



#AimHighSucceedBeHappy

West Street, Hoyland, Barnsley, S74 9ET  
Tel: 01226 749164  
Headteacher Mr. Daniel J Wood  
Assistant Headteacher Mr. Jon Smith  
[www.westmeadows.org.uk](http://www.westmeadows.org.uk)



Follow us @WMPprimary



### **Covid Q&A**

Welcome back! We are absolutely delighted to have our lovely children back in school.

I'm sure that a number of parents may have questions about how we are approaching things at West Meadows. This Q&A will aim to address the main concerns you might have, though there may be more questions that follow. It is important to note that this is our starting point and that things may change over the next few weeks. There will inevitably be adjustments and alterations in response to the ever-changing situation and we may find better (or safer) ways of doing things or simply need to address unforeseen issues. We will communicate these as swiftly as possible when they occur.

**A full version of our risk assessment/action plan is on the school website.**

Your cooperation and support is, as always, appreciated in this matter.

Thank you,

Daniel Wood

### **What happens when children arrive at school?**

We have initiated a one-way drop off system within the school grounds to alleviate congestion and ensure that social distancing is possible. This will see children and parents arriving by the ramp to the infant playground and walking around the school's perimeter, dropping your children off at the appropriate classroom door. We have allocated a 15-minute drop-off period to reduce traffic around school. Please ensure that children arrive at school between 8.30 and 8.45.

### **How can I speak with school staff if there is a need?**

Due to the current and ongoing situation, we ask that parents only enter the site when absolutely necessary, e.g. at drop off and collection times (unless your child walks home or usually meets you outside.)

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, parents are not able to come into the classroom. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact school. As it will be difficult for staff to have conversations with parents at the start and end of the day, please contact school by phone at 8.15am or between 3.15 and 3.45pm, or send a private message on Twitter to your child's appropriate class page - @WMPPrimaryF1 @WMPPrimaryF2 @WMPPrimaryY1 @WMPPrimaryY2 @WMPPrimaryY3 @WMPPrimaryY4 @WMPPrimaryY5 @WMPPrimaryY6.

### **What about playtimes?**

The importance of physical activity and regular breaks is enormous, for both health and social reasons. Children will have breaks with their own classmates and staff will ensure that they remain with their 'bubble' for the duration of playtime. The times of these have been adjusted to reduce the numbers of children on the playground at any one time and to facilitate classes having designated play areas.

### **What about dinnertime?**

Lunchtime will be staggered and adjusted in order to maintain the integrity of the 'bubbles'. To this end, children will be required to eat their lunches with their year group in either their classroom (if they are having packed lunch) or in the dining room (if they are having a school dinner).

### **What happens if my child is on school dinners and hot meals?**

Our lovely school meals team will provide a hot meal option every day. Each year group will have an allocated time to eat their hot dinner in the school hall. Our timetable has been well-planned to ensure that vital and thorough cleaning of facilities can take place between each 'sitting'.

### **How do I order these meals?**

These are ordered the same way as before, paid electronically by Parent Pay.

### **What about drinks in school?**

It is important that all children have readily available drinks. All supplies in school are mains fed and safe to drink. We ask that all children be equipped with their own drink every day for school. Ideally this will be a sports type bottle, which they are free to use and refill throughout the day. Importantly, we ask that drinks bottles (as well as other items brought in) return home at the end of the day for cleaning.

### **How will you ensure that good hand hygiene is achieved?**

Staff will routinely and regularly ask your child to wash or sanitise their hands at key transition points in the day. Examples will include at the start/end of the day, after breaks or after using shared materials and resources.

### **How well set up is the school to promote hand hygiene?**

Each classroom has at least one hand washing point; these all have readily available soaps and paper towels. In addition to this, all rooms and most entry/exit points have hand sanitizer. Children will receive regular opportunities and reminders to use them.

### **What about respiratory hygiene?**

Staff will remind children about promoting good standards of respiratory hygiene. This will be in line with current guidance from the government, for example 'catch it, bin it, kill it' for coughs and sneezes. Alongside hand hygiene, children will be reminded about touching mouths and faces and the inevitable 'nose picking'!

