



**THE JOHN MOORE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**SOAR**



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**STRIVE**



**SPARKLE**

Headteacher: Mrs Ruth Laing BEd (Hons)

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that this finds you all well and that you are having a wonderful break and enjoying your family time together.

As promised, we are writing to let you know about the arrangements for the start of term on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

This week, we have received the latest DFE guidance to support school reopening in September and are delighted that we are advised that most restrictions can change back to more normal procedures. As such, I would like to outline what our daily practices will be so that you all have the latest guidance and can help your child/children get ready for the start of the new school year.

**Start to the school day:**

The school gates will open at 8:30 a.m. The children can come into school between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. We ask that you continue to walk to school where possible, enter along Columbine Road and say goodbye to them at the main school gates (which will all be open) so that they can walk round to their classrooms where their teaching teams will be waiting for them. If you need to share a message with the class teacher, please either talk to the members of staff at the school gate or send the class teacher a message via Class Dojo. If your message is urgent, please contact the school office directly on 01684 291661 as the class teacher may not always pick up the message immediately.

The school gates will close at 8:45 a.m. so if your child arrives after this time, they will be registered as late. We kindly ask that you work with us to ensure that your child arrives at school on time as even a small delay in arrival each day means that they will miss valuable learning time. It is also often a stressful experience for the children if they are late arriving at school.

We ask that when you are dropping your child/ children off at school in the morning, that you maintain social distancing where possible as the advice is still to adhere to this as best as we can.

**End of the school day:**

The school gates will open at 3:05 p.m. Parents/ carers will be invited to come into the school and to wait in the turning circle area. We ask that you arrive just prior to the pick- up time for your child and maintain social distancing where possible. The teaching teams will bring the children out onto the zebra crossing and release them into your care once they know that you are there to pick them up.

Year groups will come out at the following times:

Reception- 3:10 p.m.

Year 1 and Year 2 – 3:15 p.m.

Year 3/4/5/6 – 3:20 p.m.

We do ask that in the current climate, once you have picked up your child/ children, that you leave the school site as soon as possible (unless you are waiting for an older sibling) as we are still encouraged to minimise contact where possible. We thank you for your support with this. If you do however need to have a chat with the class teacher, please do let them know and of course they will support with this. Face masks no longer need to be worn at drop off or pick up times, but you are still very welcome to wear them if you would like to.

### **Play and lunchtimes:**

Mealtimes in the hall will continue to be staggered, however the children will return to having the full run of all our facilities and will be able to mix with children from other classes. The previous system of class bubbles will no longer be in operation.

### **P.E and Forest school:**

Your class teacher will let you know when your child will be having their P.E. and Forest school sessions. We ask that on P.E. days, the children come into school wearing their P.E. kit. This should be the school green P.E. T-shirt, navy-blue shorts or jogging bottoms, a navy-blue sweatshirt or their school jumper and clean trainers. On Forest school days, the children can come into school wearing their forest school kit if their session is in the morning. They will need to bring their uniform with them to change into afterwards. If their session is in the afternoon, they should come into school in their uniform and bring their Forest school kit in with them.

### **Uniform:**

We ask that the children come back to school wearing full school uniform. We do have a very small stock of some uniform in the school if you wish to purchase it directly from us. All uniform should be available via our online shop. All information and links to this are available via the school website. Please can you ensure that your child is wearing sensible black school shoes as part of their uniform. If you are having any problem getting uniform for your child, please just let us know as we do know that there have been some stock delays due to transportation issues from abroad.

### **Assemblies:**

These will resume in person and no longer via Zoom. The children will have the opportunity to take part in weekly assemblies and to gather as a Key Stage or school. We will write to you with further information during the first half term to let you know when we will begin our family class assemblies. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to invite you back into the school to share in your child's learning.

### **After school clubs:**

We are aiming that these will resume after October half term. Letters will be sent out shortly after the start of the new term outlining the fabulous clubs on offer and giving your child the chance to sign up for the ones that they fancy.

### **Sparkle Spot:**

We are aiming that these sessions will resume after half term once we have all the children settled back in school. For families that have not yet had the chance to experience Sparkle Spot, it is a weekly drop-in session from 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. where a family member can pop into the classroom with your child/ children to share their work and celebrate their successes. We will share the dates for our Sparkle Spot sessions and further information on this nearer the time.

### **Meet the teacher and Parents evenings:**

We will be holding Meet the teacher sessions for each class on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for you to come into school and to see your child's classroom, to meet their teaching team and to hear about the priorities and support for your child for the year to come. We will send out further information about these sessions in the first week of term.

We will also hold our first parents' evenings where you can discuss your child's progress with the class teacher on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### **Snacks, drinks and lunches:**

Please can we ask that you support us in being a healthy school by providing healthy snacks and food in lunch boxes. For snack times we ask that the children only bring a small snack which is either a piece of fruit, or some cheese, or some plain rice cakes or crackers. Please could they bring in a named water bottle that only contains water. We will encourage them to drink this throughout the day and our children are very good at wanting to be hydrated heroes! If your child is bringing in a packed lunch, we ask that they only bring in a small treat (such as a small piece of cake or a small biscuit bar) We ask that they do not bring in any sweets or full chocolate bars. Our school kitchen will continue to be fully operational and all children in Reception and Key stage 1 can have a cooked school lunch daily if they wish to. There will be three meal choices daily and we will always help the children with things like cutting up their food if they need any support. Children in Key Stage 2 can also continue to order a school lunch daily if they wish to and payment for these should be made via parent pay. School lunch menus will continue to be sent out

regularly via the school office. If you are worried at all about what your child is eating or drinking at school, please chat to their teaching team as all staff are here to support your child and to make sure that they are eating and drinking well throughout the school day.

### **What to do if your child displays any symptoms of COVID-19**

As with previous guidance, if your child displays any of the following symptoms, they must not come into school, and you must access a PCR test to check whether they have COVID-19.

Self-isolate straight away and get a [PCR test \(a test that is sent to the lab\) on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

The government guidance has now changed and if someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, the rest of the household do not need to isolate if the following apply:

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

You are advised however that if anyone in your household or someone that you have been in direct contact with tests positive for COVID-19, then everyone in the household or anyone who have been in direct contact with them should access a PCR test to check whether they also have the virus. If this PCR test comes back as negative, then siblings of anyone who has tested positive may continue to come to school as normal. However, if they develop any symptoms of COVID-19, even if they have had a recent PCR test, they will need to self-isolate and get retested.

Please see the link to the national guidance below:

[When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do-coronavirus-covid-19)


If you are ever unsure about any of the latest COVID-19 guidance and need any support in deciding what you should do, please don't hesitate to contact us directly.

If at any point your child/ children need to isolate due to COVID-19, we will continue to provide daily remote learning support so that they can continue with their education if they are well enough. We will share our remote learning support with you at the start of the new school term.

These are the initial pieces of information that we hope will help you with your new term planning and organisation. We know that the start of the new school year is always extremely busy for everyone, and it often takes some time to get back into a routine. Please don't worry if it takes a while to get back into the swing of things and please do talk to us or message us if you have any worries about your child coming back to school. We can't wait to see all the children back in school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and to begin what we hope will be a more settled year. We know that there may be some ups and downs and guidance may continue to change but these are our plans at present. As we always do, we will embrace any need for change as a community and we will continue to work together to give the children the best we possibly can. We look forward to another truly sparkling year here at The John Moore Primary.

Have a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend everyone.

With very best wishes



Ruth Laing  
Headteacher