

Mengham Junior School

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20th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you to let you know the adjustments that will be in place from September. During the past 18 months, we have been required to do make many changes to our practice in order reduce the transmission of COVID-19. However, with the removal of the majority of the national COVID-19 restrictions, we are in many ways able to revert back to school life pre-pandemic. One of the upsides of this is we have tried things that we wouldn't have tried otherwise. Some of our changes we would like to keep.

The main changes are as follows:

- **1 start time – 8:50am.** The children need to arrive in the 10-minute window before this. On arrival they should go straight into class. If they are making their own way to school, please try to make sure they don't arrive before 8:40am as they will not be supervised at this time. The pupil gates will be closed at 8:50am. If they arrive after this time they should go through the front office and will be marked in as late.
- **No more one-way system.** We are still going to use the big playground for lower school drop off/collection and the small playground for upper school drop off/collection. You no longer need to make your way around the back of the building.
- **The carpark by the allotment remains shut.** Traffic not moving here at the start and end of the day has greatly improved safety. We would encourage pedestrians to use the footpath and cyclists to enter and exit via the big gates.
- **You may now enter the front office.** Please be mindful of how many people are in there and not crowd others. As always, there will be members of staff around outside should you need to talk about anything more general.
- **The school will no longer be split into separate 'bubbles'.** Whilst most of the time children will be working in their year groups, as the year progresses we will be able to do things as a whole school and staff will be able to work more closely across year teams. Assemblies will be in person instead of via video link.
- **Break times will remain in year groups but lunch time will be mixed.** Please see the shape of the day timetable. We will be trialling having lunch with a staggered start, giving children the chance to mix with other year groups whilst also benefiting from having some time when it is quieter as well.

At Mengham Junior School we strive to be successful learners, healthy and confident individuals, responsible members of our community



The following measures will still be in place to reduce the chance of virus transmission within school:

- **Self-Isolation and testing.** In the event of a child or member of staff having symptoms of COVID-19 they will be required to self-isolate and get a test.
- **Cooperation with NHS test and trace.** The guidance has changed so that a positive case does not result in whole year closures. However close contacts will be contacted by test and trace and asked to get a PCR test before returning to school.
- **Increased cleaning.** Cleaning routines will remain higher than pre-pandemic, with an emphasis on touch points.
- **Regular hand washing.** We will continue to be asking children and staff to wash or sanitise their hands at key points in the day.
- **Ventilation.** We will continue to make sure that open windows/doors allow fresh air to circulate around the school.

These plans are very much subject to change. The summer ahead of us will determine if the current plan for schools remains the same. We will keep up-to-date with the latest guidance, adjust plans if needed and let you know of any changes.

The first day in school for children in the Autumn term is **Thursday 2nd September**. This may be different to other local schools. For more key dates next year please see:

<https://www.menghamjunior.co.uk/parents/dates/>

We hope you have a lovely summer and look forward to seeing everyone back in the new term.

Best wishes,

Odele Davies and Edward Harrison
Co-Headteachers

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Additional details

Drop off and collection

The one-way system will no longer be in place. You can enter the school grounds via the main gate or the gate leading to the Legion field. The allotment carpark will be fenced off at the end to make it safe for pedestrians. From experience, we know that driving down this road causes many difficulties and frustrations. **Please do not try and drive down Palmerston Road to park at the start and end of the day as you will not be allowed access into the allotment area, there is also very rarely a single space in the road leading up to the carpark.** This is for the safety of all pupils and parents/carers. If you must drive to school, please park in the Legion carpark and enter through the Legion gate. Disabled blue badge holders please contact the school should you need to have access for parking.

Parent waiting areas

At drop off and collection, please only wait in one of the parent waiting areas (see map). Please do not enter the building through any of the side doors. If the person you wish to speak to is not outside then please go into the building at the front and speak to the office.

New year 3s

In the first week, both year 3 teachers will be outside to meet and greet the children. After this there will be just one member of the lower school team outside who will be able to relay any messages to teachers.

One of the big changes from infant school, is that different children have different arrangements for pick up. Parents choose whether to meet their children at the main pick up point, at an agreed location outside the school grounds or even at home. **However, for the first term, children in year 3 will only be directly handed over to an adult or older sibling.** After this, we will continue to do a direct hand over unless given permission to release them independently.

Year 4, 5 and 6

We will transfer over the options you selected this year for dismissal at the end of the day:

- A. My child can be dismissed from the classroom and will make their way to the arranged meeting point either inside or outside the school grounds.
- B. My child will go to the main pick up point with the class teacher and a direct handover to a recognised adult will take place.

If you want to change this for next year then please contact the school.

Unaccompanied pupils

Those children who are allowed to walk on their own, please ensure they know what to do in the event that the person they are meeting is not at the designated place.

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Breakfast club

Breakfast club will be running as before (from 7:30am). We are continuing to run this in the main hall. Children should enter the school through the front office.

