



Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

School re-opening plans for Nursery and Reception from 1st June 2020

We will not be opening for Year 1 children at this time

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and carers for the support you have given the school during this difficult time. We are looking forward to seeing all of you *as soon as it is safe to do so*. We have been caring for over 30 critical worker and other children during lockdown but are looking to expand to support 60 children on site from June. Staff have been working really hard this week finalising our risk assessment (the guidance from Essex County Council and the Government is constantly changing), ordering resources, changing the format of the classrooms as well as continuing to provide care for those children who need it and supporting home learning.

As we approach the end of week 9 of lockdown and the end of the first half of summer term, it seems strange to consider 60 children coming in to school as a risk! However this is a 50% increase on the amount of children who have been attending during lockdown which also creates an increase in the amount of staff coming in to school as well as parents/carers who will be bringing these children in.

We have had an increase in need from our Critical Worker families and will be facilitating 50 children from these families from June 1st. The government have asked us, as an Infant School, to prioritise the return of our youngest children, our **Nursery** and **Reception** children. Our risk assessment will allow us to have a nursery class of 10 and a reception class of 10 accessing the school for one day/morning in the first week, moving to two days/mornings in the second week (Nursery children will be coming in on a morning).

Our priority remains the same: to ensure the safety and welfare of our children and staff and all our families whilst providing provision for our critical worker families and vulnerable children and continue to support our Monty families with home learning.

I understand that many parents and carers may feel anxious about their child returning to school. We share these same anxieties. Below you will find more information about how the school day will be organised so that you can make an informed decision about whether you send your child to school.

Our risk assessment shows that it is not safe for all our Reception and Nursery children to return. If you have indicated an interest in your child returning you will be **called later today with confirmation and will receive an agreement form via email**. If you do not hear from us by the end of the day, you will be held on our waiting list and informed when our capacity expands. Please be advised that you are encouraged by the government to send you child to school, but it is not compulsory to do so and **there will not be any fines issued due to non-attendance**.

Who can now attend school and from when?

- Alongside those children who have already been attending school since the school partially closed on 20th March 2020, the DfE guidance sets out that **Infant schools** can now expand provision to children in **Nursery and Reception**, and primary schools would include Year 1 and Year 6.



- Siblings of these year groups, who are in other year groups are **not** able to come back to school yet.
- Anyone who thinks their child now qualifies for a place in school as a child of a key worker, a vulnerable child or a child with an EHCP should contact the headteacher via head@montgomery-inf.essex.sch.uk
- **We have limited our capacity to 60 children, but as guidance changes and our risk assessment allows us to expand, we will. Your child's name will be placed on a waiting list.**
- Children cannot attend if they, or a family member they live with, have symptoms of Covid-19.
- Any children who are 'extremely clinically vulnerable' should not attend school.
- If someone in your household is 'extremely clinically vulnerable' (shielded) the DfE guidance states that pupils should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to. In an Infant school this is not possible, so at this time it would **not** be safe to have your child at school.
- Children will be organised to be located in a teaching space with up to 10 children from their current year group or a mixed year group, this means they *may* not be in their usual classroom with their usual classroom practitioners.
- The children will be with the same group of children throughout the whole week. They will not mix with other children in the school.
- They will be taught by a maximum group of 5 keyworkers, which will include at least one teacher, the other keyworkers will be LSAs.
- A hot dinner will be provided and children will eat lunch in the hall. There will be a maximum of 20 children in the hall for each sitting (2 learning bubbles, these bubbles will remain apart)
- (excluding Nursery) Children will be in a class of 10, each child will have their own table, tray and learning pack. During whole class activities children will sit at their desk. Children will not be expected to remain at a desk for the entire day.
- Nursery children will have their own learning pack, carpet-times will include only 5 children, spaced out. It is impossible and detrimental to our children's well-being to expect nursery children or any Infant children to remain seated for prolonged periods of time and we will not be enforcing this.
- When children are not engaged in whole class activities, they will be encouraged to use both our indoor and outdoor classrooms to maximise social distancing.
- Breaks have been timetabled into the day to ensure only one Learning bubble (class of 10) is accessing the playground at any time. Learning bubbles will have a designated play area for the week, which will be rotated weekly to reduce the risk of cross contamination between learning bubbles.
- We have not amended our Positive Behaviour Policy but will be sending out, as previously stated, a revised agreement form for those parents whose children are accessing our school provision.