### **What about toilets?**

The theory of using 'bubbles' is that the children will operate as if they are in an extended family/household. Just like you wouldn't necessarily sanitise a toilet at home after each use, we will be doing the same. Children within bubbles have allocated toilets for their use; just like a home uses a shared toilet for a limited number of people, we will be doing the same. The priority here is good hand hygiene.

### **How will the school be maintaining appropriate standards of cleanliness?**

The school has worked with our cleaning team to ensure that all recommended measures are in place. At the end of each day, all areas in school will receive enhanced cleaning. It is for this reason that classrooms have had many of the soft furnishing and additional resources stored so that all surfaces and 'touch-points' can be efficiently and effectively cleaned. In addition to this, all classrooms have a small kit of cleaning products for additional and intermittent use. This includes surface cleaners and wipes for use on frequently used surfaces, shared resources, etc. Again, the priority here is good hand and respiratory hygiene.

### **How will classrooms be organised?**

The current guidance from the DfE is that, where possible, children should not be sat in groups facing one another. This will mean that your child's classroom may have 'lost' the table groups they are used to. Children will usually be sat side by side generally facing the front to minimise the risk of transmission. The desks have been organised to utilize the space within the classroom where possible.

### **Will my child be maintaining 'social distancing'?**

DfE guidance states that 'children, and especially the youngest children, cannot socially distance' and that 'for younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups' and that 'consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group.' However, we also have in the same guidance that 'for children old enough, they should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff where possible.' We will be encouraging this by reminding children to attempt to maintain distance where possible and minimising physical contact between themselves, their peers and adults.

### **Will school be monitoring temperatures?**

No. The latest guidance from DfE states that this is now considered an unreliable method of screening.

### **What happens if my child has an accident or needs first aid?**

The school has appropriate supplies of PPE and staff trained to administer first aid. Common sense and moral duty would dictate that the safety of a child with a serious injury requiring immediate first aid would duly receive it. Alternately, should an older child have a minor graze or scrape, the most sensible way to deal with this may be them being supported in cleaning themselves up. We may not be in a position to give your child the hug or cuddle they need in a minor instance such as this, but we will do all we can to give them the reassurance and positive regard we can. In other instances of accidents or illness (eg vomiting, etc) staff have appropriate PPE to deal with the situation.

### **Will my child need PPE?**

PPE will only be needed in specific circumstances for staff, eg, supporting a child with medical needs or if a child becomes unwell and develops symptoms and a distance of 2m cannot be maintained by the adult supporting the child. We are instructed that children should not wear masks in school and whilst they may be wearing them as a result of using public transport or similar reasons, they should be removed prior to entering the school.

### **What about PE?**

Physical activity and PE is an important part of the school curriculum. Children will be encouraged to be active during breaks and lunchtime and participate in games and play with minimised/no physical contact. PE lessons will be undertaken and these will be outdoor wherever possible/appropriate. The delivery of these may require the use of shared resources (e.g. balls, bats, etc) which will be quarantined or cleaned after use (along with children thoroughly washing their hands) and physical contact minimised or eliminated where appropriate.

### **What does my child need for school?**

Initially we are asking that children only attend school with what is necessary or essential. This should be a coat/jacket or similar (if the weather dictates it), a drinks bottle and a packed lunch (including a lunchbox if that's your choice). Children may or may not need a bag to carry all these; again, we ask for your support in defining what is and isn't really 'essential'. Please avoid additional stationery, toys, and unnecessary clothing. All items brought to school (e.g. drinks bottles, lunch boxes, coats, etc) should return home at the end of the day for cleaning if necessary.

### **You said that school wanted to avoid children bringing in non-essential items like extra clothing, stationery, toys, etc. What about PE kits?**

At this time, children are encouraged to attend school on their PE days wearing PE kit. For example, this may take the form of a tracksuit or shorts and t-shirt...or both if the prevailing weather conditions are changeable.