<https://menghamjunior.co.uk/for-parents/breakfast-club>

P.E. Kits

We will be returning to children changing into P.E. kits in school on P.E. days. Please send their P.E. kit into school at the start of term in a suitable, named bag.

- P.E. T-shirt (with logo) in house team colour
- Black shorts (cycling shorts acceptable for girls)
- Black plimsolls or trainers (for outdoor P.E.)
- A tracksuit can be worn outside in cold weather

Uniform

- Black trousers, shorts or black skirt
- Summer dress (red and white check)
- Red or white polo shirt (with school logo or plain)
- Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan (with school logo or plain)
- Black shoes (black leather trainers are acceptable but not trainers in other colours)

There is a link to order uniform on our website:

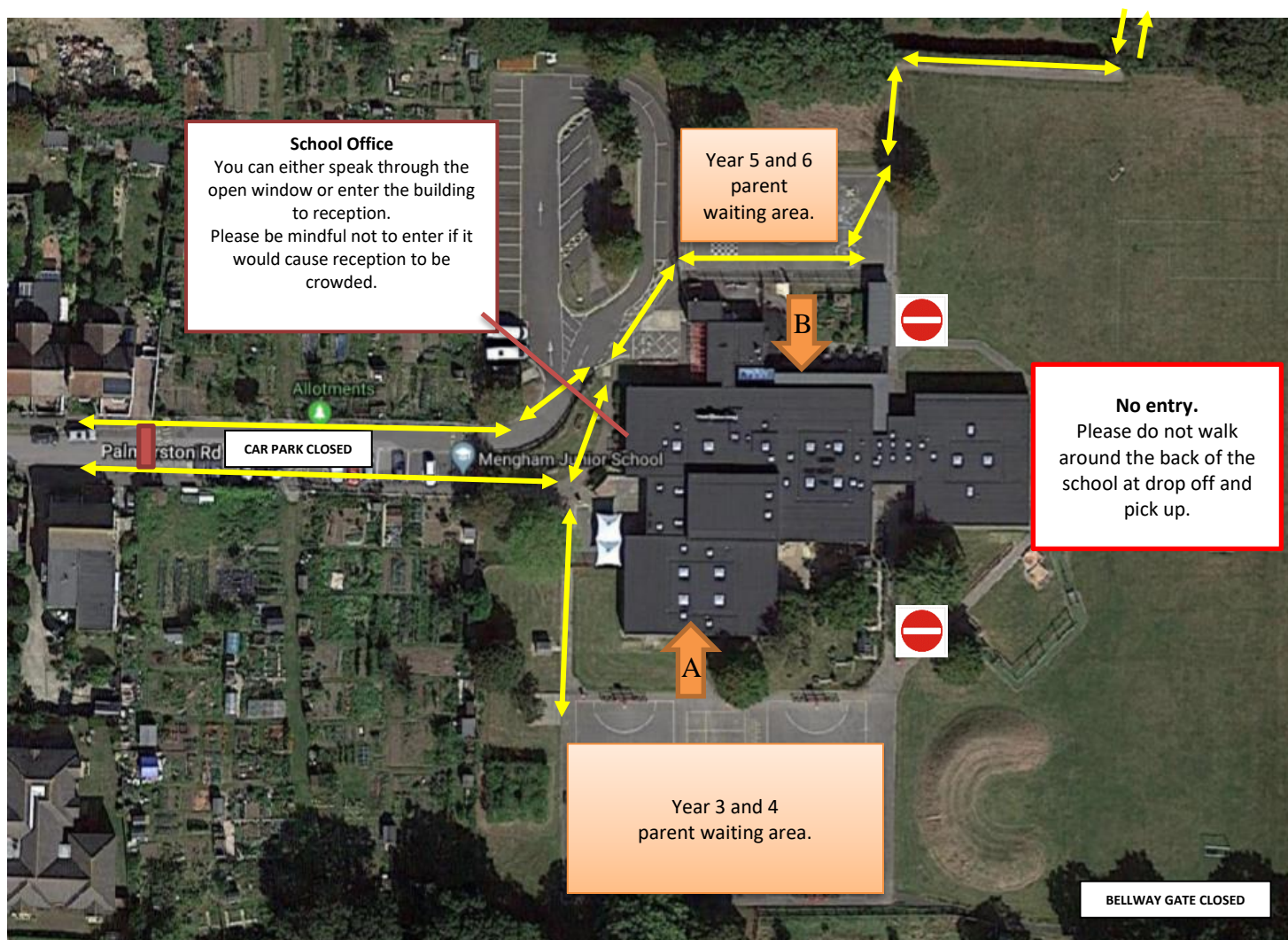
<https://www.menghamjunior.co.uk/parents/uniform-info/>



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Drop off and collection map



Arrow A – Year 3 and 4 pupils will enter and exit through this door (normal entrance to lower school).

Arrow B – Year 5 and 6 pupils will enter and exit through this door (outdoor classroom/school allotment door).

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