

## OLDHAM COUNCIL



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Head teacher  
Mr M Roberts

Dear Parent/Carer,

### RE- September 2020, Full Opening of School

I write following the guidance released by the Government on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 regarding Full Opening of Schools from September 2020 (please see link below for specific details):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

### Transition and New Classes 2020/21

We are sorry that your child has been affected by the current situation. It has been a difficult time for all of us but we are conscious that the children will have missed out on lots of exciting events such as VE day celebrations, off site trips, in-school visitors, end-of- year events, seeing their friends and of course their in-school learning.

At about this time of year your child would usually get the opportunity to meet their 'new' teacher for the next school year and spent some time in their new classroom. Unfortunately (following Public Health England advice) we can not do this at present.

However, a separate letter is included in this pack that details your child's class teacher next year and the whole school staffing structure. Also included is an email address for all class teachers and key leadership personnel. If you have a specific question in regard next September please email the 'best person' contact to answer your query.

### 'Bubbles'

I am sure you will have heard the Government/ new broadcasters use the term 'social bubble'. A 'bubble' in school is defined as a group of children who have a 'closer' physical 'relationship' i.e. they spend more time together in the same parts of the school, such as a classroom, dining hall or playground. **As all schools Nationally, Limehurst will be operating a 'bubble' system next school year.** The 'bubble' system is essential to identify 'close contacts' in the event of a positive test and will be used to inform *track and trace*, if required.

Details will be circulated shortly to parents/carers in this regard. However, I must stress to parents/carers now, the 'bubble' system will result in some significant changes to the how the school day operates both and the **start/finish** of the school day and **during** the school day.



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The 'bubble' system will require a slightly **earlier start time** for some pupils and a **slightly later finish time** for other pupils (based on school year, 2019/20). In addition, the 'window-of-time' for **school entry will be longer** and the window-of-time for **school exit (home time) will be longer**. If you have children in different year groups this will result in a longer waiting time to drop-off and collect. I ask in anticipation, **please be PATIENT**- school will be working to stringent guidelines to ensure the safety of the whole school community. The 'bubble' system will also be used to organise playtimes and lunchtimes. Again, I must inform parents/carers that this will affect how school lunches are served including whether it is a hot or cold (packed lunch) meal.

### The School Curriculum

The school curriculum (age specific) will be modified substantially in the autumn term. Pupils' will be assessed upon school return to inform any necessary changes. It may mean that some subjects are 'suspended' until after Christmas to focus on early reading and phonics, writing and mathematics.

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is suspended until after the October half term and then to be reviewed. Unfortunately, the 'bubble' system is not supported by having multiple age groups in the same area/proximity. In addition, the hall will be used for alternative school entry points, as described previously. **I re-iterate, there will be no breakfast club provision until after the October half term (at the earliest and to be reviewed).**

### School Uniform

The school uniform policy has been relaxed to children of key workers and vulnerable pupils over the period of school closure to most children. However, from September, **pupils must return to school wearing Limehurst school uniform** (as endorsed by the Government/ Department for Education)

### School Attendance

School attendance will again be mandatory in September. School has been instructed to 'follow up' on any and every pupil absence. The Local Authority (in liaison with school) will once again be issuing **warning notices** and **fixed penalty fines** where applicable, as directed by the Department for Education.

Further information for parents/carers from the DfE re- whole school return in September:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

We hope you have an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing everyone back in September. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

**M Roberts**  
Head teacher



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