

Emailed as 'INFORMATION PART OPENING update :: 09 01 21'

## **INFORMATION:: PART OPENING:: SPRING 2021**

*The information in this document will be reviewed, adapted and re-communicated on an ongoing basis. Any update will be in red*

**Last update: 09 01 21 -**

*A survey will be sent to staff and parents on a two weekly basis to inform the review. This week's survey can be found at*

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAO\\_RdCbIRUMjUzM0EwUTM2SDITUDk2NVZTWTQ5WEFYVS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAO_RdCbIRUMjUzM0EwUTM2SDITUDk2NVZTWTQ5WEFYVS4u)

### **Next steps already agreed:**

A IT devices for families who need them

B Review functionality of Tapestry (FS/KS1)

C Establish systems for supporting pupils with their individual reading

**Dear Parents and Staff**

**Our key concern presently is how to strike a balance.**

For example it is entirely predictable that we now have far more pupils in school than in the previous lockdown. We are all, parents and staff alike, that much more anxious about the impact of this second lockdown and that much more determined to safeguard our children and our work. I have to be concerned though at the number of pupils in school because the more children I have and the more adults I need in school to cover the numbers, the greater the risk from Covid. The updated guidance for critical workers clarifies 'that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.' This is stating the obvious. Knowing my staff and my parents I am confident everyone will be aware of this and taking it seriously and trying to strike a balance.

I do not have the answers to all this and am as caught and as culpable as everyone else. In my humble opinion - at the very least I think we all need to pause and consider every small decision we make because otherwise, in this present crisis, a number of small decisions can quickly add up to something unsafe. I have just had a closer to home conversation of this sort with one of my teenage daughters and it became quite heated because of the complexities involved. We were trying to decide between several courses of action for her and each one represented no longer just a practical

but also a moral dilemma. In the end we concluded (all over again) that the risk from the virus had to take precedence and we had to simply let go of some of the things we thought we needed.

Right now there are more cars on the road, more people on the streets and more people maintaining links with others outside their home than we would have ever contemplated during the first lockdown and yet the situation is more critical. This is not because people are being careless, it's because they are trying to find a balance. I am concerned though (as I know many of you are) that the risk of Covid is not always being given its due and we're not going to get this as right as we need to if we continue on this path.

## **SCHOOL LEARNING**

### **Signing up for school**

Please follow the link below to book your child a place in school. We will repeat this every 2 weeks. Please complete this and submit it by **12.00noon on Wednesday 13th January 2021.**

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAaAAAAAO\\_RdCbIRURURYR0pJWIdNTExLNktTTVI0VzA2SkdLNS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAaAAAAAO_RdCbIRURURYR0pJWIdNTExLNktTTVI0VzA2SkdLNS4u)

### **Numbers in school**

We have, at present, about 100 pupils coming into school across the week. This is partly because the key worker list has been extended and this number reflects the national picture. We will consider further requests but please be mindful we are treading a tightrope here between pupil educational and emotional welfare and staff safety and we are having to make some difficult decisions.

### **What do my children need to bring to school?**

Washable bag

Inhalers- Please remember to bring in inhalers and medication, if we do not already have them in school.

Packed lunch (unless ordering a school one). If your child is eligible for Universal Free School Meals (Rec/ Yr1/2) or Free School Meals a packed lunch can be provided on the day - your child/ren will be asked what they would like in their baguette during registration. Please provide your child with a packed lunch if they are not eligible for either of the above.

Healthy snack- Fruit and veg has been cancelled. Please can we remind everyone to provide their child/ren with a snack for their break time while they are in school - please can we ensure it is either a piece of fruit / veg or a healthy snack.

Water bottle (but not Nursery children)

Hand cream- children bringing in their own hand lotion should make sure it has their name on it.

Reading records and books every day please

### **What should they wear?**

School uniform to be worn.

Warm weather clothing- we will still look to work outside whenever possible

Shoes that are practical and sensible for outdoor learning. For the younger pupils- shoes that don't have laces or children that can tie laces.

PE Kits in by Monday please - we will keep these in school.

We would suggest that once your child arrives back home, they change their clothes immediately and the clothes they've worn at school are washed.

### **Entering and exiting school**

We will be insisting that all adults entering the grounds wear a mask and remain socially distanced if they need to line up. There will be no exceptions made.

Please can you make sure your child washes their hands with soap and water prior to leaving home in the morning and as soon as they return home in the afternoon.

Please bring as few people to the school as possible to limit the number of people on the school site- only one parent to accompany the child to school.

The car park and drop off zone will be closed to traffic- this to allow safe flow of pedestrians into school. Please park away from school and walk in.

8.45 School starts

3.15 Pick up time

(Nursery please continue to come in at **9.00am** but please come to the main Nursery entrance via the gate on Church Lane and up the slope)

Entrances:

5/6- top field gate

3/4- bottom playground

2- up the steps and in the small gate outside Azure class

R/Yr 1- Common Gate and down

**Wrap Round Cover-** Breakfast Club and Fun Club will be on as usual. You need to sign up for it and pay for it online as usual <https://schoolcomms.com/> - Please email [breakfastclub@minchscool.net](mailto:breakfastclub@minchscool.net) or [funclub@minchscool.net](mailto:funclub@minchscool.net) to book places up to February half Term. Please note, Fridays, are only open until 5.00pm not 5.30pm.

