

Arrangements for September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by thanking you in advance on behalf of the governors and staff for your support during this challenging period and I assure you that the health and well-being of the children of Marsh Hill School is, and will continue to be, our first and foremost priority.

The Government announced on the 23rd June that all children are to return to school from the beginning of the autumn term. As you would expect, we are preparing for children to return to school full time on **Thursday 3rd September, 2020** and while drawing up our plans we will follow the advice provided by the Department of Education (DfE) and Public Health England. We will ensure that proportionate protective measures are in place to ensure that we minimise and manage any risks effectively.

Attendance Regulations

Full attendance for all pupils is mandatory from September and all children will be in full uniform. The ideal is still that children are in clean clothes every day if possible.

Grouping Pupils (Bubbles)

In order to prepare for all pupils to return full time from the start of the Autumn term, whilst ensuring that we assess risks and put relevant control measures in place, we will be splitting the school into year group 'bubbles' (groups). Maintaining distinct 'bubbles' (groups) or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it easier and quicker to identify staff and pupils who may need to self-isolate.

Year group consistent bubbles are an important element of the re-opening plan because it means that children will be able to access their full entitlement of the National Curriculum. Our bubbles will arrive/leave school at the same time, have playtimes and lunchtimes together, and classes within the year group bubbles will learn together.

As a result, we will take steps to limit interaction amongst different groups of children in school by the following means:

- At playtimes, children in each year group will have a separate and defined part of the playground to play in.
- At lunch times children will be following the 20, 20, 20 principle. This means children will have 20 minutes in the dining hall, 20 minutes in class doing an activity or activities of their choice and 20 minutes in the playground. This, again, is to minimise contact with other year groups and to avoid, as much as possible, year group bubbles being in too close contact in the dining hall or in the playground.

Hygiene

When arriving at school, children will use the class hand sanitiser and wash their hands before and after food, and after using the toilet.

- Children specifically taught good hygiene and reminded daily by staff and signage
- Children provided with their own learning resources
- Classroom tables wiped after each learning session and cleaned daily by cleaners
- Lunch tables wiped after each bubble has finished lunch
- A deep clean of the school will be undertaken during the last week of the summer holidays

Classroom Organisation

Pupils in Years 2 to 6 will sit at tables that face the front of the class – not in table groups. Videos showing the layout of how classrooms will look at the beginning of the autumn term is available on the school

Children will have class learning packs containing their own equipment (pens, pencils, rulers, pencil sharpener). Children will not be required or permitted to bring in their own pen, pencils, rulers etc. Learning packs will be disinfected by the class teacher/TA at lunchtime and at the end of the day



Curriculum

We are very excited to return to our full, broad and balanced curriculum. When we re-open the school to all pupils from September 2020, our high standards and ambition for all children to achieve to their full potential will be at the core of our teaching with a focus on the core skills.

We understand that the period of partial closure may not have been a positive experience for many pupils. Therefore, when pupils return, we will have a large focus on well-being and allow pupils to reconnect with peers, the learning environment and curriculum content.

Year 1 will have a period of transition moving from the EYFS curriculum to the National Curriculum, therefore will have a balanced curriculum of core subjects, outdoor learning and play based activities, they will not be facing forwards like Years 2-6.

Arrangements for the Start and End of School Day

At Marsh Hill, we value parents as partners and we know that you expect us to keep all our children safe. Where possible, please walk or cycle to school. If you do need to drive, please continue to park as normal in-line with the restrictions of Woolmore and Lindridge Road. We encourage only one parent/carer to bring/pick up children from school. Children are not to be sent downstairs from ks1 to ks2 or from ks2 to ks1. We are continuing with school being open to children from 8.40 a.m. as is currently the case. However, to minimise congestion at the end of the school day, we have decided in the best interests of all members of our school community to stagger our end of the day procedures.

