today to provide information and reminders about the return to school.

As you know, Coronavirus guidance for schools' changes regularly and we do expect at least some additional guidance to be released and if there are any major changes, then we will send this home as soon as possible. As it stands, the general consensus for primary schools in England is to take a common-sense approach, based on the local picture. You may be aware that Devon and Cornwall are now termed as 'Enhanced Response Areas' (a county or city that is deemed by the Government to have unusually high positive cases of coronavirus and which receives support and funding to offer more testing and additional preventative measures) and it is very much expected that Somerset may well fall into this category at some point soon.

You will recall that prior to the Summer Holiday I wrote to parents to inform you that the local governing body agreed with my decision to initially continue with the safety precautions that had worked well during the heights of the pandemic. With the rising numbers locally and nationally this has proven to be a sensible decision. The local governing body, Mr Clode, Mrs Terry and I will be reviewing the school's coronavirus protocols at our first meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September and hope to reduce these further.

#### A few reminders of our coronavirus protocols

- Hand sanitiser and soap will continue to be available and good hygiene promoted throughout the school. In each classroom we have created an easily accessible list of children who cannot use hand sanitiser and must wash their hands with soap and water or medicated soaps or creams. Please do contact your class teacher through the year group email address or Eylog if your child is to use simple soap and water or different hand sanitiser to wash their hands.
- Bubbles/Mixing Groups: Although the Government no longer recommends that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') we will continue to keep the year group bubbles separate inside the school building. This will mean that bubbles will not need to be used on the playground at morning break and lunchtime. Please be aware, that it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, depending on the local Somerset picture.
- We will not have face to face assemblies until the review date.
- Children will be expected to come to school wearing their PE kits on their PE days. Teachers will inform parents of PE days through the year group email distribution list or via EY-log.

#### Staggered start and end times

As you know the school will continue a staggered approach to the start and end of the school day, as well as having separate lunch sittings. Please do refresh your memory of the drop off and collection point for your child's class.

It is the responsibility of each parent to maintain social distancing throughout drop off and collection times and we continue to encourage children to enter the school site and go to their designated place independently. As before, staff members will be at each gate to see children in and out and guide them to their correct classroom. We also expect that parents will not enter the school buildings with their children as this increases the risk of cross contamination.

Our new Foundation children's parents may of course enter the site with their child and wait outside of the Foundation area fencing. For the first two weeks of the school year, until Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Foundation Stage children will attend school between 08:30 and 13:00.

As before the holiday, if you have children starting their school day at a different time to their sibling, then they may also start school at the earliest of the sibling timings and leave when the latest sibling does so.

	Start/Finish time	Gate to use
<b>Foundation Stage</b>		
Squirrels & Hedgehogs class	08:30 – 15:00 (this is the time for collection when the children start full time on Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> September.)	Top gate
<b>Year 1</b>		
Bumblebees	08:40 – 15:10	Pedestrian gate adjacent to Y1 block
Dragonflies	08:40 – 15:10	Pedestrian gate adjacent to Y1 block
<b>Year 2</b>		
Nightingales	08:40 – 15:10	Gate nearest to Coronation Street & onto KS2 playground and enter through external door near Nightingales class
Magpies	08:40 – 15:10	Gate nearest to Coronation Street & straight into the main building at the front of the school
<b>Year 3</b>		
Kingfishers	08:50 - 15:20	Main gate & enter the building through the door at the front of the school
Owls	08:50 - 15:20	Main gate & enter the building through the door at the front of the school
<b>Year 4</b>		
Puffins	09:00 – 15:30	Pedestrian gate adjacent to Y1 block & enter the building through the door nearest the studio
Eagles	09:00 – 15:30	Pedestrian gate adjacent to Y1 block & enter the building through the door nearest the studio
<b>Year 5</b>		
Foxes	08:45 – 15:15	Top gate
Badgers	08:45 – 15:15	Top gate
<b>Year 6</b>		
Hérons	08:30-15:00	Gate nearest to Coronation Street & onto KS2 playground and enter through external door into Herons class.
Otters	08:30-15:00	Gate nearest to Coronation Street & onto KS2 playground and enter through external door into Otters class.

