



*“Be Brave, Be Bright and Be YOU!”*



**Monkway  
Junior School**

## Autumn Term 1<sup>st</sup> Half Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents, Carers & Pupils

Welcome back to the new school year 2020/2021. This is an unusual welcome back letter as it has been such a long time that we will have had a school full of children and staff. Are you excited, scared, worried, happy or a mixture of all and more emotions? I know I am simply because we have never had a situation like this before. However I want to reassure you that I and other staff in school have been busy making sure that school will be as safe but as always as enjoyable as possible. There will be changes like there have been everywhere but we will embrace those changes and make sure we continue to be a place where children can- Be Brave, Be Bright and Be You!.

### The School Day

#### ➤ Start time

We would like you to bring your child to school at the following time so that we can follow Government guidance to reduce the number of adults gathering at any one time and to reflect the change of safety emphasis from social distancing to reducing social interaction between people. We decided on the earlier time for the older children as they know the school building and will hopefully access and clear the yard quickly, in order for the younger pupils to come in. If you have children who are in year groups with different start times please come altogether for the 8.55am-9.10am slot.

- Year 5 (Mrs Harker) & Year 6 (Miss Styles)--Start time will be between 8.55am – 9.10am.
- Year 3 (Mrs Hodgson) & Year 4 (Mrs Willis & Mrs Johnston)--Start time will be between 9.15 -9.30am.

These times may change as we see how things go but we will inform you. Some people have asked about Breakfast Club which unfortunately will not be able to run as we are trying to keep Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6 as separate bubbles/groups ( therefore we will have 2 bubbles) and in breakfast club they would mix.

#### ➤ Registering your child

We would like all children and Parents/Carers to stand on a small circle/dot we have had painted on the yard on the Ginns to Kells side of school. These have been painted so that they are 2 metres apart, please can all members of the same family stand together around the same circle. Staff will come out to you to take the children into class. This is one

of the reasons we are unable to offer an earlier start as there needs to be another member of staff in class waiting for the children, to make sure the children are supervised to follow the new routines. In these first few days we will be asking you the following:

1. Is the phone number we have for you on our system still relevant?
2. How did you come to school today, walk, bus, car?
3. How is your child getting home, are you meeting them on the yard, is an adult waiting for them at the top of the hill, which hill are you waiting at for them, are they going on the bus?

➤ In class

All children will be given a seat and a folder with their own equipment they will not be able to wander around the classroom or share any equipment. Please do not send into school any bags or pencil cases. The furniture and equipment will be wiped down regularly throughout the day, as part of our increased cleaning routines in school. The children will be regularly asked to wash their hands throughout the day, we are lucky in that every class room has a sink and for areas that don't we have hand sanitiser.

➤ Playtimes

We will have separate playtimes for our 2 bubbles/groups. One class will play on the top yard the other on the football yard. We will rotate the children so that they play on both yards.

➤ Lunchtime

We have reduced our lunch time and will have 2 separate sittings so that the tables and chairs can be wiped down between sessions. Please can packed lunch children make sure their lunch is in a box or bag that can be wiped down. For those who pay for lunch please continue to put the correct money £11.00 per week in an envelope with your child's name on and bring into school on a Monday.

➤ Uniform

School uniform should be worn as normal. Children must have a coat.

➤ PE

You will be informed when your child will be doing PE once we return to school. On their PE day **only** they should wear their school PE kit- grey tracksuit bottoms, grey sweatshirt or hoodie, white t-shirt and trainers to school instead of their school uniform. The PE session will have to be outside as our hall is not big enough to accommodate our class sizes. It will only take place if the weather is suitable.

➤ Water bottle

All children should bring a bottle of water with them to school. We will not be able to refill it as all the water fountains have to be taken out of use. This bottle should have their name on to make sure they don't get mixed up. The children will be taught how to wipe down their bottle at the beginning and end of the school day.

➤ Homework

We will write to you at the start of the term to explain how we will set homework. We have to reduce the amount of equipment that goes between home and school so we will write in more detail how we intend to do this.

➤ End of the day

I would strongly advise you meet your child by coming into the yard and standing on one of the circles. The timings are staggered and those with more than one child at school please come at the earlier time. Your child will be brought out to you in the yard so please make sure your child knows where you will be standing. If it is impossible for you to meet your child on the yard please make sure your child knows which hill they are walking up and who will be waiting for them at the top, e.g. you, grandparent, auntie, uncle.

Groups of children walking home alone I don't think would look favourable to the Community.

- Year 5 (Mrs Harker) & Year 6 (Miss Styles)--Finish time will be between **2.45 – 2.55pm.**
- Year 3 (Mrs Hodgson) & Year 4 (Mrs Willis & Mrs Johnston)--Finish time will be between **3.00-3.15pm**

➤ Service bus

I have contacted Stagecoach who have replied with the following information. The bus service the children used will be operating as normal. For those children using cash Stagecoach will be reinstating giving change from September 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to the age of our children face coverings/masks are down to personal choice of Parents/Carers, children must have a small plastic bag to store them in once they come into school if they wear them. Children should get off the bus and stand on a circle in the playground. At the end of the day the children will be taken and kept apart as much as possible to wait for the bus. They will remain in the school area if they are the earlier finishing time. If you have alternative transport then I would advise you to use that as the bus is used by other members of the public.

### **Communication between school and home**

We all return to school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. It is vital that we have the most up-to-date information about your child. If you move, change phone numbers, have different contacts for your child we must be informed immediately. We will contact you if your child is ill.

If you have any questions before then please either contact your child's class teacher via Dojo or myself via email – [head@monkwearay.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@monkwearay.cumbria.sch.uk). Once we return to school please be aware that we will only see Parents/Carers if you have an appointment. If you need to get in touch with school between 8.30am-3.30pm please phone 01946 696790. This number has the option of leaving a message and is checked. After 3.30pm please feel free to continue to use Class Dojo to ask any queries through your child's class teacher. They will be answered until 5.30pm after this time you will not receive an answer until the following school day. Please remember that all staff are teaching all day and we are having to cover additional playtime duties with the children having separate playtimes so may not be able to contact you.

We will not be sending out paper copies so please check that you have access to Class Dojo or Parentapp.

I hope this has helped you and we all look forward to seeing you next week.

Take care

Mrs Telford