Parents can show support during the return to school in the following ways:

Key stage 1:

- There will be one member of staff situated at both the Woolmore Road entrance and the Lindridge Road entrance at the beginning of each day. When you are dropping your child/children off at school, we would encourage you to see them into the playground through the school gates so that you can be assured that they are safely in school and then leave.
- At the end of the day, there will again be one member of staff situated at both the Woolmore Road and the Lindridge Road gates. Your child's class teacher will wait for the staff on the gates to call out the names of the children and then the class teacher will send your child to you via the staff member on the gate. We would encourage you to leave with your child straight away and avoid congregating with other parents in the immediate vicinity of the school.
- Year 1 and Year 2 children will enter the school building at the beginning of the day through the main doors that lead in from the KS1 playground.
- Year 1 will be dismissed from the KS1 playground doors at **3.05pm**, we ask for parents to wait in the KS1 playground and follow social distancing guidelines.
- Year 2 will be dismissed through the main hall door that opens out onto the KS1 playground at **3.10pm**, we ask for parents to wait in the playground and follow social distancing guidelines.

Key stage 2:

- Two members of staff will be at the Marsh Hill gate entrance; and two staff at the Woolmore Road entrance to welcome children into school at the beginning and end of the school day in order to minimise parents/carers entering the school grounds.
- When entering the school, the children (new) classes 3A, 5M, 6KC, 6C will enter the building through the door situated next to the staircase that leads down from the EYFS (Reception) playground into the ks2 part of the school.
- The children in (new) classes 3W, 4H, 4P, 5J will enter the building through the main ks2 doors that open up directly onto the ks2 playground.
- We encourage only one parent/carer to bring/pick up children from school. Children are not to be sent downstairs from ks1 to ks2 or from ks2 to ks1.
- Year 1 and Year 3 will be dismissed from the KS2 playground doors they entered in at **3.10pm**, we ask parents to wait in the KS1 playground and follow social distancing guidelines.
- Years 5 and Year 6 will be dismissed from the KS2 playground they entered in at at **3.15pm**, we ask for parents to wait in the KS1 playground and follow social distancing guidelines.

Before and After School Clubs Provision

As a school, we have taken the decision not to run any after school clubs during the autumn term. We will, however, still be running Breakfast Club from 8.10am, and we will be making provision for pupils who attend Breakfast Club to sit in their year group bubble.

Food Provision

The school kitchen will be fully open from the start of the autumn term and normal legal requirements will apply about provision of food to all pupils who want it, including for those eligible for benefits-related free school meals or universal infant free school meals.

We will not be in a position to offer toast at playtime – as we ordinarily do - and ask parents to send children in with a healthy snack instead and their own water bottle.

Logistics in school – Whole school:

- Assemblies: We will not be meeting in the hall for whole school assemblies or collective worship. However, we will be having year group assemblies as children are allowed to mix in their bubble.
- Class sizes: Thirty children will be in each class, as normal.
- P.E. and Sport will take place in class groups to maintain their health. Each class will have their own sports box, with equipment in it for their class only. Separate lunchtime games boxes will also be provided for class use. Sports equipment will be disinfected after each class' use. Swimming will not take place until further notice.
- Educational Visits will not will take place in the autumn term. Residential will not take place this academic year.

How parents can further reduce the risk of Infection

- Be punctual and follow the social distancing guidelines
- If your child displays **coughing, fever, loss of smell or taste** then they **MUST NOT** come to school. Instead get tested via [NHS UK](https://www.nhs.uk) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access where a test can be arranged for your child and family members.
- Children can return to school after a **negative test or 7 days isolation and no longer displaying symptoms**; siblings would have to isolate for 14 days.
- Parents/carers **cannot** use school toilets
- **Contact school about concerns only** by text, class e-mail, enquiry e-mail, website contact us or phone call; **NOT** via the office, unless it is an **EMERGENCY**

Safeguarding

Ensuring safeguarding arrangements remain effective while the school transitions to opening more widely is a key priority. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy was updated during the partial closure to include provisions for keeping pupils safe – we will continue to follow these procedures for the few pupils who may remain at home (i.e. due to shielding/self-isolation), where appropriate, until all pupils return to school. We will continue to ensure that if anyone in the school has a safeguarding concern about a pupil, they act immediately and that a DSL or deputy DSL is always available.

We would like to thank you for your understanding and assure you that we will keep you updated in regard to any recommendations issued by the DfE, other government agencies and/or Public Health England; and advise you of any changes to our procedures that these recommendations may result in.

Finally, I wish you a peaceful, relaxing summer break and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well on September 3rd 2020.

Best wishes,

John Cusack

