

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

'Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.'

– George Orwell

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are well.

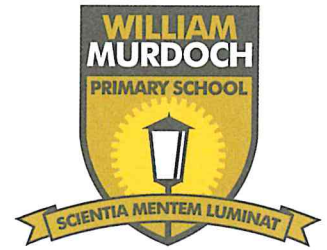
School Reopening Update

I can confirm, following a meeting of senior leaders and governors, a phased reopening of William Murdoch Primary School will begin, starting on 15 June 2020, with a small number of Year 6 children who will attend for one week only. There are **no more places** for Year 6 children due to staffing constraints and risk mitigation.

The government recently backtracked on its policy to get all children back to school for at least one month before the end of the term due to the low take-up of places, reflecting the concerns of schools, parents and local authorities across the country. I refer to the scientific advice of the SAGE group that I shared previously where it was found that the safest way to reopen schools was on a rota basis. We will therefore be exploring the possibility of Year 5 pupils returning to school for one week only, starting on 22 June 2020. We will telephone parents of Year 5 children early next week as we continue to focus on building community confidence and on those cohorts that are best placed to adhere to strict protocols for social distancing and regular and thorough hand washing. In this way we can keep staff and children, and their families, as safe as possible as we seek to do everything possible to reduce the transmission risk. Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document sent to you earlier this week, which is also available in the COVID-19 section of the school website under Latest News and Guidance, for further information to help inform your decision making.

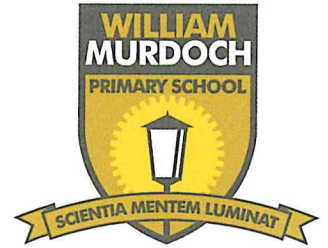
As you can imagine there has been lots of things to consider and a huge amount of preparation required to even begin considering a wider re-opening of the school. A number of safety protocols have been developed and these will continue to be reviewed and refined. Some of these are described in the document attached to this email which shows the creation of a one-way entry and exit system at the Albert Road gates, the removal of desks so that there is only a maximum of eight children in a class (each small group is known as a bubble and will remain independent of other bubbles at all times) and the separation of the playground into separate zones for the bubbles. Some of the key changes and key factors to consider include:

- Children will only be taught in small, consistent groups (bubbles) of no more than 8 max.
- Children will be taught by their teacher where possible or the teaching assistant in their year group. We believe this will help and support children best.
- Classrooms and daily routines will be set up to ensure that children maintain 2m distances. Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be staggered. To avoid the use of narrow corridors, we are only using classrooms that are next to a school entrance.
- Once any person (child or adult) or a member of their household **shows COVID-19 symptoms, that whole bubble of adults and children must isolate and cannot come to school** for a period of 14 days or until a negative COVID-19 test is received.



- Children will be taught by the same staff members, whenever possible. They will at all times remain in their bubble.
- PPE may be worn by adults or children.
- If a member of staff is dealing with someone showing COVID-19 symptoms or dealing with bodily fluids, full PPE will be worn by the designated member of staff, usually a trained first aider.
- Cleaning regimes have been upgraded considerably, including touch points being cleaned at intervals throughout the day and the aim is to have additional cleaners on site.
- Children do not have to wear uniform but should wear a **clean set of clothes** to school each day that are comfortable and appropriate for wearing outside for extended periods.
- Only 1 parent per family can drop off/collect their child using the Albert Road gate. If you are late you will need to ring school to gain access.
- Parents/Carers are not allowed into the school building.
- Children from a household with a clinically extremely vulnerable person cannot attend school.
- School rules will be amended to reflect the new expectations.
- Parents will not be penalised for keeping their child at home.
- The school curriculum will be broadly the same for children at home and school. There will be specific work on pupil well-being and mental health delivered in school.
- Learning will take place outside whenever possible. This is of course weather dependent.
- Classroom doors and at least one window will be kept open at all times to ensure adequate ventilation.
- Parents/Carers must not group together at the Albert Road entrance; they must stay on the markers at least 2 metres apart.
- School will start at 8.40am – 8.50am and end at 3.00pm. **The exception to this is Friday, which will be a half day for pupils in the returning cohorts.** These pupils will leave school at 12.30pm after they have eaten their lunch. This is to allow for a deep clean of the site before the next cohort is received in the following week.
- Pupils will be given a stationary pack containing everything they will need for the week, including pencils, rubbers, an exercise book, a class novel etc. This will be kept in the desk they are sitting at and they **should not** take anything home. Equally, they should not bring anything into school from home, apart from a packed lunch and a water bottle.
- There will be no hot meals provided by the kitchen. A packed lunch will be provided for children who are entitled to Free School Meals in place of Edenred vouchers for the week they attend school. A toast snack will be provided to all children free of charge.
- All children will be temperature checked on arrival by a member of staff wearing full PPE. Children with a temperature of 38 Celsius and above will not be allowed into school.
- We continue to provide provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. These pupils who are outside of the returning cohort will remain as a separate bubble to the cohort in school.

I wrote last week about the careful balancing act between getting life back to some form of normality and public safety. We continue to take a cautious approach, always taking into account government guidance and scientific advice, and whilst we have done everything we can to eliminate the risk of the transmission of COVID-19, we can offer no guarantees. The choice to send your child to school is yours and school will not be forcing anyone to attend. At this stage all absences will be authorised and there will be no fines.



YouTube Videos - Direct Teaching

We are absolutely delighted with the response to the Maths and English home learning videos which our teachers have worked so hard planning and recording. At the time of writing we have had over 3,400 views of the videos across all of the year groups on YouTube, which is an incredible achievement. I would like to thank every parent and pupil for logging on, watching the videos and making our teachers YouTube stars! I certainly believe that they are a fantastic addition to our home learning offer. I would like to take the opportunity to remind you all that the videos can be accessed via the links inserted into the home learning packs for each year group, which are uploaded to the COVID-19 section of the school website in time for Monday mornings. I hope you are looking forward to next week's set of videos!

Class Dojo

Many thanks to all parents and children who have engaged with Class Dojo this week. A reminder that your child's work must be submitted from their own account and not your account. The parent account will allow you to view the work your child has submitted to their teacher. We will be checking the submission of work and non-submission will be chased up through our well-being calls that take place between Monday and Wednesday of each week. Please note the calls are often made from home and if you miss the call a repeat call will be made the following day. Please wait for this before ringing the school office as they are not the ones making the call.

School Uniform

Gogna have confirmed that uniform prices remain frozen at last year's prices (please see the attached leaflet). They have also instituted a number of safety measures. To maintain social distancing there will be a limited number of people allowed in the store at any one time. Families will be allowed in as a 'bubble' but will need to remain in that bubble whilst they are in the store. No clothes can be tried on in the store as changing room facilities will not be available. Store opening times are as follows:

Monday to Friday - 9.30am to 5.30pm

Saturday & Sunday - Closed

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Singh', written over a white background.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher