June 2020 - Phased Reopening of Featherby

As per current Government guidance, it is anticipated schools may reopen after 1st June 2020 to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 (other year groups to be confirmed at a later date).

All Maritime Academy Trust schools will be closed on 1st June for a Staff Development Day, so we can ensure that staff are fully briefed and trained on the new measures we are putting in place and Tuesday 2nd June would be the day we are aiming towards (dependent on Government advice).

At Featherby we endeavour to put the safety of your children, of you and of our staff at the forefront of all decisions we have made in the planning of the phased reopening and we are constantly referring to the guidance we are provided: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/details-on-phased-wider-opening-of-schools-colleges-and-nurseries)

If we are unable to phase re-open on 2nd June (if Government do not give us the 'green light' or we are not ready on that date), then we will continue to provide cover for our Keyworker families for school hours only from 2nd June until we are able to start the phased reopen.

Let us outline some of the principles of the planned reopening - every one of which is for the safety of all concerned:

General

- **Every child whose parents would like them to attend in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 (and children in other years at that 'keyworker children') will be allocated to a 'Bubble' of a maximum of 15 children.**
- **We have endeavoured to group children in Bubbles with their current classmates where possible - with the exception of Year 6 children, where we thought it more important to consider grouping them with children they will be starting at the same secondary schools with, to help with transition to Year 7.**
- **Each Bubble will operate as an isolated group, mixing only with other children in that bubble and supervised by the same two key members of staff all day, every day (unless emergency/illness affects those members of staff.)**
- **Children must only be accompanied onto the school site by a maximum of one adult and, where possible, we ask parents to avoid bringing additional children on site. However, we must insist that if you need to bring other children, they are close to you at all times and do not run on ahead or go to meet friends/people/staff they would normally do - remember, however weird this might feel, it is for their safety and for the safety of others.**
- **Children (and staff) from different Bubbles will not be mixing at any point during the day.**
- **You must enter through the entry point/gate for your child's Bubble (to be advised) and to follow the path/lines as indicated. Social distancing at all times is vital.**
- **Your child will be met by the Bubble adult(s) and be asked to stand with their group and wait and you will be asked to exit the playground (you will not be able to wait) via**

the pathways as indicated (unless you have another child in another year group, whose arrival time is in the next wave (5/10mins later), in which case you will be asked to stand in a designated holding area).

- **Social distancing of children cannot be strictly adhered in a school environment - it is impossible (not to mention unnatural and unkind) to expect children to stay in a 2m exclusion zone from one-another. Instead, each bubble is like a family unit - socially distancing from other bubbles whilst at school and this principle forms the basis for the guidance schools are being asked to facilitate.**
- **Children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will be based in the infant building. Children in Year 6 (and children of key workers in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5) will be based in the junior building.**
- **Provision will be school hours only, 4.5 days per week - Please note Fridays will be a half-day and children will need to be collected at staggered times on Fridays (see FAQs for explanation)**
- **We will no longer be able to offer Breakfast Club or After-School Club provision for the foreseeable future: whilst schools are to be operated in this way (whilst we are following DfE / Public Health England advice on safety guidelines - (see FAQs for explanation)**
- **First Aid will be provided (wherever possible) by the staff in each bubble. However, should another first-aider need to intervene with first-aid for a child they will need to wear PPE to minimise any risk to your child (or to themselves).**
- **Children must not wear a mask/face covering in school for their own safety (as per current guidance) and should not bring in their own hand sanitiser.**
- **Staff will not be wearing face-masks/PPE as this is not deemed necessary in guidance and would also be confusing and potentially upsetting to the children. The exception to this would be in cases of children becoming unwell (whilst we wait for parent/carer to collect) or for first-aid where a child is displaying Covid-19 symptoms or intimate care - as the need to wear it to protect themselves and the child concerned, as they will be in close proximity to one another is advised.**
- **If you have been receiving shopping vouchers via Edenred, in lieu of free school meals for your child during lockdown, and your child attends school then those vouchers will stop and your child will be provided with a lunch at school.**

