



### Does my child need to return to school on Monday 8th March?

Yes. The government has said, 'School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March'. The only exceptions are below:

Pupils, staff and other adults must **not** come into the school if

- they have one or more coronavirus symptoms
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area [Entering the UK: Quarantining when you arrive in the UK](#)
- they have had a positive test or any member of their household (or support/childcare bubble) has tested positive

### How is the school being kept as safe as possible?

Schools have been asked to put in place a proportionate system of control measures to minimise coronavirus risks. As such, the protective measures at Meridian will follow government guidance and will include:

1. **Minimising contact with anyone who is unwell** - Children and staff who are unwell will stay at home; if they become unwell, they will go home straight away. If you, your child or someone else in your household is unwell with coronavirus symptoms, please stay at home and inform the school. To keep all members of our school community safe, parents/carers will need to be ready and willing to engage in the NHS Test and Trace system, self-isolate and book a test as necessary (more information can be found below).
2. **Clean hands more thoroughly than usual** - Children will continue to wash their hands thoroughly as soon as they arrive at school and at regular times during the day. We have two sets of sinks in the school playground - this helps to ease congestion in the cloakrooms. Children should not bring their own hand sanitiser into school; we have plenty for each 'bubble' and its use will be supervised.
3. **Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach** - Staff will model, teach and promote positive hygiene behaviours.
4. **Enhanced cleaning** - School continues to be cleaned every day. We currently have extra daily cleaning including in the middle of the day. Wherever possible, frequently touched surfaces are wiped more often during the school day. Resources such as toys are cleaned more regularly. Some toys and resources which are hard to clean have been removed from the classroom. Bubbles have been allocated their own play equipment and, in so far as possible, fixed play equipment is cleaned after use.
5. **Minimising contact and mixing and maintaining social distancing wherever possible** - As the government recognises that young children cannot socially distance from staff or from each other, primary schools are asked to reduce the number of contacts between children and staff. At Meridian, this is what this looks like -
  - Children are largely taught in year group bubbles. Playtimes and lunchtimes are staggered for paired year groups (e.g. Year 1 and 2; Year 3 and 4; Year 5 and 6) but

classes are allocated their own seating areas in the dining hall and play areas on the playground. Children from across the school do not mix.

- Castle (Y3/4) and Discovery (Y5/6) groups are a little bigger than usual and mainstream classes are therefore a little smaller than usual. Whilst children in each year group are taught together as a whole class on some afternoons, they remain in smaller groups for much of the time.
- Wherever possible, staff remain consistent in classes and across paired year groups.
- In the classroom, children in Y2 - Y6 sit side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on. Children have their own stationery wallet (pen, pencil, ruler etc.) and exercise book and shared resources within the classroom will be cleaned regularly. Y1 seating is similar to Reception for much of the time.
- Movement around school is kept to a minimum. We have a one-way system on the school staircases (an 'up staircase' and a 'down staircase') and we limit the number of children who use the toilet facilities at any one time.
- We avoid large gatherings and assemblies are virtual. If we do bring children together for any reason, this will be in paired year groups only.
- Early Years children (Nursery and Reception) learn, play and eat in their own inside and outside classrooms. Children sit and play together.

### What are the main symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19)?

The NHS state that 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.

Find out more from the NHS here: [Symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

### What should I do if my child or I (or someone else in my household) develops the symptoms of coronavirus?

Stay at home.

Anyone who has **one or more** of the symptoms of coronavirus, however mild, must stay at home and are requested to arrange a test. **All members of your household (and support or childcare bubble) should stay at home whilst waiting for the test result.** This means you must not leave your house for any reason other than to travel to a testing site. If you need support in any way, please contact the school office.

Whilst not everyone who has a symptom of coronavirus will test positive, testing ensures we can keep all members of our school community safe by taking appropriate action - we appreciate your support in this matter. Should you choose not to arrange a test, all members of your household must self-isolate and not leave your home for at least 10 days.

See the NHS website for more guidance [How long to self-isolate - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

### My child or another member of my household has symptoms. How do I book a test?

To book a coronavirus test for your child or another member of your household who has symptoms,

however mild, please ring 119 or follow this link: [Get a free NHS test today to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) now.](#)

If you are struggling to book a test, please let the school know as soon as possible and we will do all we can to help.

While you are waiting for the result of the test, your whole household must stay at home. **Please inform the school immediately if you or your child has a positive test for coronavirus.**

### **Are primary school children, staff and their families without symptoms being tested for Covid-19?**

Primary aged children will not be tested in school.

Public Health England say that about 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people with no symptoms helps to break the chain of transmission by identifying a high percentage of asymptomatic cases.

Staff are taking part in twice-weekly lateral flow testing.

The government is encouraging all households with school age children (and their childcare/support bubbles) to start twice-weekly lateral flow testing from 8th March; RBG are strongly encouraging the testing of primary school children and their families in this way. **The school itself does not test children or staff;** it is parents/carers responsibility to organise testing for their family.

