

# Maiden Beech Academy

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Headteacher: Carl Winch BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH



Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE AND INFORMATION - PLEASE READ**

I hope you and your children are still safe and well. We are very much looking forward to seeing our Year 8s tomorrow and having the opportunity to say a proper goodbye.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of Maiden Beech Academy, who have worked tirelessly during this challenging period to provide the best care and provision for our children. This has included supervising childcare, setting and providing feedback to work online, phoning home weekly to check children and parents are okay, organising the distribution of food vouchers to families, and ensuring the school site is as clean and safe as possible. They have done a fantastic job, and I am very proud of them all.

I have been overwhelmed by and truly grateful for the number lovely comments from parents – thank you!

## **REOPENING IN SEPTEMBER 2020**

Following on from my letter sent last week, I can confirm that we have produced a detailed plan on how we can expand our provision safely from September. This plan was shared with and approved by the Board of Trustees yesterday, who acknowledged that the school was doing all that we possibly can to keep both staff and children safe.

A copy of this plan and a summary document will be uploaded to the Parent Portal and website in due course; however, this is a working document that is likely to be amended and revised both over the summer and when we return in September. I have highlighted the key points below.

As previously stated, **the expectation is that all children in all year groups will return to school in September.**

We understand that parents will be anxious about this and would be happy to discuss any individual cases and explore what we can do as a school to support this process for those children that may struggle to return to school.

Unfortunately, for at least the first half of the autumn term, we will have to adapt and there will be a new 'normal' to help keep everyone as safe as possible. Below is a summary of the key points:

- **Prevention measures** to help stop the spread of infection will continue to be implemented:
  - Children will wash their hands thoroughly throughout the school day
  - Respiratory hygiene: Children will be reminded on a daily basis of the importance of the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
  - Enhanced cleaning: the school site will be cleaned throughout the school day.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



CHARTER STANDARD SCHOOLS



- **Children will be part of the following social bubbles** and will have limited contact with children from other bubbles:
  - The year group bubble: all children will have a designated outside play area and toilet facilities based on year groups.
  - The tutor group bubble: the children will spend most of the school day within this specific social group
  - Maths group/Games group bubbles: children will mix with members of their year group for maths and games lessons. This will be within the year group social bubble.
- **Movement around the school:** As Maiden Beech Academy operates a secondary school approach to the curriculum i.e. children move every lesson to a different room with a different teacher, we have changed our approach in September with staff, rather than children, moving between lessons and children remaining in their tutor base for the majority of lessons with the following exceptions:
  - **Music and drama:** the majority of these lessons will take place in the music room.
  - **PE/Games:** these will be based in the Hall or outside. **If children have PE or Games, they can wear their PE kit to school and throughout the day to avoid the need to change.**
  - **Design Technology Lessons:** These will take place in the DT workshop, as usual, with appropriate risk assessments in place.
  - **Computing:** these will either take place in the Tech Suite or Room 9 (a second computer room equipped with 30+ PCs)
- **Snacks and lunch will be eaten in tutor bases.** Food can be purchased from the canteen using the online payment system and taken back to tutor rooms to eat.
- **Assemblies** will be virtual, during tutorial time to avoid too many people coming together in the same place at the same time. This may change after half-term when we hope to be able to offer year group assemblies once more.
- **Timings of the school day – these have been temporarily amended to reduce the number of children moving around the site at a given time and to allow staggered timings for break time, lunch and leaving at the end of the school day:**
  - 8:45 AM: Children arrive at school and go straight to their tutor bases. **Children should not arrive on site before this time.**
  - 8:55 AM: Registration
  - 9:00 AM: Lesson 1
  - 9:55 AM: Lesson 2
  - 10:50 AM: Break
  - 11:30 AM: Lesson 3
  - 12:30 PM: Lesson 4
  - 1:00 PM: Year 5 and Year 6 children will have lunch
  - 1:30 PM: Year 7 and Year 8 children will have lunch
  - 1:45 PM: Year 5 and Year 6 Reading and activities in tutor room
  - 2:15 PM: Registration and tutorial
  - 2:30 PM: Lesson 5
  - 3:15 PM: **Year 5 children and children in years 6, 7 and 8 with siblings in Year 5 will leave first.**
  - 3:20 PM: Year 6 children will leave
  - 3:25 PM: Year 7 children will leave
  - 3:30 PM: End of the school day. All children travelling on school transport will leave at this time.
- **Parental drop off/pick up:** Please can all parents drop children off at either the Lyme Road or Bushfield Road entrances and should not come on to the school site. Staff will be on duty to supervise the arrival and departure of the children.

## **PERSONAL EQUIPMENT/BELONGINGS**

In order to help the children, use resources safely and to mitigate the risk of cross-contamination, it would be helpful if children could bring the following to school:

- A **pencil case** containing:
  - Pen and pencils
  - A ruler
  - Pencil sharpener
  - Colouring pencils
  - Rubber
- A **dictionary** (the Usborne dictionary that was provided by the Rotarians to all Year 5 children would be ideal)
- A **calculator**
- **Personal headphones** to use in Music and Computing lessons

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

**As we have not heard to the contrary, we will expect the children to attend school in September in full school uniform (unless they have PE or Games, as stated above, when they can wear appropriate PE kit during the school day).**

Jazziez, our uniform provider, have been on site every Friday to meet with parents and take orders for uniform for our new intake. We would now like to expand this provision for all parents wishing to purchase uniform for the new school year.

