



## Lower Heath

Lower Heath C of E Primary School and Nursery  
part of the Marches Academy Trust  
Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BT

T. 01948 840524  
E. [admin@heath.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heath.shropshire.sch.uk)  
W. [www.lowerheath.co.uk](http://www.lowerheath.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Deborah Sadler MEd, NPQH

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### **Reference: Proposed phased re-opening of schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

Dear Parents

Thank you for your co-operation and patience over the last week, whilst we have been establishing which parents would like their children to return to school from June 1<sup>st</sup>, and how many children we are able to accommodate safely on our site.

#### **Plans for a phased re-opening:**

The safety of our children, parents and the staff is my main priority. We cannot fit 15 children in our classrooms and keep them safely distanced; the most I am happy to fit in any classroom at the moment is 7 children. Each small group of children will remain together throughout the week, with two designated adults (in a 'bubble'), and will not mix with any other groups during the school day. They will have separate break times, will eat lunch in their classrooms and will not access other classrooms apart from the one designated for them. Children may be in a different classroom to the one they were in before the closure, and may have a different teacher and teaching assistant allocated to them. Sometimes this member of staff may need to change if there is a staffing shortage.

We will follow a rigorous cleaning routine ensuring that desks, chairs and equipment are sanitised regularly, touch points in classrooms and toilets are cleaned throughout the day, and children wash their hands on arrival and at regular intervals. Hand sanitiser will also be available. We have a detailed risk assessment in place to support all staff in following these new measures. Children will not be able to share resources or play equipment, and children will be carrying out their learning in different ways to overcome this challenge.

**The government expectation is that children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will start to return to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June.** Due to the numbers of children who we now know will be returning, we can accommodate all of the children whose parents have requested a place.

### **Start dates for each year group:**

The start dates for each of these year groups is shown below. ***Please note: this is our CURRENT plan, but this could change if the government amend their plans. If the government make a further announcement that schools will NOT re-open on 1<sup>st</sup> June, we will continue with the provision that we have had in place so far – places for children of key workers only.***

Not all year groups are returning for their first day on 1<sup>st</sup> June. This will enable us to test our procedures safely and adjust them as required as more children return.

**Please only send your child to school on these dates if you have indicated that you plan to do so. If your circumstances change, and you would like a school place, please contact me by email ([head@heath.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@heath.shropshire.sch.uk)) and I will make suitable arrangements, although this won't be immediate. It may involve staffing changes which need time to arrange.**

### **Year 6 children: returning on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

Drop-off between 9:05 and 9:20am. Pick-up between 3:05 and 3:20pm.

Car park drop-off and pick-up only. Please do not leave your vehicle – a member of staff will come to your car. Please do not gather at the gate.

### **Year 1 children: returning on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Drop-off between 8:45 and 9am. Pick-up between 2:45 and 3pm.

Car park drop-off and pick-up only. Please do not leave your vehicle – a member of staff will come to your car. Please do not gather at the gate.

### **Reception children: returning on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Drop-off between 8:45 and 9am. Pick-up between 2:45 and 3pm.

Car park drop-off and pick-up only. Please do not leave your vehicle – a member of staff will come to your car. Please do not gather at the gate.

### **Nursery children: returning on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Nursery hours are 10am until 2pm. Days and times have already been discussed with each child's parent(s). Please park your car and bring your child to the NURSERY gate, where Mrs Gallimore-Johnson will collect your child from you.