<u>Timetable</u>

- **Each Bubble will be allotted a time of arrival and collection, to stagger arrivals/departures and enable social distancing of families in the mornings and afternoons.**
- **Playtimes for each Bubble will be staggered, to ensure children from different Bubbles are not tempted to mix.**
- **Each Bubble will have a packed lunch (whether provided by parents or by caterers) and they will eat that with their Bubble classmates.**

<u>Cleanliness</u>

- **Children will be supervised to use hand sanitiser on arrival by the adult.**
- **Children will be asked to wash hands frequently throughout the day.**

- **Rooms in EYFS will be prepared (under Public Health Guidelines for Covid) with the aim to ensure all resources can be kept clean during this time.**
- **If your child is to bring in a home-packed lunch - we ask parents to put their child's food (and snack) in a disposable plastic bag with their child's name clearly marked on it. This plastic bag will be disposed of in school and will not be returned to you at the end of the day.**
- **Aside from (and home-packed lunches if applicable) drinking bottles (clearly marked please), children should not bring other items into school - Please do not send children in with book bags or PE Kits or with toys/teddies etc from home.**
- **Children will need to bring in a snack for them to have at breaktime that they are able to open themselves (sadly, the usual free-choice fruit, veg and milk selection that the younger years are used to will not be provided)**
- **Classrooms and resources will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.**
- **Children will be provided with their own set of stationary resources at their table by school.**
- **Each Bubble will have a box of outdoor toys and games specifically for their use, to eradicate the risk of cross-contamination between bubbles. Children will not be able to use the trim trail as we aren't able to ensure it is cleaned between each use.**
- **Bubbles will have access to the toilets, these will be cleaned frequently throughout the day and visits to the toilets will be supervised by staff outside to ensure bubbles do not mix (see FAQs for more details).**
- **If your child is Year 6 (or Year 5 and a key worker child) we would ask you to ensure they do not bring in a mobile phone to school <u>unless</u> they are walking to/from school on their own. This is the <u>only</u> reason that children should bring in this item from home, for their own safety and your piece of mind. If children in Years 5 and 6 are collected by an adult then they must not bring in their phone. A protocol of safe storage in class will be put in place to avoid any cross-contamination between children's phones but we only want to have to do this if strictly necessary.**
- **We would ask that children do not bring bikes/scooters on to the school site, for safety at this time.**

FAQs - Let's look at some questions you might have…..

Q1. Will things feel normal for my child?

A1. No, they won't be what we remember as 'normal' for a while as we follow the guidance laid down for schools. However, by all adults (staff and parents/carers) knowing what's expected of us and helping the children adapt - the children will soon get used to this new normal, after all children are resilient. Indeed, we ourselves will probably find adapting to this harder - I know that us, as staff, will have to fight the urge to come up to you and have a catch-up at 'close quarters', as we would normally do after a break. However, we must all adapt to this new 'normal' for a while.

Q2. Does my child <u>have</u> to attend, if I don't feel comfortable with this plan?

A2. No, school attendance at the moment is not obligatory - however we encourage our families to think about their child attending school, if possible.

Q3. What guarantees can you make that my child/my family will be safe?

A3. We can't *guarantee* that (no-one can) and it would be wrong of us to say we can. However, we can reassure you that we will take whichever precaution deemed advisable to minimise any risk to our 'Featherby Family' and will adapt our plans if necessary as further guidance is provided to ensure we're doing everything possible.

Q4. When will I find out what Bubble my child is in?

A4. We'll contact you shortly - That will tell you all the practical information specific to you about what time you need to arrive, what gate to come in to and the adults your child will be with. We will also provide you with videos explaining the changes.

Q5. My child would like to be with certain children, can you facilitate this?

A5. Sadly no. We have done our best with the groupings but, like many things at the moment, that is not something we can control or support at this time as we have had to split up some class groups into a maximum of 15 children but we have done our best to put children with others they will be familiar with.

Q6. How will the bubbles be staffed with their Class Teacher / TA?

