



# MELLOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Company Number 7737398

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As I sat having my lunch yesterday with the children of our key worker families, an infectious giggle echoed in the room as one of our younger children filled the space with smiles. Each day I miss the life that our children bring to our school, and the very thing that makes a school community so special; we all want to be back.

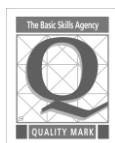
Since the Prime Minister's speech on Sunday and my letter to you all on Monday, you will have heard much deliberation and discussion about the Government's guidance to schools to help build a pathway to recovery. We must now proceed with care considering each step. School staff, Trustees and parents had hoped the guidance would give clarity to enable school leaders to manage our return with a clear understanding and greater confidence for the safety of all our children and school community.

Sadly, whilst the guidance is extensive and there are some helpful aid memoirs to support decision making, you will have perhaps heard that Osama Rahman, the Chief Science Officer for the DfE hadn't made an assessment on how effectively the guidance could be implemented, nor had it been signed off by Public Health England collectively. There are still many unanswered questions at local level and as such the holiday period and a return date of 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Subsequently, we all have thoughts on what is the best thing to do. It is the responsibility for the Government to make it clear to all of us, as how safe it is to return to school and engage in elements of public life. My job, with support from Ms. Parkin, the Mellor Team, Trustees and you, is to create a plan that helps us rebuild our school community with the understanding that we can't eradicate risk, only minimise it with the resources that we have.

It is vital that we all understand that as we create the Mellor offer, every school will be different due to its unique community and circumstances. The number of available staff, classroom sizes and distribution of children, will all affect what we can do. What is certain is that if we phase return back to school with the current recommendations around social distancing, it will not be possible for the children to experience school the way it used to be.

The children will be organised into what the Government are calling 'bubbles', meaning groups of no more than 15 children and an adult. The class teacher can only be in one 'bubble' and the 'bubbles' cannot mix. Therefore the adult with the children may not be the familiar class teacher.



Group dynamics will be fixed for the foreseeable future; children may not be with their closest friends. There will be little opportunity for social interaction, no holding hands, no games of tig or football: there will be no sitting around in groups in the summer sun or in the shade having chats with friends. It is most likely that meals will be eaten in classrooms at separate tables and the timings of the school day may be different; for example a week on, a week off rota for different groups to attend. In particular our children won't have access to the practical resources they would normally use e.g. small world play and construction in order to avoid the potential spread of the infection. Young children learn by touching, doing and being with others, sharing and collaborating, all of which will be limited as far as possible.

Meanwhile we receive updates and changes from the Government making preparations a challenge; even last night we received more guidance. These changes and our potential plans will also cause additional issues for you as parents and carers, as you try to reorganise your daily routines and work patterns.

Whatever form of offer we create, it will have been created by bringing together as much information as we can gather, considering the best advice we can receive and placing as much emphasis upon the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone in the school.

In order to help us create a recovery plan, I ask of you as parents to complete the survey below for each of your children by clicking the relevant links. This will help us determine how the return can be organised and the numbers we are working with.

Please be mindful that it is YOUR choice for your children to return and there will be NO penalties for non-attendance. This is a very personal decision and no-one should feel pressurised or guilty for their individual responses. Your circumstances and thoughts are all valued and respected.

We are entrusted with your most treasured family members and we will do our utmost to make this work. I will share with you as soon as possible our offer for return.

With the very best of wishes.



J E Nicholson

### **Survey Links**

**Nursery:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8NRG2TB>

**Reception:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8356PQ6>

**Year 1:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/83SDQQG>

**Year 2:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8GWJ3DT>

**Year 3:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8BYDYP3>

**Year 4:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8B3X583>

**Year 5:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8H7W6ZB>

**Year 6:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8HTBS7F>