

Mount Pleasant Extra!

Newsletter 19th June 2020

Reopening measures and guidelines

I am delighted to have the children and staff back in school and to, once again, see some great learning happening within school itself!

Across school, both staff and children have settled well into our new routines. We are successfully maintaining our class bubbles and the measures put in place to allow us to open and to keep us all safe.

I am aware that restrictions continue to ease across BFSAI, however, at school level, we are unable to reduce our measures without further UK Trade Union consultation. Due to the timescales involved, my focus is now on ensuring that we consult with the TUs in order to open in September with limited, or no, restrictions in place.

Until the end of term, measures will remain the same, including class bubbles, school hours, cleaning and hygiene measures, dropoff and pick-up arrangements. The timetable has been amended slightly to provide a lunchtime play, as well as a morning play, for each class. However class bubbles will be maintained.

Leave

We are aware that, over the next academic year, there may be times when off-island leave, or subsequent SFA isolation, periods may have to be taken during school term time. Please continue to keep us informed, in advance where possible, of any term time absences. I am also looking at ways in which I can ensure that my staff are able to take their summer leave entitlement off-island. However this will not impact on our last day of term in July or our opening date in September—they remain the same.

Home Learning

We would like to reassure you that, when children are in isolation, in their SFA, during term-time, we will provide some home learning support.

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School organisation

Now that we have a good understanding of our class numbers for September, we will be making some changes to how we use our rooms. We will be relocating some classes for September, giving us EYFS, KS1, Y3/4 and Y5/6 classrooms, alongside separate EYFS, KS1 and KS2 Intervention rooms. We aim to ensure that each class has access to the correct space and resources in order to provide the most successful learning environments.

Transition

Although transition will be undertaken differently this year, due to the restrictions in place, we will do all that we can to ensure that children are familiar with who they will be working with and where they will be based. We anticipate that transition will be a key part of teaching and learning throughout September.

School Term Dates

Due to the current situation, we are currently reassessing our holiday dates for 2020/2021, in liaison with DCYP and BFSAI. We will send out confirmed dates as soon as possible. We will still reopen to children on Wednesday 2nd September as planned.

Staffing

As you may know, my family and I are due to leave here next year. We now know that we are going to Brunei in Spring 2021, where I will take over as Deputy Head Teacher at the large MOD School there. DCYP are currently advertising for my replacement and I will keep you informed of any developments. Until then, I look forward to working with you all, and continuing our school improvement journey.

Have a good weekend!

Louise Brown