



24/08/20

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a lovely summer this far. We have been working very hard to ensure that we are ready to reopen on Thursday 3rd September 2020. This e-mail is to remind you about the reopening plan for September and to address some specific queries parents have raised via our surveys.

Please help us by bringing your child to school at the right time (see reopening plan below), by observing social distancing when you are on site and, of course, by not bringing your child to school if they are showing any COVID 19 symptoms.

If you have any questions or concerns about restarting in September please get in touch with me directly on andrew.smith@marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Andrew

Reopening Plan

The reopening plan for September 2020 can be found here. It has not changed since we sent it out at the end of last term.

https://www.marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk/index_239_1866124380.pdf (This link works for both schools)

New Class Videos

At the end of last term each teacher made a video for their new class to support with transition. If you have not watched it yet it can be found here.

<https://www.marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk/online-learning.php#WelcomeMessagestoChildren> (This link works for both schools)

Holiday Homework

For the summer holiday homework we asked all children to create something that reflects the positives of the time they spent in lockdown; maybe spending more time with family, exploring the local area, learning a new skill or succeeding with their school work. This can be presented in any format they like (written, a scrap book, a poster, a video) the more creative the better. Please bring this into school on the first day back to share with their new teacher and class. This will give us a really positive start for the new school year.

DFE Guidance for Parents

The following information is from the DFE.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Pupil Survey

At the end of term we sent out a survey to find out your child's experience of lockdown so we can best support them in September. All of this information has been passed onto teachers and they are using it to ensure your child has the best possible start in September. It is not too late to do the survey if you have not already done it; please follow the link below.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RT85PNnHcUKtLpeJ5f-0Ng3FHEyvuP9DtshqWd47q_1UNDI4UzRQSThRQksxJUUtWNDc5VFZWMVVFRS4u

P.E

All P.E will take place outside in the first instance. Please ensure your child has an outdoor P.E kit in school as they will go out in most weathers.

Specific Questions from Parents

We had a number of questions raised in our surveys that we have answered below. If you have a question that has not been answered please get in touch.

How confident are you that the children will catch up?

Our view is that children have not fallen behind, more so that their education has been paused and is ready to start again in September. We have devised a recovery curriculum which will run to Christmas at least where we are prioritising core areas and wellbeing however children will still have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

How will you assess where they children are now?

Within our recovery curriculum we will build in many low stakes quizzes and mini tests to see what the children know and what more we need to teach them. We will be looking to do a standardised assessment later in the year to see where children are in relation to where they were pre lockdown.

Will children watch Newsround everyday? It may add to their anxiety.

We have decided not to watch Newsround daily in the first instance for this reason and because we need to find time in the day for additional handwashing, routines and transitions. We hope to get back to it in the near future as we know it improves children's knowledge and understanding of the world.

Will you be looking into using technology for learning if we lockdown again?

We were very pleased to deliver many daily live phonics and guided reading lessons and would be looking to expand this should there be a local or national lockdown.

Will the 2019/2020 Y4 cohort have to do their statutory multiplication test in Year 5?

Our understanding is that they will not have to do this.

I am concerned about leaving my child on the first day after she has been at home for so long.

All staff will have training on wellbeing strategies before the children come back. On the first day back there will be staff available to support children who are having difficulties. Our parents support advisor will be on hand to support if necessary.

My child's behaviour has deteriorated during lockdown.

Staff will have training in our behaviour management policy to ensure we consistently apply the rewards and sanctions they are familiar with. Our experience when we reopened to more children in June 2020 was that children quickly adapted to being back at school and followed routines and behaved as before.

Will free fruit be provided for Key Stage One?

We understand that this will start again in September.

Can children bring in their own pencil cases?

Everything in school has to be regularly cleaned therefore we are asking children only to bring in things that are essential. Children will be given their own packs of equipment that only they will use therefore please do not send in pencil cases.

Can children bring in gloves, scarves etc. in the cold weather?

Yes the guidance says this is fine.

Are children allowed to use rucksacks rather than carrier bags?

Yes the guidance says this is fine.

I have some school reading books at home. Can I return them?

Yes please. We will quarantine the books before sending them back out.

Will you take temperatures of children that arrive at school?

No. The guidance says this is not something we should be doing as is not a reliable way to determine COVID-19. We ask all parents not to send their child in if they have any COVID 19 symptoms including high temperature, persistent cough or loss of taste or smell. We have contact free thermometers if we think a child has a temperature.

I personally think that after school classes will be too much for my child.

After we have assessed how pupils are doing we will be offering a range of support, some of which will be after school classes. These of course will be optional and pupil wellbeing will always come first.

I feel my child's mental health has suffered during lockdown.

We have a team of staff who are training in ELSA which supports pupil mental health and we have mental health first aiders on each site. During the INSET training staff will be trained in many different aspects of pupil wellbeing. If you have concerns after starting please contact our parent support advisor, Mrs Nicky Chaplin, through the school office. We will be able to offer support or signpost you to services that can support. If you have serious concerns please contact your GP without delay.

My child has done all of the work set over lockdown. Will they have to do this again as some children won't have done it all?

Staff will assess where children are educationally and ensure they are given a diet to ensure they make progress from their own starting point. Children won't be held back.

My children have the same start/finish times.

Staff will usually be outside 5 minutes before the children come in so please drop one child off a little early and take the other to their line. If for whatever reason this does not work drop off your first child and bring the other to the main office who will escort them to class.

Will parents be able to volunteer in school?

Not in the first instance but as soon as we can we will have volunteers back in school.

What will happen if someone displays symptoms of COVID-19?

We will move the child to a clean, empty room (we have a dedicated room at each site for this purpose) where we will observe them until parents can collect them. Staff supporting that child will only wear PPE if they need to be in close contact with them; for example if they are distressed or being sick. We will explain to parents how to get a COVID 19 test.

Can I walk from one playground to the other to drop off my two children?

Yes of course. Please observe 2 metre social distancing whilst on site.

Will class sizes be normal or will the children be in smaller bubbles.

Class sizes are back to normal. Each class (bubble) will not mix with other bubbles.

What will happen if we get a 2nd Spike or if the school/local area/country locks down again?

We will provide online education for all children like we did during the lockdown. We will have systems in place so this work can be reviewed by staff and feedback given to support progress.