

# Maiden Beech Academy

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Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear parents and carers

## **IMPORTANT: Revised procedures from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

I hope you remain safe and well.

In line with the Government's roadmap to gradually remove the safety restraints introduced during the period of lockdown, I wanted to write to you before the half-term break to make you aware of some proposed changes to the day-to-day organisation and management of the school. The aim of these changes is to tentatively move back to further 'normality' before the close of what has been another extraordinary academic year.

A detailed plan has been uploaded to both the Parent Portal and Academy website should you require further information but, for quick reference, the headlines are:

- Our usual 'secondary approach' will be reintroduced for all year groups; the children will move around the school site from lesson to lesson rather than being taught in their tutor bases.
- All specialist teaching will take place in specialist classrooms. This means that Science lessons will be taught in the Science labs and Art in the Art Room. This will further improve the quality of provision we can offer in these subjects.
- Rather than the children be limited to a designated outside space, we will open up the site more and allow children in different year groups to have greater contact with one another. We believe that this will be beneficial for the children's emotional health and well-being.

The safety of both the staff and children remains of paramount importance; therefore, if any of the following scenarios occur, we will re-implement the contingency plan introduced in September 2020 and revised in March 2021 following the return to school after the second national lockdown:

- There is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school
- The number of cases/ the rate of transmission significantly increases in South Somerset
- Government policy and subsequent guidance changes.

## **What will remain the same from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June?**

The following arrangements will remain unchanged:

- Children will not be permitted on-site until 8:45 AM (unless attending the out of hour provision offered by the school).
- The staggered end of the school day will remain in place to make exist from the school site safer and easier to manage.
- Lesson timings will remain the same (with the exception of lesson 4 – see details below)

Cont.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



CHARTER STANDARD SCHOOLS



- The one-way system in the main block will remain in operation to help safe movement around the school site.
- Children will still have designated toilets to support the cleaning regime.
- Staff and children in years 7 and 8 (Key Stage 3) will be expected to take an LFT twice weekly to help identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19.
- The changing rooms will remain out of use; children can continue to wear their PE/Games kit to school on days they have these lessons. **However, all children should wear the proper Academy PE kit – a few variations to this have slipped in over the last few months!**
- Staff and children will continue to clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual using the sinks and hand sanitisers provided.
- Assemblies will remain virtual.
- Rooms will continue to be well ventilated – see information below about hoodies, sweat shirts and jackets.
- Additional hours will remain to enable cleaning throughout the school day.
- Prolonged face-to-face contact (more than 15 minutes) will be avoided.
- Staff will continue to wear face coverings in 1:1 situation and in communal areas.
- Face coverings for children will remain optional.
- Children bringing in packed lunches will eat these in their tutor room. Year 5 children who purchase food from the canteen will also eat in their tutor room (1:15 – 1:30 PM)

#### What will be different?

- Children rather than staff will move around the site from lesson to lesson. This is a big step forward in the return to normality.
- Art and Science lessons will be taught in specialist teaching rooms.
- **Children will no longer be allowed to wear hoodies/jackets/sweat shirts etc.** in lessons and around the school site. **All children should be in proper school uniform.**
- Lesson 4 will be 45 minutes for all children. Lunch time for the whole school will be 1:15 -2:15 PM; 15 minutes to eat lunch and 45 minutes outside time.
- Children in years 6, 7 and 8 will be permitted to eat food purchased from the canteen outside (weather permitting).

In terms of COVID-19 case, figures for the South West remain very low when benchmarked against the national average and South Somerset has the second lowest number of reported cases (only 3 per 100,000). It is in this context that we feel able to reconsider our arrangements in school and believe that by loosening restrictions, we will be preparing children for the new academic year when, hopefully, it will be business as usual.

In the meantime, we will continue to keep a watching brief, particularly in regard to the Indian variant of the virus and will adapt our plans as necessary.

Have a lovely half-term break



Carl Winch

Head teacher