**Unfortunately, parents and visitors will not be able to come inside the school building at any time. This includes the school office. Please try to telephone or email the office if you need assistance with anything. If you do need to visit the office, a member of office staff will speak to you at the door but will not allow visitors inside. Please follow this guidance for the safety of our staff and children. Please carefully follow the staggered pick-up and drop-off times so that we can safely get children into and out of school without unnecessary delay.**

**For parents who will be bringing their children to school after half-term, we have attached a list of guidelines for parents at the end of this letter, which summarises drop-off arrangements, lunches, clothing and equipment required. Please check this list carefully.**

### **Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5**

At the moment, these groups of children must continue with their learning at home. Home-learning packs will be provided for these children, and any children whose parents are choosing to keep them at home, after half term. Please note that the home-learning support provided by teachers will be more limited after half term as they will all be teaching in the classroom every day. Please direct any urgent queries to me using my email address above. The government may announce plans for other year groups to return at a later stage; if and when this happens, we will have to re-evaluate what we can offer to each child safely, within our capacity. Our provision for children of key workers will continue to operate between 8:45am and 3:15pm. Please use the car park drop-off system described above and remain in your vehicles until your child is collected.

Should you have any queries about when your child should be attending school, whether you can have a school place for your child, or anything else about the arrangements above, please do contact us as soon as possible so that we can help promptly. I understand that this is a very challenging time and our arrangements may not be as flexible as those which we usually offer. However, my priority has to be the safety of all members of our school community, so I have tried to accommodate as many children as possible, as safely as I possibly can, whilst trying to offer some consistency for parents.

In the meantime, I look forward to welcoming some children back to school, all being well, from 1<sup>st</sup> June onwards, and look forward to sharing the next batch of home-learning projects with those remaining at home. School will be closed next week for the half -term break. I hope that you all have an enjoyable week.

Best wishes,

Deborah Sadler

Headteacher

## Guidance for Parents:

Staggered drop-off (using car park system unless walking to school) to prevent gatherings of parents at the gate. See times on letter.

Staggered pick-up (using car park system unless walking to school) to prevent gatherings of parents at the gate. See times on letter.

**No parents are allowed in school at any time** – even in the school office. Please telephone the office for any queries, or to arrange telephone meetings with staff if they are required.

Robin Class parents are also to drop children off using car park system unless walking to school (they are not to go into classroom)

Children should be sent to school with a hat, sunscreen, tissues and a water bottle. All of these should be clearly labelled and will need to remain in school – each child will have their own labelled tray to store these belongings safely.

Children in **YEARS 1 AND 6** can bring in their own stationery pack, clearly labelled, which will be stored safely in classrooms to reduce risk of spreading virus through contact. **This is OPTIONAL.** Nursery and Reception will NOT need to do this.

Children must NOT bring toys into school from home – this especially applies to EYFS and KS1.

Reading books should stay at home – children will have a separate reading book which will remain in school. Changing of books may be less frequent as our school library is closed.

Children in Nursery and Reception should bring a spare set of clothes into school, in a clearly labelled plastic bag, if a toileting accident could occur. This will be kept in school, on the child's labelled peg, should it be required.

If children bring in a packed lunch, these should be provided in disposable bags/containers/packaging as far as possible. School lunches can be ordered as normal, but these will not be hot meals – there will be a selection of sandwiches available each day.

Children attend school dressed in clothes suitable for PE and outdoor learning (**not uniform**, as changing for different activities poses an additional risk). Children should also bring in clearly labelled trainers, wellies, and an outdoor coat. Outdoor learning and exercise will take place DAILY.

Parents will be called earlier than usual if a child becomes unwell, sustains an injury or has a toileting accident. This will be to ensure that illnesses do not spread and also to protect staff who would usually carry out first aid.

Parents are reminded about guidance for self-isolation should anyone in the family present with symptoms of Covid 19. Children must be collected from school immediately if they start to display symptoms of Covid 19. School will test children's temperature (using a non-contact thermometer) as and when required.

For those children who are in groups not yet returning to school, or those who choose (possibly for health reasons) to remain at home, home-learning packs will continue to be provided. These arrangements should be agreed with the head teacher or SENCo.

The government's latest advice is that **face masks should not be worn by primary aged children** who may not be able to use them safely. Therefore, please do not send children in with face masks as they could increase the spread of the virus if mis-handled.

There will be no school events taking place open to parents or the wider public until further notice. There will be no after-school clubs or wrap-around care.