### **Lunchtimes**

All children will have a packed lunch, either provided by home or ordered from school.

Children will eat in the hall or their classroom.

Please ensure children can open everything in their lunch box to enable us to maintain the social distancing guidelines. All rubbish from home packed lunches will be sent home.

### **Contact with school**

Please phone or email wherever possible. The answer phone will not be used and admin staff will be available to answer any of your queries.

If you need a longer conversation to discuss your child, the office will organise a telephone appointment for you with the relevant member of staff so avoiding face to face meetings.

If you do need to come into the school –you will need to initially speak on the intercom. There will be a queuing system as elsewhere and hand sanitiser at the entrance, to use before you enter. Please try and avoid coming into the school office unless it is an emergency.

If you have any questions linked to your child's learning or concerns then please contact your child's teacher on their class email.

If you need to email your child's class teacher and they are in school teaching key worker pupils, please do not expect a reply during the school day. Emails will be responded to after the school day/within 24 hours.

## **Teaching and learning**

Mornings- Maths and English focus

Afternoons- other subjects

## **REMOTE LEARNING**

English and maths remote learning will look to complement what is happening in school to enable those pupils who are working in both contexts to cross from one to the other with relative ease and to ensure equality of opportunity.

**Online teaching--** direct online teaching 'slots' to avoid, as far as is possible, clashes with siblings working in other classes.

Daily:

- 8.30- 9.30 yr 3/4
- 9.30- 10.30 yr 2
- 9.00 - 9:30 yr 1 Phonics
- 10:15-11:00 yr 1 Maths
- 10.30- 11.30 yr 5/6
- 11.30-12.30 yr 3/4
- 12.30-1.30 yr 2
- 1.30-2.30 yr 5/6
- 1.45 -2.15 yr R (Thursdays) yr 1 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) - sharing and talking the morning's learning

To access the live sessions, please follow these instructions:

1. Log on to your child's school email account and click on the nine dots in the upper right corner of the screen.
2. Click on Google Classroom.
3. Click on the + button in the upper right corner of the screen.
4. Click 'Join a Class'.

## 5. Enter the code/ joining link for your class

You only have to join once - not every time you log on, so most of the time they will only have to do steps one and two and then they will be in.

Once you have completed the above five steps, we will be able to send you Google Meet links for the live sessions. We will send a link immediately before each session is due to start. The link will be different every time, so you must follow the most recent link to access the correct Google Meet.

If you experience any technical difficulties, please contact the class teacher or the school office.

Please see individual letters for different phases for further guidance.

Some year groups will be pre-recording material to be watched at intervals throughout the day.

All lessons will be recorded for safeguarding purposes.

We want to establish timetables for pupil learning so pupils/ parents have a structure to work to and upon which to hang their expectations. We expect these to be fully embedded by the end of next week.

Consideration is needed for families without multiple devices. We are looking to purchase laptops and/or to provide paper copies of learning for families (upon request).

### **Google Classrooms through Xbox and Playstations.**

We know many families have to juggle a finite number of devices (laptops/tablets/phones etc) in order to facilitate access to live lessons and other learning activities. If your family has an X Box or PlayStation games console you may not know that these too can be used to access Google Classroom and all its functions. Students who use a console to connect to Google Classroom can use their games controller as a mouse but need the addition of a simple keyboard for full use. If this is something that may be beneficial for you, then there are some brief instructions below detailing how to access Google Classroom via an Xbox or a Playstation:

#### How to use Google Classroom on Xbox One & Xbox Series X/S

The Xbox consoles each have access to Microsoft Edge - the web browser that comes pre-installed as part of the Xbox user experience. This can be used to access Google Classroom and EduLink.

1. Plug a wired keyboard into your Xbox One, Xbox Series X or Xbox Series S via one of the USB ports on the front or back.
2. Press the Xbox button top-centre of a game controller and head to "My games & apps" in the side menu.
3. Click on "See all", scroll down to "Apps" and you will see Microsoft Edge in the icons on the right-hand side. Open it.
4. Type [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com) into the URL bar at the top and log in as you would on a PC using your school Gmail account.

5. You can either use an Xbox controller to move the cursor or a separate USB mouse plugged into one of the other ports.

#### How to use Google Classroom on PS4 & PS5

The PlayStation 4 has its own web browser that is easy to find on the PlayStation 4 (in the content menu as an icon with WWW written on it). However, it's currently a bit trickier on PS5, as there is no way to open the browser natively.

Instead, you can open the System Settings, then the User Guide. This will open up an online user manual inside a web browser page so you only have to change the URL at the top. Otherwise, the rest of the steps are the same.

1. Plug a wired keyboard and/or mouse into the USB ports on the PS4 or PS5 - each console should recognise them.

2. In the URL bar of the browser, type [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com) and then log in using the details provided by your child's school.

3. You can now access Google Classroom.

#### **Content of teaching and learning online**

Focus of direct online teaching and learning (and pre-recorded) - maths, English, phonics, reading as well as for yr R/1- learning catch up and snack and chat.

Focus of padlet - other subjects

Means provided for all pupils to show their English and Maths work - and receive feedback

Expectation that all pupils complete their English and maths work

Broader curriculum through Padlet/ Tapestry- means for pupils to upload their learning and receive feedback from teacher or class.