A6. Sadly, not all children will be in a bubble led by classroom staff that they are familiar with - some will be and some won't be. After all, a teacher who normally stands in front of a class of 30 cannot teach two bubbles of 15. Equally, this also might depend on any underlying health issues of staff, which obviously also needs to be taken into account. However, all staff supervising bubbles will be experienced at delivering the curriculum and in supporting children in their learning across all year groups.

Q7. What if I prefer to use a different gate as the other entrance is more convenient to me as I live near that one?

A7. I'm sorry, I realise it's inconvenient to walk further than you would normally need to. The reason behind our asking you to only use certain gates is to ensure the smooth drop-off/collection of children and still facilitate social distancing which protects everyone.

Q8. How will you ensure my child doesn't mix with other children from another Bubble?

A8. As well as staggered playtimes, arrivals and departures - because we've allotted two adults to each Bubble, children will be with the same adults at all times including lunchtimes and these two adults will be supervising those children all the time, ensuring that they are not tempted to wander to the class next door and see a friend in a different bubble.

Q9. What about the toilets & handwashing?

A9. When children ask to go to the toilet, one of the adults will escort the children to the cloakroom/bathroom and will wait outside (the other adult will be with the children in class/activity). Staff will be able to see if children from another bubble are using that toilet area (because there will be a staff member standing outside) and so will therefore wait with their child(ren) needing the bathroom until it is safe to do so. Staff will ensure social distancing between bubbles can be adhered to at these facilities and will also ensure appropriate and regular handwashing.

Q10. What about lunchtimes and playtimes?

A10. Children will have staggered lunchtimes and playtimes and we will, if weather permits, aim to eat outside for some fresh air. The two members of staff in each bubble will stagger their own lunch breaks, so there is always one of the two adults with the children including at lunchtime. To reiterate, children from different bubbles will not be able to mix with one another at lunchtimes or playtimes.

Q11. Does that mean my child won't be having a cooked lunch?

A11. Yes, all lunches will be either a school-prepared 'packed lunch' or one you provide from home. If we were to provide a hot meal, we would need to introduce more staff to your child's bubble (which would be going against guidance) and each bubble couldn't safely social distance from other bubbles because they would mix in the dining hall (which again would be going against guidance) and so that is the reason there will be no hot lunches, sadly.

Q12. Will there be assemblies in school?

A12. No, because this would involve the mixing of bubbles of children and adults and this is something our plans are looking to avoid - for everyone's safety.

Q13. What about staff mixing in the staff room for example - doesn't that jeopardise all these measures?

A13. You're right, that would increase the risk and would effectively break the social distancing between bubbles we are putting in place. As such, all staff are well aware of the expectations to keep social distancing measures between other staff members from different bubbles and understand that this is imperative to keep both themselves safe and the children they are responsible for. Instead their breaks will also be staggered and extra rooms/provision be made for them to take their breaks safely and still adhere to social distancing.

Q14. What if I have children from different year groups, what time do I arrive?

A.14 Example 1: If you have a child who is due to arrive at say 8.40am (child 1) and one who is due to arrive at at later time (child 2) - you should come in via the gate you are asked to use for child 1, follow the path as indicated, hand over child 1 and then leave through the gate as directed. You will then need to re-enter the site at the time and via the designated gate for your second child, following the instructions for child 2. We know that this may mean some hanging around on the path outside the school and, in some cases, having to walk around the roads from Allington Road to Chilham Road, via Featherby Road. We also appreciate that, if you are asked to do this, it may be frustrating when you can see the drop off point for your other child, just across the field. However, please understand we don't like asking our families to be inconvenienced but we *do* want to comply with all the best-practice measures we are being told: one of which is to avoid any families congregating/waiting on site. I am sorry but we will not be allowing anyone to simply walk across the field/path as you would potentially be breaching the safety of other bubbles of children and I know that, however inconvenient this is for families, none of you want to risk the health of others.We would also remind you, for your own safety, to ensure you do not congregate outside the school gate but instead social distance yourself safely.

