



Phased Reopening 1st June 2020

A Guide for Parents/Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hope you are all ok and not getting too overwhelmed with the amount of information you are having to digest. We are aware that it is a lot to take in at the moment so we are trying to space it out whilst also trying to work effectively towards the 1st June 2020 deadline. There's a lot to read this time round so please take your time. It might not sound like one of our normal letters with lots of '*dos and don'ts*' to take on board but I am sure you can appreciate why this is necessary.

Preamble:

Following on from my letter last week, please find further information below with regards to the phased reopening of school for FS2, Y1 and Y6 from 1st June 2020. Thank you for your responses so far to our survey about reopening (update 15.5.2020). If you have not already done so, and you have a child in these years, please ensure you have filled in your survey by 4pm Wednesday 20th May. I appreciate that some of you will have been waiting for this letter before making your decision.

Purpose of this letter:

The purpose of this letter is to give you as much detail as possible regarding our reopening and measures being put in place for staff, pupils, and parents/carers. This, along with the risk assessment, has been completed with the Local Authority, the Senior Leadership Team/Site Management Team, the Governing Board and our contracted Health and Safety Officers. As stated last week, it will hopefully provide you with enough answers to make an informed decision.

Please understand that the arrangements proposed for Markeaton may differ from other schools so it is not advisable to compare. Each school has different phases of education and constraints in terms of staffing and accommodation and we are all planning for the wellbeing of our own schools and our own situations. We are also aware of the need to be flexible and allow room for change as the situation with Covid19 evolves.

What we propose from 1st June:

- Markeaton will reopen on a rota system for pupils in FS2, Y1 and Y6 (this means that not all of the children will be coming back at the same time, as per the letter sent last week)
- Markeaton plans to have class sizes no larger than 10 (subject to change)
- One half of the school (approx. 90 children) to attend Mondays and Tuesdays; the other half of the school (approx. 90 children) to attend Thursdays and Fridays. We will be closed on Wednesdays for further cleaning.
- Staggered breaktimes and zoned areas for outdoor play (see attached timetable)
- Staggered pick up and drop off times for parents/carers (see attached timetable)
- Increased cleaning, as per the Government guidance
- A clear protocol in case staff or children show symptoms of Covid19
- A recovery curriculum designed to ease children back into school and focus on mental and physical wellbeing
- Care to remain in place Monday to Friday for critical worker children and vulnerable pupils (as per the Government definitions)
- Home Learning to remain in place for all other Markeaton children

For those who are thinking about sending your child back on 1st June, here are some points to consider.

Should I bring my child to school?

It is well known that there are mixed feelings around the Government's directive to reopen schools. Some will welcome the opportunity for their child(ren) to return, whilst others will be anxious and have concerns. I wish to emphasise that children are invited to return to school and be very clear that parents/carers need to make their own assessment. We cannot advise parents on their choice, but we will respect any decision to either send or not send a child. *At this time*, DfE (Department for Education) have confirmed that there is no intention to penalise or prosecute for non-attendance. If you are **not** intending to send your child to school for any reason, you must let the office know either via the [SurveyMonkey questionnaire](#), email or telephone call.

If you do decide to send your child to school:

- You must be on time. This is so important given that we will be trying to enforce a staggered timetable and reduce the number of people together at any one time.
- If your child is absent from school then you must inform school of their absence and the reason why via ParentMail or email only. Parents/carers will not be allowed on to the school premises and therefore not in to the office.
- You will not be able to collect your child early or part way through the day unless we have contacted you otherwise.
- If you have chosen to not send your child to school on the 1st June you can change your mind but you must give school at least 48 hours' notice.

What will my child's day look like (including pick up and drop off times)?

Please see attached timetable.

How do I drop off and collect my child?