Representatives from Jazziez have kindly agreed to be at the school on the following Fridays and will be either based in the Drama Room or outside on the grassed area in front of the school:

<b>Friday</b>	<b>Time</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> July	11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
17 <sup>th</sup> July	11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
14 <sup>th</sup> August	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
21 <sup>st</sup> August	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
28 <sup>th</sup> August	11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
4 <sup>th</sup> September	11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

We are very grateful to Jazziez for being so accommodating. The company have agreed to stay until 6:00 PM on four occasions to allow parents who are working to visit the school to purchase uniform.

Please remember that uniform can also be purchased online at:

[www.jazziez.co.uk](http://www.jazziez.co.uk)

[www.myclothing.com/](http://www.myclothing.com/)

## **SUMMER TERM REPORTS/END OF KEY STAGE 2 ASSESSMENTS**

Due to the current circumstances, there will be no summer term report issued this week. All parents received a report in December and then we had the lock-down in March, which was a few weeks before the next term's report would have been issued. As a school we have prioritised regular progress/welfare phone calls with the tutors; I hope you have all found these beneficial.

With regards to pupils leaving Maiden Beech, we have been in contact with all the schools that Maiden Beech pupils are transferring to and have given them the most up-to-date assessments/ information

we have. There have also been numerous virtual meetings to help with pupils transferring to other schools. If anything further is required with regards pupils transferring schools, then please contact the school.

We have also had some enquiries about SATs teacher assessments for pupils in Year 6; there is no requirement for teachers to submit teacher assessments, unlike other external exams e.g. GCSEs/ A-Level; therefore, these will not be issued either.

## **HOME LEARNING**

I have received many comments from teachers, praising the efforts of the children during the lockdown. There is a large number of pupils, across the year groups, who have completed all the tasks set and to a very high standard. So a big well done for all the hard-work and effort during the last few months. Thank you also to all the parents (and older siblings) who have supported with home-learning as well; this is very much appreciated.

## **SEX EDUCATION (YEAR 6)**

In September, during their Science lessons, Year 6 children will follow a scheme of work with a short section covering sex education, which will last approximately two weeks. Teachers will cover the material that is usually taught in Year 5 Science at the end of the summer term. The programme will cover:

- Male and female reproductive organs,
- Puberty changes for girls and boys,
- How a baby is made, including sexual intercourse and how a baby is born.

If parents have any questions about the programme of study, they should contact Mrs Ridgley via the Parent Portal.

## **SUMMER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS**

**We are not planning to operate any childcare provision during the summer holidays.**

***For the four-week period Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August, the school will be closed to provide adequate time to prepare for the new year. Please note, phone and email messages will not be picked up until Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August.***

## **SAFEGUARDING**

**The safety of our children is our priority.**

During the summer holiday, if any parents have a concern about a child or young person and believe they may be at risk of significant harm and/or immediate danger they should make a referral to Children's Social Care and/or the Police – **it is important to remember that anyone can make a referral.**

**Somerset Direct Contact details: 0300 123 2224**

**Emergency Duty Team (EDT): outside office hours, weekends or bank holidays: 0300 123 2327**

**Police: Phone 999 if you believe a child is at immediate risk – this will trigger a fast response.**

**Childline: 0800 1111 – for help and advice on a range of issues**

**NSPCC:** [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/)

You can also contact myself and Kate Stubbins via email for advice and guidance. We will endeavour to check messages most days during the summer break:

[Carl.winch@maidenbeech.net](mailto:Carl.winch@maidenbeech.net)

[Kate.stubbins@maidenbeech.net](mailto:Kate.stubbins@maidenbeech.net)

### **CHICS MUSIC SERVICE AND PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS**

Due to the current situation, peripatetic music lessons provided by CHICS Music, will not take place before October half term at the earliest. However, if parents would like to contact music teachers directly, to arrange private tuition, we would be more than happy to share contact details.

### **OUT OF HOURS CHILDCARE SUPERVISION**

We will be operating before childcare from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. This will be available from 7:30 to 8:45 AM at a cost of £3.00 per session. Parents should book and pay for the sessions required via the Parent Portal online payment system. Unfortunately, because of the current situation and the need for enhanced cleaning at the end of the day, we will not be operating childcare after school; however, this may be reviewed later in the term.

### **INFORMATION UPDATE BOOKLET FOR PARENTS**

We have now revised and updated the *Maiden Beech Information Update* booklet for parents, which will be shared via the Parent Portal and website. This document includes further important information about day-to-day routines and procedures; we advise parents to download and read a copy before the start of the new school year.

***It is essential that parents regularly check the Parent Portal and/or school website for any updates and further guidance about the new school year.***

Have a lovely summer, and we look forward to seeing you all again in September - stay safe.

Kind regards,



Mr Carl Winch  
Head teacher