Example 2: If you have two (or more) children whose start times are the same, ensure you arrive promptly, and via the allotted entrance gate, come and drop each child off in turn and then exit at the requested exit point.

We realise that this feels a little unnatural - after all we are a social community at Featherby but this rather clinical way of dropping off and collecting children, with specific windows of time to do so, is for everyone's protection.

Q15. What if I arrive late?

A15. If you miss your child's slot for coming in - you MUST NOT come on to the playground as your child's bubble of children and adults will have already left for their classroom. Remember, other staff cannot just 'take your child in with them' as this compromises them and your child. Instead, we would ask you to come to the relevant school building main entrance, buzz on the buzzer and tell the admin team who your child is and what bubble they are in. Admin staff will then ask an adult from that bubble group to come down to collect your child. You should wait with your child until a member of staff from the bubble can come down to collect your child. It is for that reason that we would ask parents to make all efforts to avoid being late, please. Please remember if there is more than one family waiting to speak to the school office, you must social distance whilst waiting.

Q16. How will you ensure social distancing on the playground/pathways?

A16. Although we cannot 'police' what people do outside, we know that our families want nothing more than everyone at Featherby (families and staff) to be safe and we have faith that you will support us in this. However, we will ensure we have staff out at gates and cross over points politely reminding adults to use the right paths and (with respect) leave the playground area and not congregate/chat - again, this comes down to our need to protect everyone at Featherby. Line markings 2m apart will help to support safe social distancing whilst waiting to come into school.

Q17. What if I've changed my mind and I do not want my child to return when school 'reopens' - anticipated as being 2nd June?

A17. That's ok but we would ask you to complete the online form we've sent you or call and let us know immediately as the integrity of the bubbles being 'ringfenced' is essential and we may need to adjust plans.

Q18. What if I've changed my mind and I want my child to return to school when it 'reopens'?

A18. That's ok too, but again we would ask you to complete the online form we've sent you or call and let us know immediately. We will then advise you when we can restart your child, depending on the size of the bubbles. We cannot, however, guarantee that your child will be with his/her friends as we've already explained in this document, this will depend on the number of children in a particular year group wanting places and the size of those bubbles.

Q19. Will remote learning still take place for children not attending?

A19. Yes, we will be still providing this for our children who have not been invited to come back to school just yet. The remote learning for Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 will be exactly the same as the learning that the children will complete who are attending school.

Q20. Will children in school get a better education than those at home?

A20. The children following the curriculum in the bubbles will work on the same, project-lead curriculum plans as is provided in the Google Classroom. Those children in the bubble will benefit

from access to classroom staff but they will not be learning anything different/more than those at home.

Q21. What if I'm a keyworker and I don't want my child to attend every day?

A21. For example, if parent(s) are keyworkers, working shifts and they might have day(s) off during the week and work at weekends and want some quality time with family during this time of uncertainty and family stresses: We understand and, although we don't want to staff half-empty classrooms normally, we appreciate that some children will not take up their place in their bubble every day as we do not want to tell our hardworking keyworker families that they cannot spend time together. However, we would ask families taking a place in a bubble to attend all (or most) days to make things as 'normal' as possible for their child.

Q22 Why do you have to close on Fridays early?

A22 The rationale behind this decision is three-fold: (1) it allows for a deeper clean at the end of each week which keeps everyone in school (and families at home) ultimately greater safety/reassurance; (2) Teaching staff are legally entitled to time out of the classroom (PPA time) even in this period of covid-transition phase. This is also important for teaching staff's welfare. Staff use this time to plan the lessons for the following week and to support home learning which they cannot do during the contact time with the children. (3) We have chosen Friday afternoons as that seems to be the time that is likely to cause less impact on our key worker families. Guidance tells us that we must limit the number of staff that children are exposed to, so we simply cannot do what we would have previously done (prior to this health crisis) and put additional cover staff in each bubble for Friday afternoons as this would then be widening the number of staff that children come into contact with. We cannot stress enough that this is to protect **everyone** which is ultimately what we all want.

Q23 Why can't you offer wrap-around care (Breakfast Club & After-School Club) provision?