Cleaning/Health and Safety –

- ***The school is shut during half term to enable staff to prepare for increased opening from June.***
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned by the keyworkers during the day and children will be encouraged to support as part of soapy water play. This will include items in their outside area.
- Cleaning staff will thoroughly clean each classroom at the end of each day, paying particular attention to frequently touched surfaces (taps, toilet flush, door handles etc). All carpets have been removed from classrooms and replaced with vinyl flooring. These will be washed at the end of each day. The hall floors and frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned after lunch. Between lunch sittings, tables and chairs will be cleaned.



- At the end of each week before the playground apparatus is rotated to another Learning bubble all surfaces will be washed down. **(Please do not allow your children to go on the apparatus at any other time than when they are in school with their keyworker)**
- Children will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds before leaving home and on arrival to school. Children will wash their hands before going out to play and on return from play-time. Children will wash their hands before having snack and/or a water break.
- All soft furnishings, cushions and toys have been removed from the classrooms.
- We will always try to maintain safe distancing in school but please be aware this will be challenging, especially with our younger children.
- There is no expectation that staff will routinely wear face coverings. However, staff may wear PPE in very specific circumstances.
- Please also note that, especially with our younger children, it is possible that a member of our staff may have to comfort your child if they become distressed.

Lunchtime

- Children who are at school for the whole day will have a hot lunch provided for them.
- Children will eat their lunch in the hall
- We discourage children from bringing in packed lunches or water bottles, the fewer items that are brought into school and taken home again will reduce the risk of cross contamination.
- Drinking water will be available for children in the class, clean cups will be provided during whole class, frequent water breaks.

What will children need to bring/wear?

- Children will come in **clean home clothes**, we are not expecting children to wear school uniform as this would put increased pressure on parents to purchase more school uniform to ensure it was clean on every day.
- Children will be provided with a learning pack at school, reading sacks **should not** be brought in to school. Parents are encouraged to use the online platform 'Bug Club' to continue reading at home.
- Children need to bring in a sun hat and sun cream which are both named and will remain in their tray until needed. **Please apply sun cream before coming to school.**

The start/end of the day

In order to reduce the number of people at the school gates we have staggered start times:

This will be written in to your school agreement which will be sent out shortly.

- Only one adult is to drop off/collect children.
- Children will be dropped off at a designated drop off zone by their classroom (please see your agreement)
- Collection will also be at the designated zone and time, as written on your agreement
- The school will be open from Monday–Friday 9:00am -3:00pm. Please only attend during your designated times. The office will be operational from 8:30am -5:30pm each day, please phone in advance if you need to visit the school.
- Critical worker children who are already attending the setting will be reissued an agreement form, they will have a designated Learning bubble and keyworkers.



Home Learning

- For those children who will not be returning to school in June, we will continue with home/remote learning.
- We will continue to use Tapestry as our main source for home learning. Learning Packs will be available for pickup from Wednesday 4th June and then from each Monday of the following weeks. Please phone ahead of collection.
- Teachers will continue to set challenges on Purple Mash, YUMU, Tapestry and Bug Club, if parents have trouble accessing these, learning packs will be available on our website.
- Our teachers will not be on the premises full-time, part of their time will be continuing working from home, providing home learning for the 80% of children who will not be attending school yet.
- If you are having problems with accessing home learning please contact the school via admin@montgomery-inf.essex.sch.uk so we can support you with this.
- If you do email for support with home learning, **you may not get an immediate response as some of the staff work part-time**. Please be reassured, someone will get back to you as soon as possible.
- If your child is not attending school we need to maintain regular contact with you, as we have been doing since lockdown. Please contact us if you have moved recently, so we can update a change of address changed email or phone number.

Next Steps

We appreciate that making a decision about your child returning to school may be difficult for you. We will be contacting parents today who have indicated an interest to return. **If you do not hear from us by the end of the day you will be held on our waiting list and informed when our capacity expands**. We are prioritising our Critical worker families for our full-time bubbles but have now reached maximum capacity until it is safe to expand our bubbles.

Guidance is continuing to change daily, as is our risk assessment, and we are currently amalgamating two risk assessments. On completion we will publish these to our website for your information.

There is an awful lot of planning and preparation to ensure that our Monty Family stays safe. We know that parents are currently been called upon to go back to work and demand for critical worker places are increasing. We have to be guided by our risk assessment and when it is safe to do so we will expand our provision, so we apologise if we cannot accommodate your children at this present time.

Well done for getting to the end of this very lengthy letter, you are all Monty Achievers!!!

I hope you are all well and coping in these extreme times we find ourselves in and thank you for bearing with us during this time of planning.

Sue Bridgeman
Headteacher