

**Re: Connect Days**

Dear parents/guardians,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatu

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

Following on from my last communication, I would like to give you an update on the re-opening of school with some key information you need to share with your child before they return for their first Connect Day tomorrow insha'Allah.

**Upon arrival**

As children arrive at the school building, they will be asked to line up whilst maintaining 2 metre distancing. To make it easy for the children to recognise where to stand, we will be using coloured circles to indicate a safe standing space. In order to reduce the number of children using the main entrance, year 1 and year 6 will use the side entrance to the building and Reception & Nursery will use the main school doors.



During phase 1 of our re-opening, all classes will be using the ground floor of the building. We find this suitable with the current number of children attending. The classroom sizes offer spacious areas and allow easy social distancing for each child.

According to guidance by the DfE, only one parent must come to school to drop their child off. This parent must be free from any symptoms of Covid 19. Please note, parents will not be allowed into the school building. If you wish to see a member of staff, please contact admin for an appointment. Nursery parents may escort their child inside the building up to the first door. This is only to be done if your child is unsettled. For all other children, the nursery teacher will line the class up at the front of the school and walk them in as a class.

As soon as children enter the school building, they will be escorted to hand washing facilities where each child will be asked to wash their hands using liquid soap. Although hand sanitisers may be used throughout the session, washing of hands with liquid soap is proven to be most effective in eliminating traces of any harmful bacteria/viruses.

All classrooms will be equipped with facial tissues and sanitiser gels. However, it is preferable if children bring their own in order to limit the amount of sharing. If you wish your child to use sun cream, please make sure this is applied at home, before arrival. Children will be asked to avoid touching their face while at school.

### **During the session**

The first few weeks of school will be based around practical learning activities and will not require any stationery, snack or a bag. Your child will need to bring with them a named water bottle. Children in nursery and Reception will also need to bring in spare clothes, clearly labelled with their name, in a draw-string bag. If your child requires a change of clothes, the dirty clothes will be handed back to your child, in a plastic bag, at the end of the session.

Some areas will be clearly marked as 'no go' areas. These include areas with soft furnishings or areas which are in the process of being cleaned in between usage. Children will be made aware of why certain areas are not to be accessed at certain times.

In the Early Years setting, activities will be set up in a way to allow a limited number of children to access it at any given time. Once children have completed a certain activity, staff members will disinfect the equipment before allowing the rotation of children. This will eliminate cross contamination and insha'Allah will keep our children safe. In order to limit the number of children accessing a certain activity at any given time without compromising on enjoyability, children will have badges to indicate which activity they can access at that time. The number of badges for each activity will be in accordance to how many children can safely access it.



As scientific evidence indicates that in the current situation outdoor spaces are safer, the majority of learning activities will take place outdoors for all year groups. Nursery, Reception and year 1 will use the school playground, while year 6 will make use of Heston Park. In order to avoid soft furnishings while in the classrooms, children will sit on chairs rather than the carpet.

Children will be shown how to access toilets and hand washing facilities in a safe and orderly manner, while maintaining social distancing.

Although the premises have been thoroughly cleaned, ready for the children to access safely, there will be a stringent cleaning routine which will be carried out throughout the day by members of staff. This will include toilets, classrooms, furniture, play equipment, stationery, door handles, outdoor areas and communal areas. Anything which the children will come into contact with will be regularly cleaned as part of the routine.

While using indoor facilities, classroom windows will be kept open for high levels of ventilation. When safe to do so, classroom doors will also be kept open in order to avoid the touching of door handles as much as possible.

**The following staff will be on-site during the Connect Days:**

*Abu Zayn*: Trustee & Facilities Manager

*Umm Yusuf*: Head Teacher (**Designated Safeguarding Lead**)

*Ustada Nisha*: Head of Early Years & Deputy Head Teacher

*Umm Ruqayyah*: SENCo & Behaviour Co-Ordinator

*Sister Shazia*: Admin Manager

*Sister Salma*: Business Manager

*Ustada Ruqayyah*: Year 6 teacher

*Ustada Samira*: Year 1 teacher

*Ustada Zara*: Reception teacher

*Ustada Hamdi*: Reception teacher

*Ustada Ishrat*: Nurse teacher

*Ustada Halima*: Early years practitioner

All staff coming on site have been subject to a health check and will continue to be monitored for any symptoms regularly. Non-teaching staff will be allocated to various parts of the school premises, making sure social distancing rules are maintained at all times.

The majority of our staff are first aid qualified. Each part of the school premises will have trained first aiders available at all times the children are at school.

Our teaching and non-teaching staff have recently attended the recommended council training on '**Infection Prevention & Control**' and are up to date with their knowledge of how to keep all school stakeholders as safe as possible.

**Communication:**

Teachers will be at the door at collection and pick up times. Parents can communicate with them while maintaining two meters distancing at all times. Class Dojo messages will remain an active communication platform. The school phone and email will continue as normal. The office will also be open for parents to pay fees or communicate with admin and business manager. In order for any adult to enter the school building, we will have to maintain an appointment system to make sure there are limited number of adults in the office at one time. Please contact the admin manager prior to coming in.

Learning new rules and routines will be an essential part of the session for all classes. Children will still be allowed to explore and be playful, while being encouraged to maintain safety measures. Teachers will enforce safety rules in a positive way and child-friendly visuals around the school will allow them to become accustomed to new routines very quickly. As a nation it may be that we have to learn to live with the threat of the virus for longer than we envisaged. It therefore means our children will have to learn aspects of safety in a different kind of way. The sooner they learn, the quicker they may be able to access 'normality.'

**What next?**

If you have not done so already, please complete the parent questionnaire prior to bringing your child in tomorrow. Please be aware that if your child has any chronic medical condition such as asthma, diabetes or has not had their routine vaccinations, they fall under the vulnerable category. Although infection control and social distancing measures will be paramount for all children, every effort will be made to safeguard vulnerable children and extra precaution will be taken to keep them at a safe distance from other children and staff. If you are unsure about your child's condition, please seek advice from your GP.

If your child is on prescribed medication (such as antibiotics) for a sore throat, cough or chest infection, although they are not classed as vulnerable, it is advisable they do not attend school during ongoing treatment but can attend after they have fully recovered. This is because your child may be carrying a different sort of infection to Covid 19, but can still pass this onto vulnerable children or staff.

**The school will open for the named year groups on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The timings will be as follows:**

**Reception, Year 1 and Year 6: 9am – 11am**

**Nursery: 12:30pm – 2:30pm (children may start to arrive at 12:15pm)**

*Nursery parents please make sure your child has had their lunch before they arrive at school.*

We look forward to welcoming the children into school on Connect Days and hope insha'Allah Allah subhanahuatallah will make it beneficial for them in every way.

BarakAllahu Feek

Umm Yusuf