As the drop off and collection times are staggered we will be utilising a bespoke one way system for FS2, Y1 and Y6 children. For drop off, all children (plus no more than one adult) will enter the school via the car park entrance (not the pedestrian entrance you normally use). From there you will make your way round the clearly signed one way system towards the double gates on your left and there will be social distancing markers for you to follow. Here your child will see their teacher and make their way over to a safe, socially distanced area and go into school via their designated entrance and exit point (see timetable). And for collection, it will be the same but the other way round! In order to help understand this process we are going to try and make a short video that you can show to your children. We feel that once you have seen it and done it for the first time you will feel much better about it. Of course, outside the school gates and on Bromley Street we would ask you to adhere to the social distancing measures currently in effect.

What class will my child be in and what is a 'bubble'?

The Government guidance states that children should be in their own protective bubble. In school this basically means that they will do everything in their own small group; so as not to mix with other children/adults and increase the risk of any potential transmission. So, this will include things like:

- Always being in the same classroom
- Always using the same table, the same equipment (packs being prepared by staff) and keeping things like a coat on the back of their chair
- Always having the same space on a carpet which has been marked out
- Always having the same teaching staff (your child's teacher will be confirmed later in the week)
- Always eating and having breaks at the same designated time
- Playing in zoned areas (our grounds will be marked off accordingly)
- Being closely monitored so that the risk of coming into contact with a child from another bubble is low.

Please note, if numbers are low to begin with this does not mean we will put groups together to make the group sizes bigger. A scenario might be, for example, Group A in FS2 has four children, Group B in FS2 has three children and Group C in FS2 has nine children. **We will not put Group A and B together**. As time progresses and more children return to school we need to give ourselves the capacity for each group to increase whilst protecting the bubble.

Please also note that these protective bubbles will look slightly different in FS2 as children won't have their own desk and their environment is very different. Within the government guidance, evidence suggests that the younger children will find it difficult to socially distance and that is why it is so important to keep the children within their 'protective bubble'; with more emphasis on the adult being aware of their distance from the children. Continuous provision will be reduced in the amount of choice available, taking into account how easy it is to clean.

Where will my child be?

As we are on two floors it is possible for each year group (FS2, Y1 and Y6) to have their own set of toilets, thus reducing the risk of infection. The rooms that will be used are as follows:

- The 3 x FS2 groups will be in their normal classroom, but there will be dividers which split the room into three
- 2 x Y1 groups will be in Bromley House (where both Y1 classes currently are). The other Y1 class will be in the largest Y2 classroom on the main corridor (Mrs Smith's classroom)

- The 3 x Y6 groups will be upstairs in Miss Waller's classroom, Miss Hawley's classroom and Mrs Clayton's classroom (the three biggest classrooms)

What will my child be taught at school?

Last week we sent out a 'think piece' called the recovery curriculum. Although not a blueprint, it does offer some useful advice about what the children could be doing in the classroom upon their return. Staff are having training on this later in the week and will be working hard to create as many resources as possible. ***The most recent medical evidence suggest that the risk of transmission is lower outside. As such, we will be planning for as much outdoor learning as possible.***

Please note, the guidance states that pieces of paper should be used instead of normal class books and no work will be taken home by the teacher. If marking is needed then the children will do it themselves under the direction of the teacher. This is called self-assessment and it is something the children are used to and have done before.

What should my child wear?

Children will be asked to come in school uniform, however, we would ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

- Velcro or slip on shoes for any child that cannot fasten their laces (so that staff do not have to do it for them and therefore remain 2m apart)
- Younger children – if they have coat make sure they can fasten it up without help if needed. However, if the forecast is warm then please do not send a coat or jumper in with them as we are trying to reduce storing any items from home in school where possible.

What should my child bring?

- No unnecessary items should be brought to school – no bookbags, stationery, reading records or PE Kits
- Your child can bring a named water bottle into school
- If your child is having a packed lunch then make sure they can open/unwrap all items independently
- Parents/Carers will not be able to drop off items throughout the day if forgotten. If a child forgets to bring their packed lunch, school will provide the child with a packed lunch

What will happen at lunchtime?

- Children will have a slot in their small class 'bubble' groups to eat their lunch in designated areas (outside where possible).
- Packed lunches will be provided to all children entitled to a Free School Meal or children can bring in their own packed lunch; which they will keep with them at their desk area in their classroom.
- We will resume hot lunches as soon as we can safely do so but for now we feel that packed lunches lower the overall risk of transmission (no cutlery, plates etc and easy to dispose of waste).

