

Tacolneston & Morley CE VA Primary Schools Federation

FAQs About Reopening of School

Updated 24.5.20

How is social distancing going to be achieved in outdoor space? Reception children are going to find social distancing challenging and play is important to them. They often play games outside such as "it" etc.

Outdoor play and activities will be on a rota basis. When other groups are outside, they will be based in different zones. We will be providing toys, and teaching games that help the children to maintain social distancing.

How will social distancing be achieved in the corridors, will there be a one way system to the toilet, only one child allowed to go at a time?

Most movement will be from fire exit doors to the outside to avoid use of corridors as much as possible. Adults will accompany children to the toilet to ensure handwashing is done correctly, and social distancing is maintained.

How often will the toilets, taps and door handles be cleaned?

All touch points, including taps and door handles will be cleaned with hot soapy water at least three times per day during the school session times. All touch points, including toilets, will be disinfected daily after school.

Will staff be wearing face masks?

Those that wish to wear masks will. When providing certain types of first aid (where fluids or close contact are involved) or intimate care, staff will wear full PPE.

Are children encouraged to wear face masks?

No. There is some guidance regarding the wearing of face masks if children are travelling to school by taxi. However, the advice is that children cannot manage the hygiene required for the wearing of masks. Furthermore, current scientific advice is that face masks protect others from the wearer rather than the wearer from others.

Based on the desk layout, are reception children expected to sit at a desk for the whole time, including playing or will they be given the opportunity for choosing and playing alone on a mat?

Reception children will do most of their learning outdoors where they can spread out and lay on the ground and grass if they wish to. Some learning will be desk based in the classroom. Children will only remain working at desks for the period of time that they can concentrate for. Reception children should be able to manage 10 to 15 minutes of desk work. Older children may be able to manage longer. The day at school will alternate between desk work and outdoor work with the majority of time spent outdoors if weather permits.

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Year 6 Buddies previously helped reception children. Will this system still be in place? How will Reception children have help cutting their food at lunch, for example, as a buddy would not be able to do this.

Currently, we plan for Reception children and their siblings to go home at 12 mid-day and Year 1 children and their siblings to go home at 12:20pm. They will be provided with their universal free school packed lunches to take home with them.

Is it compulsory to send your child back to school?

No. This won't be recorded as unauthorised absence or affect your child's absence record for the academic year.

What is proposed about start and finish times and days? Will my child be there all of the school day 8.40-3.15, 5 days a week from 22 June?

Reception children will start school at 9:20 and finish at 12 midday. Y1 children (and siblings) will start at 9:00 and finish at 12:20. Y6 children and KW/V children (and siblings) will start at 8:40 and finish at 3:15. The earlier finish time for Reception and Y1 has been decided because we feel that the demands of the lunch period would prevent us from being able to keep the children and adults safe. We also feel that a whole morning of school under social distancing conditions is more than enough for young children and their well-being.

Reception and Y1 pupils will be in school for 4 half days per week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Y6 pupils will be in school for 3 full days and 1 half day per week. The school will be closed on Wednesdays and Friday afternoons to allow for rigorous cleaning of class bases and resources, and to provide PPA time for our teachers who are also required to plan for and respond to pupils who will be continuing to work from home.

What proportion of the day will be spent outside?

As mentioned above, a large proportion of the day will be spent outside so that children can move freely within their zones. The amount of time that they can spend on desk activities will depend upon their ability and age.

Will Y6 pupils have any contact with the high schools?

We are aware that some high schools have already made online contact with Y6 pupils. We are liaising with the high schools to ascertain how they would like to work with us when school reopens. We will send out further information in due course.

Will Y6 pupils still receive home school work, even if they don't attend school?

Yes. Our Y6 teachers will be planning online activities and engaging with pupils in the Google Classroom until the end of the Summer Term.

Will the children of Key workers be in the school?

Yes. Places for children of key workers and vulnerable children take priority over all other children. These children will continue to be offered places at Morley during the week of 1st

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June and then at Morley and Tacolneston from 8th June. Parents can also book places in the Extra Time Club at Robert Kett Primary School during the half-term holiday.

If one of the children in the class has Covid symptoms - are the teacher and other students (and their household) going to need to self isolate [for 14 days]?

Yes. However, staff and pupils will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their households. A negative test will enable children and staff to get back to school.

In [an]other local primary school the children of medical key workers have been told that they will be placed in groups of other key worker children separately from other children in their year group. This has been proposed as a way of minimising exposure from higher risk households to the rest of the school - is this going to be the case at Morley?

No. This measure hasn't been suggested in the government guidance.