### **Are children wearing uniform again?**

Yes, the DfE have stated that this is now advised. We are asking children to attend in their usual uniform. Current guidance requires that it is not necessary to employ any special methods of cleaning uniform other than those you would usually use with regular washing to ensure good standards of hygiene.

### **What about homework and reading books?**

Teachers will be asked to follow their usual homework systems from September and manage this by having a system in place for receiving (e.g. an 'in-tray' or similar) and distributing homework (again this is mitigated by good hand hygiene in staff as well as children). Reading books can be selected and used; we will use a quarantine system on 'used' books.

### **Will staff be marking work?**

There are many ways that schools can and do respond to the work of children. Marking by teacher's is just one of those methods. When it is necessary, staff will collect and mark the work of children alongside other methods we routinely use.

### **Have behaviour expectations been revised?**

We always expect our children to be kind, thoughtful and respectful. At this time, some amendments have been made with specific reference to include deliberate spitting and coughing, refusing to follow instruction about physical contact and distancing. Deliberate acts will be taken seriously, however, we do appreciate that with young children they can forget at times.

### **How will my child receive additional support and 1:1 help when needed?**

Staff at school have always routinely worked closely with children, for example on a 1:1 basis when they are finding something particularly difficult. In many cases this can still be done 'at arms length', though at times it may be more difficult. Children with specific needs or working with EHCP's will have their needs assessed and addressed in line with current guidance.

### **During the summer term, attendance regulations were relaxed and it wasn't compulsory to attend. Does my child now have to attend school?**

The DfE has instructed that 'school attendance will be **mandatory** again from the beginning of the autumn term'. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

We are also instructed that 'shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding'. We also know our community and that some of our children may be anxious about returning to school for a variety of complicating factors. We welcome the opportunity to discuss, reassure and support children in this situation.

### **Why is all this important?**

The measures outlined above, such as 'bubbles', start and end-of-day arrangements and hygiene requirements have been put in place because it is really important that we do what we can to help keep everyone safe, including children, staff, parents and our #WonderfulCommunity. By operating in this way, we can minimize the risk and should anyone within the school become ill, develop symptoms or test positive for COVID19 the school can be really clear on the necessary steps which are outlined in the next question.

## **What happens if my child, myself or someone else shows symptoms?**

Staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- Book a test if they or their child are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5.
- Provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace;
- Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. The government will ensure that it is as easy as possible to get a test through a wide range of routes that are locally accessible, fast and convenient.
- If someone tests negative, providing that they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could, of course, still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- If someone tests positive, they should follow the ‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection’ and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

## **What will the school need to do if someone becomes ill, shows symptoms or receives a positive test result?**

We must take swift action when we become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact us directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace. The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. The health protection team will work with us in this situation to guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)

- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person.

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

**What do I do if I have symptoms:**

- Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

What if...	What to do	Return to school when...
....my child has covid symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Update school daily</b></li> <li>• Self isolate</li> <li>• Get a test</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	....the test comes back negative.
....my child test positive for covid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Update school daily</b></li> <li>• Self-isolate for at least 10 days</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...they feel better after 10 days isolation. Symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection has gone, but they can return after 10 days if they feel well.
....somebody in my household has covid sympoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Update school daily</b></li> <li>• Self isolate</li> <li>• Household member to get a test</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...the household member test is negative.
....somebody in my household has tested positive for covid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Update school daily</b></li> <li>• Self isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days isolation.
...NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed covid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Update school daily</b></li> <li>• Self isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days isolation.
...we/my child has travelled and has to self isolate as part of a period of quarantine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not take unauthorized leave in term time</b></li> <li>• <b>Consider quarantine requirements (and possibility of quarantine) and FCO advice when booking travel</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Update school daily</b></li> <li>• Self isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days isolation and quarantine period complete.
...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>• <b>Contact school</b></li> <li>• Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again.</li> </ul>	...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return again.

The above covers the vast majority of situations for the children. If you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.