Will the staff be wearing face masks or other PPE?

- Staff will have access to PPE should they want it. However, it is not a requirement as per the government guidance.
- That said, staff handling first aid and intimate care will use PPE in the usual manner with the addition of face protection. **There will be a clear first aid and intimate care protocol in place for staff to follow.**

What other safety measures are being put in place?

We have conducted a thorough Risk Assessment and it is available on our website in the [Coronavirus updates](#) section.

Here are some other measures we will be putting in place:

- Social distancing will be marked out, where applicable, in the playground, in classrooms and on the corridors.
- Robust handwashing will be encouraged throughout the day and where appropriate (staff and children). To help us with this, please show your child how to wash their hands properly using the [BBC video](#) and make sure they have washed their hands before coming to school in the morning. In school we will monitor this in an age appropriate way.
- Posters will be displayed by sinks to show how to effectively wash hands
- Staff and pupils encouraged to follow the Catch it, Kill it, Bin it protocol (with posters around school). Disposable tissue will be available in classrooms and staff areas and to be immediately disposed of following use
- Hand sanitiser will be available but should only be used where handwashing is not accessible; rather than as a general alternative to handwashing
- Classrooms will be ventilated as appropriate. Doors (where practical) will be propped open throughout the day to reduce contact with door handles. Fire considerations have been risk assessed around this.
- Staff will try to maintain a 2m distance, where practical, so they will not be able to closely interact with pupils regarding learning
- Children will be encouraged (as far as is possible) to keep a 2m distance from others. To help us with this, please talk to your child. The Gruffalo author and illustrator have created a series of [illustrations](#) which talks about social distancing and Covid19 in a child friendly way
- If we are using iPads or other equipment, they will be cleaned before and after use
- Only one child will be allowed in the toilets at any one time and this will be monitored by staff
- To begin with, there will be no 'whole-school' assemblies
- The school will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day and deep cleaned on a Wednesday
- Frequently touched surfaces throughout the school will be wiped down with antibacterial wipes and/or spray regularly

What happens if someone becomes unwell during the school day?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature at school, the parent will be called to collect them and they will be sent home. Parents will be advised to follow the COVID-19: [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, with appropriate adult supervision. A window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use

the disabled toilet, if possible. The bathroom will then be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

If my child is attending on 1st June 2020, what happens next?

For parents/carers of children eligible to attend school from 1st June, you will receive further details in due course including:

- The name(s) of the teacher(s) who will be teaching your child when they return
- What days your child will be in
- What the classroom and school might look like
- Ideas to support your child back to school
- Who to talk to at school if your child is worried

Other FAQs

Will my child be safe?

Safety is at the core of these plans and we will do all we can to mitigate risks of transmission of Covid 19 to staff and children. **However, as I am sure you understand, there is no guarantee that these steps will prevent infection to any individual.**

Our aim is to protect the staff and pupils from the virus and to limit any impact of it on staff, parents and children by applying three key strategies:

1. Significantly reducing group sizes.
2. Mitigating (where possible) contamination risks by restricting the contact between groups and individuals.
3. Extending regular cleaning opportunities to include periodic deep clean practices.

How can parents/carers help?

- Parents, under no circumstances, should send children to school if they or any member of the household have any symptoms indicating Covid19 or when they or any other person in the household are required to isolate for other reasons (including shielding for underlying health concerns). NHS England define symptoms as:
 1. Fever or high temperature (including 'hot to touch')
 2. New, persistent cough (three to four coughing sessions of around an hour duration within 24 hours)
 3. Loss of taste or smell

And finally,

We are always aware of the very important matter of wellbeing at Markeaton and this remains at the forefront of our minds. We remind every member of staff, every child and now we remind you, our Markeaton community, that these are unprecedented times and we are all doing the best we can given the information we have available. No decision is the wrong one if it is right for you and your family. We support everyone's choice and hope that school life can return to normality as soon as it is safe to do so.

Mr I. Johnson

Headteacher

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Governing Board