

17th June 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Further to my previous letter dated 12th June 2020, I am writing to share further information on how we have organised for children at West Moors, in each year group, to return to school and spend time with their teachers and friends before the summer holidays. As Year 8 is a key transition year, these children have been allocated a two week period to support their preparations for upper school.

Following the Government's secondary school guidance, class sizes of more than 15 are allowed in larger spaces with social distancing measures in place. However, yesterday, the Government updated their planning guide for schools, stipulating that where middle schools choose to invite pupils back, they should be confident that they can manage this within the strict measures they have asked primary schools to adopt (including no more than 15 in a class, and consistency of these groups). It is wonderful that so many of our children want to return to school for their Transition Week and we are carefully managing this as numbers for other year groups will be in addition to current provision for Year 6, keyworkers' children and other identified children.

To that end, the week blocks that have been allocated to year groups are outlined in the table below:

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|---|-------------------|
| Monday 22 nd to Friday 26 th June | All Year 8 pupils |
| Monday 29 th to Friday 3 rd July | All Year 5 pupils |
| Monday 6 th to Friday 10 th July | All Year 7 pupils |
| Monday 13 th to Friday 17 th July | All Year 8 pupils |

From the 22nd June 2020, children have been placed into 'tutor group bubbles' in allocated spaces. Each 'tutor group bubble', of no more than 15 children, will have a staggered start of day, break, sports coaching and finishing times. Mr Faulkner has filmed Dr Craddock preparing a virtual tour of the children's one-way 'bubble route' during these transition weeks and when children return to the assembly hall one tutor group will be based in the hall and a further tutor group bubble will be directed to the DT room next door. Time will be spent with each 'tutor group bubble' going through this upon arrival on the first day of their transition week.

Across the school, two-metre floor markings are in place on internal and external floor surfaces to facilitate this one-way system and each 'tutor group bubble' will follow their individual 'bubble route' in school with hand-washing routines in place. Children will stay in their 'tutor group bubble' for the majority of the day, using the same learning space, and will not mix with other bubble groups. In teaching areas, all excess furniture has been removed to increase space available and facilitate social distancing. Children will be assigned their own desk and chair with their own equipment and stationery to use each day. All writing equipment will be cleaned with a virucidal solution daily. A social distancing charter will be created for and with the children on Monday - including instructions on how to line up, use of toilet facilities, handwashing and moving around the classroom in a one-way system safely. This will be re-visited and modelled many times each day, linked to the school's behaviour system. Lessons will be planned for individual work (not pairings or group work) and all feedback will be provided using whiteboard facilities to avoid close interaction.

At the front of each classroom area, in each 'tutor group bubble', an area has been marked out, ensuring 2 metre distancing. Teacher teams and LSAs have been assigned to 'tutor group bubbles' and will stay with them throughout the week where possible. Please can your child bring two filled water bottles and a healthy snack daily. To ensure that children can wear clean clothing each day, we have asked them to wear their own sports' kits to school (e.g. their own shorts, t-shirts, tracksuits etc. and trainers). In light of the hot weather, they will also need to wear a high-factor sunscreen and a cap. Please be assured that during staggered break-times children will only be able to play with other children in their 'bubble'. As for other 'bubbles' in school, balls and equipment have been allocated to each 'tutor group bubble' for only the children in that area to use. These will be sanitised daily using a virucidal spray.

Return to School: Transition Weeks

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| Monday 22nd to Friday 26th June – Year 8 | 8GC Arrive at 9am via the Music Room door | Curriculum Based in the Hall, pupils will have Maths and English each day, as well as PE and well-being activities. | Finish 12.10 via the Music Room gate |
| | 8MA Arrive at 9.10 via the Music Room door | Based in the DT room, pupils will have Maths and English each day, as well as PE and well-being activities. | 12.20 via the Music Room gate |
| Monday 29th to Friday 3rd July – Year 5 | 5KW (5FY) Arrive at 9am via the Music Room door | Curriculum Based in the Hall , pupils will have Maths and English each day, as well as PE and well-being activities. | Finish 12.10 via the Music Room gate |
| | 5SB Arrive at 9.10am via the Music Room door | Based in the DT Room , pupils will have Maths and English each day, as well as PE and well-being activities. | 12.20 via the Music Room gate |
| Monday 6th to Friday 10th July – Year 7 | All pupils attending from 7MM & 7NF Arrive at 9.10 via the Music Room door | Curriculum Based in the Hall , pupils will have Maths and English each day, as well as PE and well-being activities. | Finish 12.15 via the Music Room gate |
| Monday 13th to Friday 17th July - Year 8 (Arrangements will be made towards the end of this last week for the two year 8 bubbles to interact virtually before they leave West Moors) | 8GC Arrive at 9am via the Music Room door | Curriculum Based in the Hall , pupils will have Maths and English each day, as well as PE and well-being activities. | Finish 12.10 via the Music Room gate |
| | 8MA Arrive at 9.10 via the Music Room door | Based in the DT Room , pupils will have Maths and English each day, as well as PE and well-being activities. | 12.20 via the Music Room gate |

A detailed school risk assessment has been carried, as well as individual risk assessments for all children who have an EHCP, and we hope that the steps taken have reassured you of our commitment to provide the safest environment we can for everyone.

Actions taken if any child presents with symptoms

We would ask that each morning parents/ carers check the temperature of their child and if he/ she has a temperature of above 38°C then parents/ carers are advised to keep their child at home and ring us to let us know. If any child is displaying any of the symptoms of COVID 19 (persistent cough, increase in temperature, loss of taste or smell), then we will contact you right away.

Please can we ask that **mobile phones are not to be brought into school at all** (this is to reduce contamination risks due to the way that they are stored and collected in).

For children in all other year groups, virtual education provision will continue to be provided by a Home Led Teaching Team, following a structured timetable and delivery of 'live' lessons.

As a gentle reminder, if you have not already done so, please can all parents/ carers of all children who are returning to school sign the Covid 19 Home School Agreement and return to the office.

As a school, we have been incredibly conscious that many children have not been able to be here, so with detailed planning and commitment, I could not be prouder of my team who working in allocated year group bubbles, have all pulled together to make this happen. Many schools are only considering provision for the return of one additional year group however being inclusive, we were determined to offer this opportunity to all children as we believe that they will benefit. This has only been possible as a result of careful planning, a 'can do' attitude and sheer determination- we truly believe that our children will benefit from our efforts in the long term.

Best wishes and thanks again for your wonderful support,



Dr Craddock and all the staff at West Moors Middle School.

