



# MANOR PARK CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

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Inspiring all to learn and grow 

6th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may be aware from your children, we are now having year group playtimes outside during break time and lunch time. (i.e. all 3 year group bubbles playing together in one space). We realise that with more and more Dorset schools partially closing due to cases of Covid-19, it may seem strange that we have just started to allow the children to play together outside as a year group. However, we have read advice from DfE and PHE whilst in addition sought advice from County, and have been reassured that due to the size of the space, that it is for a limited amount of time during the day and the fact that it is outdoors, means that it is highly unlikely that the children are at risk from this situation. Furthermore, if the weather doesn't allow for outside play, classes will remain indoors in their class bubbles and no mixing will take place. We have taken this decision to improve the wellbeing of both the children and the staff. This was agreed at a recent Governor Meeting after discussion regarding the guidance and our school risk assessment. Many children are missing friends and/or relatives who are not in their current class and this is a great opportunity for them to enjoy some quality time with these children and maintain these relationships.

The Government guidance has always allowed schools to decide on the size of the bubbles that the children operate in and has always made it clear that even if class bubbles are used, mixing across these bubbles is allowed to happen if there is a good reason for it e.g. specialist teaching, interventions, wellbeing etc and this is already happening to some degree where it is felt that it will be of benefit to the children.

Could we also please take this opportunity to ask that you continue to follow Government social distancing guidance and 'Rule of 6' outside of school as this will also help to minimise the risk of Covid being brought into school and will help to keep our school open.

Attached is a copy of the flow chart that is guidance to schools from Public Health England which we hope will support you in knowing the process we will follow if a case is suspected or confirmed. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Pallister  
Headteacher