A23 To follow the guidance we are provided, we are told that when schools start this phased reopening, each bubble must have two dedicated members of staff with those children and only with those children all day, every day. Equally, the children in that bubble should only be with those two members of staff (except in an emergency). Therefore, to facilitate that would be to expect our staff to work from 7am until 6pm potentially each day, if they have children in their bubble whose parents need wrap-around care. Our staff are dedicated and committed (having operated continuously, even over Easter) but we cannot ask them to work for 50+ hours per week. We know this is disappointing and frustrating for many parents but we are reacting to ever-changing advice and what is being asked of us as a school. For the same reasons as explained above, we cannot increase the number of staff children are exposed to and we do not have sufficient staff to cover the sheer number of bubbles needed to make this work. This would mean that some bubbles would have just two or three children in that year group who might want to use wrap-around care and, even if we had sufficient staffing which we don't, it would mean these children would be 'isolated' which would not be good for the emotional wellbeing. Based on our current key worker numbers and current government guidance we would need to run three breakfast clubs and three after school clubs. - we are unable to do this.

Q24. Will my child be in their familiar classroom / what will the classrooms look like?
A24 Again, many children will be in a different class to the one they are familiar with - as we have to split classes into separate bubbles so some will be in their classroom and some will be in another classroom. Children will be spaced out, to minimise any risk of droplet spread and (as per current guidance we are receiving) classrooms will be more 'sterile' than we would usually expect to see - for example, soft furnishings etc will be removed to facilitate better cleaning and things like books corners etc will be removed. Additionally, children will not be able to bring any items in from home (except a disposable lunch bag and/or water bottle) and each child will be given a dedicated resource pack of stationery just for them to use. We are advised to put all these measures in place to keep cross-contamination risk to a minimum.

Q25. Will children still do PE lessons?
A25. They will still do fun activities in their bubbles, such as PE/Games but they will do so in their usual uniform - no additional clothing will be needed so please don't send children in with PE kits as we want to avoid children bringing in unnecessary items in and out of the school building.

Q26. Why do I have to send in my child's lunch in a disposable plastic bag?
A26. Because we cannot practically sanitise children's lunchboxes before they bring them home to you and we do not want families to take home lunchboxes that have been in a bubble of other children all day and to keep reusing those (often cloth-based) lunchboxes every day, bringing them to and from school and home.

Q27. Why are arrangements stricter when the school has the phased reopening, compared with current arrangements for Key worker families?
A27. Mainly because the increased numbers of children we're expecting when we open our doors to more than half of our cohort (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 as well as Keyworker children from other year groups) will bring the potential for increased risk. We are looking to put all practical advice being given to us in place and to interpret that advice in the most clear and practical way so that our staff, you and the children can all understand it. However, as health officials and the Department of Education has watched this health crisis unfold - something unimaginable for everyone concerned a few months ago - they are now in a position (as they know more about the spread and control measures for this virus) to give us more guidance. We are simply trying to put that in place, now we have it.

<u>How you can help us and your child with the best possible start as we proceed with the phased reopening of school</u>

We know that our children's behaviour is impeccable and you are supportive - something we rely on now more than ever as we look to open the schools. However, by remembering these simple pointers we will all be able keep to the rules and keep everyone in our Featherby Family safe:

- Always stay at least 2 metres away from other people/family units
- Come in and out at the right times and via the designated gates and please be patient

- Talk to your child before they start in a relaxed and supportive way about how things will be a bit different but that it will be ok and they will be showing their Resilience core value

Help us by encouraging your child to:

- Wash their hands just before they leave the house to come to school for 20 seconds
- Not be tempted to run ahead in excitement when they come into school
- Remember all the things we're told about cleanliness in an age-appropriate way:
    - Regular handwashing
    - Coughing/sneezing into a tissue and washing hands afterwards
    - Trying not to touch their faces
    - Giving everyone around them a bit of space
    - Not touching the faces of others
- And, most importantly, to listen to the adults in school that will be reminding them of the rules of this 'new normal' as we all learn together!