### **We have no symptoms. How can I arrange a rapid lateral flow test for my family ?**

The easiest way for families to arrange a rapid lateral flow test is to go to their local testing centre, e.g. Daniel Defoe Hall (10 Lovibond Lane, Greenwich, London SE10 9FY) or Charlton Athletic Football Club (The Valley, Floyd Rd, London SE7 8BL). You can find your nearest test site here: [Rapid tests for people without symptoms | Test and Trace](#). RBG have also said that a temporary site is being set up at Cutty Sark Gardens soon.

Other ways in which you can get a twice-weekly lateral flow test are:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site ([Find a test centre](#))
- by ordering a home test kit online ([Schools testing: Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kit](#)).

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone in our community as safe as possible.

### **What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus at Meridian?**

In all circumstances, we will act on the advice of Public Health. Based on our risk assessment and Public Health guidance, we will send home those children and staff who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive and advise them to self-isolate for up to 10 days.

RBG will be informed. We will write to the children affected and to the whole school; contact will usually be via email.

### **What happens if a child becomes unwell whilst at school?**

Children who become unwell whilst at school will need to go home. Parents/carers will be asked to collect their child as soon as possible. They will be looked after by a member of staff in a separate space until parents arrive. Parents/carers will need to arrange a test for their child and advise the school of the outcome.

### **Does my child need to wear a mask at school?**

No. Whilst secondary school children are currently expected to wear masks in some circumstances, the government guidance states that masks are not required for primary school children. Staff and children are mixing in consistent groups, and misuse of masks may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The measures in place will keep school as safe as possible and children should not wear masks within our school.

If a child arrives at school wearing a face covering, they must sanitise their hands as they arrive through the school gate. Without touching the front of the covering, they should remove it and place it in a plastic bag to take home with them, or if it is a disposable one, they should put it in the bin straight away. They should then wash their hands using the playground sink.

### How can parents/carers help to keep the school as safe as possible?

Parents/carers are asked to support the school by reading and respecting the information in our FAQs. They are also asked to follow government guidance at all times outside of school as outlined here: [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do](#)

Parents/carers need to be ready and willing to self-isolate and book a test.

All members of the school community are expected to engage with the NHS track and trace service. Please follow the link to find out how this works: [NHS test and trace: how it works](#)

### How do I safely drop-off and pick-up my child?

One parent/carer will drop-off and pick-up their children from the school playground. Staff will meet their 'bubble' of children on the playground in the morning and hand them over to parents/carers on the playground at the end of the day.

As recommended by Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG), from Monday 8th March, we request that parents/carers and secondary-age siblings wear face coverings when dropping off or collecting children from school unless they are exempt.



Only one parent/carer from each family should drop off/pick up. Please arrive on time. You should queue two metres apart along the pavement outside the school gate and come onto the playground when asked by school staff. To avoid crowding, we will limit the number of parents/carers on the playground at any one time, so we may ask you to wait outside briefly.

A one-way system is in operation - parents/carers will come onto the playground via the blue gate and go out via the large fire gate. Please respect social distancing guidelines whilst moving around the playground.

At the start of the day, parents/carers will say goodbye to their children from a white spot marked on the playground and their children will line up with their teacher and classmates in the designated areas detailed below. At the end of the day, parents will wait for their child on a white spot and their child will be sent over to them.

To ensure drop-off and pick-up runs smoothly and swiftly, please leave the playground as soon as you have dropped off or picked up your child(ren) rather than waiting to watch the line go into school or talking to other families. Please do not congregate outside the school gates or stand in front of them.

Children should put away their own scooters and bicycles by the musical garden and blue sheds - whilst members of staff can help, parents/carers will need to wait on their white playground spots.

### How should my child travel to school?

The government says that parents and children should be encouraged to walk or cycle where possible or drive to school (without sharing cars with other families). Children should be accompanied by a responsible adult, wherever possible. Please see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for](#)

[passengers](#) for more information.

The buses for the deaf children are operating as normal.

### Will my child's temperature be taken when they arrive at school?

No. This is not currently recommended by the government. The DfE says that 'routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus'. We will only take a temperature if a child reports they are unwell whilst at school.

### What time does school start and finish (drop-off and pick-up)?

To limit mixing and contact between families, we have staggered drop-off and pick-up times for different year groups. There is one drop-off time and one pick-up time for each family.

#### Drop-off times from Monday 8th March 2021

<b>Nursery and Reception</b>	9.00am - Children will line up with their teacher on the playground
<b>Year 1 and Year 2</b>	8.50am - Children will line up with their teacher on the playground
<b>Year 3 and Year 4</b>	9.10am - Y3 children will line up in the ball court and Y4 children will line up in the green garden (children arriving earlier with younger siblings will go straight to these areas)
<b>Year 5 and Year 6</b>	9.15am - Children will line up with their teacher on the playground (children arriving earlier with younger siblings will go straight up to class)
<b>Families with more than one child</b>	<b>If you have children in more than one year group, drop off all your children at the earliest time given.</b> For example, if you have a child in Reception, Y2 and Y3, you will drop off all your children at 8.50am.