### PE Kits

We expect children to come to school wearing their correct PE on the day that they have PE. Your child's teacher will communicate with you via Eylog or email as to the day in which the class will have PE, so please do check your email address regularly.

Your child will not need to wear their PE kit on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September and as we know that not all parents will not initially be on the email distribution list, will send a slip home to inform parents of the PE day. In future weeks communication will be via Eylog or email only.

### Contacting your child's teacher

As we continue to limit parental access to the school site, we ask you to make communication with your child's teacher through Eylog, the year group email or school office email address. They will respond in writing and telephone, if necessary, as soon as they can at the start or end of a school day. Please do ensure that you have contacted your child's teacher through the email address below to ensure that you are added to the relevant email distribution list.

Class name	Teacher's name	Email address to contact your child's teacher
<b>Foundation Stage</b>		
Squirrels	Mrs Davies & Mrs Farwell	Eylog
Hedgehogs	Miss Grabham	Eylog
<b>Year 1</b>		
Bumblebees	Mrs Johns	y1@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Dragonflies	Miss Whitehouse	y1@manorcourt.ppat365.org
<b>Year 2</b>		
Nightingales	Miss Parsons & Mrs Gomes	y2@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Magpies	Miss Brown	y2@manorcourt.ppat365.org
<b>Year 3</b>		
Kingfishers	Miss Moore	y3@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Owls	Miss Kitto	y3@manorcourt.ppat365.org
<b>Year 4</b>		
Eagles	Mrs Scott & Miss Berry	y4@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Puffins	Miss Diffey	y4@manorcourt.ppat365.org

Year 5		
Foxes	Mrs Terry	y5@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Badgers	Mr Netherway	y5@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Year 6		
Hérons	Miss Thompson	y6@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Otters	Mrs Hall & Mrs Jones	y6@manorcourt.ppat365.org

When an individual linked to Manor Court develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test  
Over the Summer holidays the Government has not changed the guidance for what action is required when a Manor Court Pupil or member of staff develops symptoms or has received a positive test result from a LFD or PCR test.

- Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).
- If anyone in our school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we must continue to send them home and the parents should follow public health advice.

### Self - Isolation

Over the Summer holidays the Government has changed the guidance for self-isolation and this will mean that it is extremely unlikely that schools will be required to shut classes and year group bubbles. The guidance now states:

*Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:*

- *they are fully vaccinated.*
- *they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months.*
- *they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial.*
- *they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.*

### Testing

- The Government has insisted that school staff must resume LFD (lateral flow device) testing within three days of returning to full-time schooling.
- Manor Court staff members continue to test on Sunday & Wednesday weekly.
- It is not expected for children of primary aged children to complete regular LFD tests.

### Face Coverings/Masks

- Masks are no longer advised within schools for primary aged pupils or staff by the Government.
- However, we do expect Manor Court staff to wear a face mask in communal areas until at least Friday 24th September and we hope that parents will continue to support us by wearing masks in the vicinity of the school for the foreseeable future and until at least our review date at the end of September.

### Social Distancing/Larger Gatherings

- As with masks, the Government has stated that social distancing is now optional rather than mandatory, but it is expected that people will maintain some level of social distancing and the desire for this from colleagues respected.
- The Government has stated that larger gathering such as assemblies, staff meetings and school plays etc. can resume with steps taken to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example, school plays.
- Once more we will not start with face-to-face assemblies until the end of September.

### Ventilation

- Staff should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.
- Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).

We hope that this brings some clarity to the return to school tomorrow.

Yours sincerely



Mr Luke Talmage  
Head Teacher



Mr Alan Clode  
Deputy Head/Inclusion Leader