



26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Families,

I do hope that you have felt that our first three weeks back with the children have been successful. We have absolutely loved having the children back and the children have loved seeing their classrooms back in 'top shape' and of course all of the staff. Attendance has been excellent and so has their energy. We know that this sustained hard work from now on will pay off, as we begin to close those emotional and learning gaps. Thank you for being so positive about the children's return back with us.

Communication has always been frequent and transparent and this has always been my intention. I have always made it very clear that we are working within the Governments Guidance, with a very detailed risk assessment that guides our practices. We know that the operational direction of the school is not quite as it was but it will be, as soon as the Government eases the social distancing expectations and our children are free from working in year group 'bubbles'. It is just not possible to resume our usual working practices, if we consider the below expectation:

### **The Schools coronavirus (covid-19) operational guidance (March 2021)**

#### **Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible**

*Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This is important in all contexts, and you must consider how to implement this. You must do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between pupils and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals.*

Even though lockdown restrictions are easing with an expected road map detailed by the Government, the expectation to remain in year group 'bubbles' remains the same for now. I will always keep you abreast of any changes, as and when they are agreed.

**What we will be able to offer is an After School Club provision** from the summer term to many of our working families. Your confirmation of an After School Club place will be sent to you today.

We will also be able to resume some of our Extra Curricular activities to children working within the same year group 'bubbles' too.

#### **Fabulous attendance**

35 (out of 44) Merton primary schools have reported their pupil attendance figures ranging from 60.6% to 98% and 29 out of the 35 reported attendance higher than 90%. The national average on the 18<sup>th</sup> March was 93% and ours here at Lonesome at the end of last week was 95.7%. This has pleased me greatly, knowing that the children are well enough to be in school and obviously very happy to be back.





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### Lunchtime Arrangements

From Tuesday 20th April 2021, we will be offering a hot lunch to our Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children at £2.18 via parentpay. This will be from a Monday-Thursday option at the moment. Please provide your child with a packed lunch on a Friday or request one from school if you so wish.

All children in Reception to Year Two will still be able to access the universal free school meal scheme and are entitled to a packed lunch that the kitchen team will prepare, if you so desire. As the weather warms up, we hope to enjoy some packed lunch eating outside. Fingers crossed for a warm spring.

### Easter Bunny Bonnet Parade

The Easter Bunny Bonnet parade was an overwhelming success. The children loved parading and posing down the catwalk and welcomed the achievement of an Easter certificate to thank them for their beautiful creations.



### Little reminders for you

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**– Display your 'virtual' Easter Egg in your window and email [lsearle@singlegate.merton.sch.uk](mailto:lsearle@singlegate.merton.sch.uk) your location.

On **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021** do get your walking shoes on and take a tour of your local area. Make a note of the street name and number displaying any 'virtual' Easter Eggs. If you can find 10 Easter Eggs and complete the grid, email it to [lsearle@singlegate.merton.sch.uk](mailto:lsearle@singlegate.merton.sch.uk) and you will win an Easter 'Tweat' from us! All grids must be emailed by **3.00 pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.



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**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – confirmation of your child's Mathematics classteacher (Years 1-6) in preparation for our Mathematics 'recovery' programme.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021** at the usual staggered time is the last day of the spring term and we welcome all children back on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021**.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Bull  
Chief Executive Headteacher



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