#### Pick-up times from Monday 8th March 2021

<b>Nursery and Reception</b>	3.00pm from the playground <i>(Morning Nursery children who are picked up at 12pm will be collected from the Nursery gate on Old Woolwich Road.)</i>
<b>Year 1 and Year 2</b>	2.50pm from the playground
<b>Year 3 and Year 4</b>	3.10pm from the playground
<b>Year 5 and Year 6</b>	3.15pm from the playground
<b>Families with more than one child</b>	<b>If you have children in more than one year group, pick up all your children at the latest time given.</b> For example, if you have a child in Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5, you will pick up all your children at 3.15pm.

### Can I speak to my child's teacher at the start or end of the day?

Your child's teacher may be able to come and talk to you whilst you are on the playground but it may not be possible. You can talk to Jo or Jane on the playground or we can arrange for the class teacher to ring you. Whilst talking to staff on the playground, please stand on a white spot so that a social distance can be safely maintained by both parties.

### Can parents/carers come into the school building?

Unfortunately not. Parents/carers can come onto the playground but they cannot come into the school building currently for any reason. This is to support the safety of the whole school community. You can communicate with the School Office via phone/email. If you need to talk to a member of staff, we can arrange a phone call or Google Meet at a mutually convenient time.

### What will the curriculum look like in school?

In supporting children's transition back into school, we will balance the need to nurture children's emotional well-being with the need to identify any gaps in children's learning so we can accelerate their progress. We will continue teaching our ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects. We will have a particular focus on key objectives across the curriculum, especially in maths and English such as early number and phonics skills for young children.

Windows in all classrooms will be kept open to improve ventilation and learning will take place outside wherever possible. Children will take part in daily physical activity and one longer PE lesson per week - this will take place outside wherever possible. Children should therefore come to school in clothes (including suitable footwear) which allow for physical exercise each day.

### Will children get changed for PE?

No. Please ensure that your child wears clothes and shoes (ideally trainers or plimsolls) that allow for physical exercise every day and ensure that they wear jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts (weather permitting!) on the day they have a longer PE lesson.

### What will the Early Years curriculum look like in school?

We will deliver the learning and development requirements in the Early Years Curriculum.

- The Early Years garden will be divided so that Nursery and Reception have free-flow access to their own outdoor classroom every day. No other children will use this area.
- Children will continue to be supported and developed in a way which is appropriate to their age. There will be plenty of opportunities for children to learn through play inside and outside through a range of activities.
- There will be some messy play. This will be monitored for hygiene and regular hand washing will take place. Children from other bubbles will not share messy play resources.
- Story and rhyme times will still take place - children will take part in these activities in small groups within their bubble.

### Will home learning be provided for children who are not in school?

All children are expected to return to school on 8th March 2021. If your child is well but has been advised to self-isolate or shield, we will provide home learning - please see the last section of our Remote Learning Policy.

### How will the school provide continuity of education in the event of a local or national lockdown?

Should a local or national lockdown occur, the school is well placed to build on our previous good practice of remote learning. Please see our Remote Learning Policy on the school website for details. We will follow government advice and, if required, will remain open for vulnerable children and those of key workers.

### What will lunchtime and playtimes look like in school?

Our kitchen will be open as usual and hot meals will be available. Children will eat either in the hall in separate and distanced bubbles or in classrooms. Children will sit side-by-side rather than face-to-face.

**Nursery and Reception** will play and eat in their own indoor and outdoor classrooms. **Y1-Y6** bubbles will have staggered playtime and lunchtime play. Different parts of the playground will be allocated to

each bubble each day. Bubbles will be socially distanced from each other.

### **Will Breakfast Club and Play Club be available?**

Breakfast Club and Play Club will be open to families who need this service. Please contact the school office for more information.

### **Will drinking water be available to my child?**

Children must bring a refillable water bottle into school which they can refill during the school day. Please label this clearly with your child's name. Children will keep their water bottle on their desk as well as taking it out to play and to the lunch hall. Please note that the playground fountain is not in use.

### **What can my child bring to school?**

Children should bring their packed lunch (where relevant) and a refillable water bottle in a bag. You can send your child in with a piece of fruit if you wish but fruit for Nursery to Year 2 is currently available in school. Children can also borrow and return reading books. Please ensure that children's bags are as small as possible to support us with storing these during the school day (e.g. a school book bag or something similar in size rather than a bulky rucksack).

Please do not send anything else into school with your child. If you are concerned that a very young or SEND child needs a favourite toy to support transition, please discuss this with Christine or Ali - the toy would need to be easily washed/wiped down by staff.

### **Can my child bring birthday treats in to share with their classmates**

We would prefer it if you did not send any birthday food treats into school with your child at this time. If you would like to provide a treat, you could donate a book to your child's class.

If you cannot resist bringing in a food treat, please send in individually wrapped cakes only. No party bags please.

### **Where can I find further guidance?**

Government guidance for parents/carers can be found here: [Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Thank you for supporting us in ensuring the smooth running of the school and safety of all members of our community.