



Mere Green Primary School

Mere Green Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 5BL

Tel: 0121 308 1384

www.meregrn.bham.sch.uk Email: admin@meregrn.bham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Kristal Brookes

Deputy Head: Sean Boyd

'Making a Difference'

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Mere Green Family,

We are so excited to be able to welcome all of our children back into school on Monday morning. Understandably, many of the children may be feeling apprehensive about returning as they have been away from school for over 10 weeks. We fully understand this and that is why the focus in school next week is centred around the personal, social and emotional health of all our children. We want our children to feel happy and secure and enjoy meeting back up with their friends.

Staggered Start/End Times

Please see a reminder of staggered start and finishing times from next week:

Start of Day

Year Group	Time	Entrance	Drop off Location
Nursery	8.30am	Pedestrian Gate Mere Green Road	Nursery Doors (via the Reception Playground)
Reception	8.40am	Pedestrian Gate Mere Green Road	RTH - Reception Doors (via the ramp) RM - Reception Doors (via the Reception Playground)
Year 1	8.45am	Pedestrian Gate Mere Green Road	KS1 Doors
Year 2	8.50am	Pedestrian Gate Mere Green Road	Classroom Doors
Years 3 & 5	8.45am	Car Exit Gates	Fire Exits (front of school)
Years 4 & 6	8.50am	Car Exit Gates	Fire Exits (front of school)

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CEO Richard Gill NPQH, NLE, FRSA



End of Day

Year Group	Time	Entrance	Drop off location
Nursery	3.00pm	Pedestrian Gate Mere Green Road	Nursery Doors (via the Reception Playground)
Reception	2.55pm	Pedestrian Gate Mere Green Road	RTH - Reception Doors (via the ramp) RM - Reception Doors (via the Reception Playground)
Year 1	3.00pm	Pedestrian Gate Mere Green Road	1B - KS1 Playground 1WB - KS1 Door
Year 2	3.05pm	Pedestrian Gate Mere Green Road	Classroom Doors
Years 3 & 5	3.00pm	Car Exit Gates	Fire Exits (front of school)
Years 4 & 6	3.05pm	Car Exit Gates	Fire Exits (front of school)

New School Website

The new school website is now live. Please take a look at the new website and let us know what you think about it. We will upload even more information over the coming weeks, including information about our curriculum and wider school offer. All letters will be loaded along with events and term dates.

Uniform/PE Kits

Children are expected to wear their full school uniform from Monday. As part of our risk assessment windows will be open all day for extra ventilation. The children may want to wear extra layers subject to the weather. You will be informed of PE days at the start of next week. On PE days children should wear full school uniform and bring their PE kit into school in a bag. We no longer require the children to wear their PE kit all day.

School Gates

The school parking gates have now been fixed and will be closed at all times. Just a reminder that you should only park on the school site if you need disabled access. Thank you for your support with this.

Please have a restful weekend and remember, as always, we are here to support. See you all on Monday morning.

Mr Boyd & Mrs Brookes



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A message from Ranjan Hoath, our Pastoral lead:

We are really looking forward to the children returning to school on Monday 8th March. At Mere Green, we appreciate that some children may be a little anxious, worried or even frightened of returning as it has been such a long time since they may have seen their friends or teachers in person, and not via zoom calls.

As a talking point and to help prepare them for the return, we would like the children to take part in a home to class activity entitled:

Our Circle of Friendship

We would like the children to draw around their hands, decorate these with craft materials of their choice, cut them out and bring them in to school on Monday. Their teachers can then display their 'handiwork' 🖐️ in a circle of friendship display - reuniting all the children in their class.



Whilst the children carry out the activity, this may be a good time to talk to your child about any fears or anxieties they may have about returning.

Here are some tips from the Young Minds Helpline on how you can support your child to transition back to school life:

1. Talk to your child about how they are feeling about going back to school and try not to make assumptions. Ask them if they are worried or feel scared about anything, but also if they are excited about or looking forward to something. No matter how your child feels, let them know that it is completely normal to feel a mixture of emotions and that everyone will be in the same boat.
2. Provide your child with as much information about their new routine and school day as you can. This will help them to prepare for any changes that have been

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made to the timings of their day, the layout of their classroom, their peer groups and playtimes.

3. Reassure your child. During the lockdown we have been told to stay at home, remain socially distant from others and wash our hands regularly. This means children may find it difficult to go back to school because it will be a huge change from what they have been asked to do during the pandemic. Talk with your child about ways they can stay safe at school, such as washing their hands before and after eating, and reassure them that the school are putting measures in place to keep them safe.
4. Re-establish a routine to help ease into school life. During lockdown it is understandable that your family's routine may have changed. Children are likely to have been waking up later or going to bed later. To help them get ready for school, try to gradually get them back into their usual morning and bedtime routines as they get closer to their return date.
5. Don't put pressure on yourself. The transition back into school is likely to take some time. Lots of children will experience ups and downs. Try your best to support, reassure and comfort them, without putting pressure on yourself to make sure their homework is done or they settle into a new routine straightaway.
6. Think ahead. As well as reflecting on what has happened during the past few weeks, it is important to help children develop hope and a sense of excitement for the future. At a time like this, it can be hard to feel positive, but identifying the things that they can look forward to will help them to realise that the current situation won't last forever and their feelings will change.

Seek support if you need it. Transitioning back to school after being in lockdown is no easy task. You may find that your child struggles to get back into school or experiences difficulties while they're at school. If this is the case, reach out to your child's school as soon as you can so that you can make them aware of the challenges and work together to support.

At Mere Green, we have a friendly and helpful pastoral department. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns and we will be happy to help – pastoral@meregrn.bham.sch.uk