

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to be able to reopen fully in September and we are really looking forward to seeing all your children in school. The opening of school will include Jigsaw. They have produced their own risk assessment and will be writing separately about how they will operate.

We want the children's return to be safe, happy and purposeful so they can Learn, Enjoy, Achieve!

We will write to you separately with details of our curriculum update. Briefly, there will be more reading and maths, a broad range of exciting subjects, more practical learning, more Circle Time and PSHE and more outdoor learning. We will use Seesaw for all homework and home reading.

If there is a local lockdown or a need for a year group to self-isolate, we will use Seesaw and Microsoft Teams for daily live lessons.

### **Back to school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. How will it work?**

- A start time of 8.40 for all children in EY and Years 1 and 2. Please do not arrive before 8.30 as classroom doors will only open then and we do not want families queuing or gathering outside the gates. You should collect your child at 2.50 and leave via the side gate or, if you have a child in KS2 as well, please wait on the KS2 playground socially distanced from anyone else. School finishes at 3pm for KS2 children.
- A start time of 8.50 for KS2 children. Again, please do not arrive before 8.40 am.
- If you have children with different start times it should be possible to drop your little one off just before 8.40 then walk around to KS2 and see your older child in without having to wait.
- We have a one-way system-in via the big gates at the front of school, out via the side gate.
- Children will be in a year group bubble and will not mix with any other groups of children during the school day.
- Children will wash their hands when they arrive in school and at regular times during the day and before going home
- Children will have their normal hours of learning but we have staggered breaks to make for a better and safer experience.
- KS2 children will have their lunch in the classroom. Our fantastic cook, Mrs Bentham will provide a choice of hot meals and sandwiches for all year groups.
- Children will do PE outside whenever it is possible. Please provide an outdoor kit: this is the same as the indoor kit but with trainers and a tracksuit for warmth. We will only do indoor games if there is heavy rain, frozen ground or temperatures below 5 degrees. Dress for the weather-we're going out!
- There will be fewer off site trips this term and no overnight trips prior to Summer 2021.
- We will update you regarding swimming when we return.

### **What should my child bring to school?**

A **small** backpack in KS2, as storage space is limited. A slim book bag in KS1 and Early Years should be enough.

- Water bottles, lunch boxes, book bag, sun cream and hat-if we are lucky!
- Coat-a waterproof jacket is a must-there is a lot more outdoor education on our curriculum this year-the children will love it!
- Fruit or your own toast for playtime. We will also be selling toast at £1 per week payable via Parentmail (£14 for autumn term).
- On PE days children need to come to school in their PE Kit for the full day

### **What happens if my child is too ill to come to school?**

Phone school as usual to let us know. We will ask you if your child has any symptoms of Covid 19. This is important so that we can manage any outbreak in school. If the answer is yes, we will ask you to take them for a test. It is vital that you get a test for the protection of the other children in the class. If the test is positive, the class bubble will need to isolate for 14 days.

### **My child is anxious about coming back to school. What should I do?**

Please reassure your child that we are working hard to keep school safe. Children who have accessed school since lockdown have had a very positive experience. We are very concerned to make it a happy return for all. We have options in terms of one to one support if need be. Please refer to the materials we forwarded from CAMHS. All the children will have less structured learning at some point every day, with more outdoor and practical activity. We are not doing any formal tests with the children before half term.

*However, we are back! School is mandatory from September. Given the lost time, please do not book holidays in term time-let's get going with learning once again.*

### **What will the classroom be like?**

In Early Years and KS1 we will have normal seating plans. Children in KS2 will sit in pairs, facing the front of class. Children will be guided to mark their own work but the teacher will give feedback in the lesson and check written work at the end of the day. Any shared equipment, including in PE, will be washed before it is used by another class. Hygiene standards will be high and children will wash their hands several times per day. Each child will be given a Ziploc bag with equipment in so they will not need a pencil case. Windows and doors will be open for ventilation.

### **Using technology to make learning even better and to stay in touch**

We will have our weekly Friday assemblies with all the usual rewards and celebrations but they will be delivered via Zoom or Teams. Every class will have a mic and webcam fitted over the summer. This means we can hold quizzes across school and have fun partnering activities, such as older classes reading to younger ones, the sharing of work etc. It will be fun!

All homework and home reading will be recorded on Seesaw.

We have parents' meetings (week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September) and a parents' evening during the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September. Everything will be done via Zoom or Teams for now. Details will follow during the first week back.

We will use Seesaw and the telephone for individual contact and would ask you to do the same. Please note, I have asked teachers to turn off notifications and not to respond to Seesaw after 5pm.

If you have a complaint, please write to enquiries in the first instance via email to [enquiries@marusbridge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@marusbridge.co.uk) and it will be directed to the person who can best help you.

Please pay using Parentmail-we cannot safely accept cash at the moment.

All forms will be completed electronically- including medical forms and requests for leave of absence. These can be found on Parentmail.

**Regardless of public health concerns, I really believe communication will be better all round. I am very proud of my colleagues and our parents in the community for the way we have all stayed in touch during this crisis-THANK YOU!**

### **What happens if a child is unwell in school?**

Some children will become unwell aside from Covid 19. We will follow our normal procedures. If a child has symptoms of Covid 19, they will be taken to a separate room until a parent collects them from school. Staff members may wear PPE in this instance, especially if the child is so unwell they cannot maintain a 2 metre distance. We will ask you to get a test for your child. Hopefully, the result will be negative and your child can come back to school the very next day. If the test is positive, children in the bubble will need to isolate for 14 days. We will contact Public Health England for advice if anyone else in the school tests positive and follow their recommendations

### **What happens if my child has to self-isolate?**

Education will continue at home with some daily live lessons. Details to follow in September. Microsoft Teams and Seesaw will be used - children will have an individual login. There will be more information on this in September.

### **What happens if we are asked to self-isolate by the NHS track and trace?**

- Please notify the school that this is the case
- Follow the instructions given to you from the NHS
- Notify the school if your child presents with any symptoms while they are off school

### **What are the arrangements for reading books?**

- Reading is a priority for children and books will be sent home again in the first week back
- Returned books will be placed in a box and stored for 72 hours.
- Your child will be able to change his/her book twice weekly.
- Parents need to record children's reading on Seesaw - there is still a requirement for parents to hear their child read at least 4 times a week and we have a new **READING REWARD RAFFLE**.
- Over the summer, please continue to read with your child.

### **What about school uniform?**

We will ask all children to come into school in their uniform. Black school shoes or trainers with no branding (again entirely black) need to be worn except on PE days. **On PE days we would like children to come in their PE kit and stay in it all day.** *Children must always bring a waterproof coat as we will be outside every day.* Please label all uniform items.

We are so excited to be welcoming all of our children back and seeing the new children in Reception for the first time.

Thank you so much for all your support, co-operation and positivity over these past few months. I will never forget it.

See you on the gate in September!

Mr Gaskill