

Reception and Year 2 relocation to Maiden Beech Primary Academy - Frequently Asked Questions

We will continue to keep you updated with information as soon as it is available, we truly are grateful for your continued understanding, patience and support throughout this challenging period.

Should you have any other questions, please do let us know by contacting the School Office. We may not have the answers just yet, but we can assure you that we are working hard to make sure we can provide you with everything you need to know as information becomes available and plans are finalised.

Children's wellbeing

How will we support Golden and Pippin class with their emotional wellbeing whilst they are adapting to a new school and temporary school site? Will there be additional things in place for students who are anxious?

The emotional wellbeing of our children is a key priority. All Merriott Primary School staff will be a familiar face to our children and play an important part in the temporary transition. Merriott School staff will accompany the children at all times whilst on site at Maiden Beech.

Golden Class will continue to have Miss Hegenbarth, Mrs Rickard and Mrs Spurway.

Pippin Class will continue to have Mrs Sale, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Dang and Mrs Rickard.

Lunchtimes will also be staffed by these adults and there are several staff who are First Aid trained as per the requirements for Early Years.

Maiden Beech have kindly offered for parents to have a look at the facilities with the children between 4:30pm and 5:15pm on Thursday 23rd November – this may be helpful for children to become familiar with where they are going. We will also take photographs and share these with children before next week.

Teachers will share photographs of the key areas at Maiden Beech and have open discussions with the children so they can ask any questions ahead of the relocation.

If you have any concerns about your child, please contact their teacher who will be happy to arrange a phone call to discuss them in more detail and work together to help support children who are feeling especially anxious.

How can I support my child during this temporary transition?

Reassure your child that they will be with the adults that they know well at all times. That if they are feeling worried, they can speak to any of these adults who are there to help them.

Encourage them to speak to you about their worries, but also remember to provide them with positive reassurance.

Will the children be taught/play with children from Maiden Beech?

We are keen not to overly affect the routines and setup of any children at either school. For this reason, Merriott pupils will have separate classrooms, separate toilets and separate playtimes. Children from Merriott will always be accompanied by staff from Merriott. There may be occasions

that the children walk past each other to get from one place to another when they are moving around as a class.

How long will the temporary relocation last?

The timescale is difficult to predict at present, we are awaiting an asbestos review and dependent upon the results will determine the next steps. The Local Authority are working with contractors to ensure the investigations are carried out in a timely manner. We will continue to update parents and carers with any developments.

Are staff being supported?

Yes, all staff will continue to be supported, as are the children.

Why are Reception and Year 2 classes being relocated?

Reception and Year 2 classes are currently disrupted as a result of the structural investigations, therefore it was deemed most suitable for those classes to be relocated whilst not disrupting further year groups. These classes also have the most well-placed staff to support this transition. We are also mindful that Maiden Beech is currently occupied by Reception and Year 1 children.

Children's learning

Will the provision of the children's learning continue as it is now?

The teachers and support staff will continue to provide the children with the education that they currently receive, in line with the curriculum. Our priorities will be to ensure the children are receiving the full curriculum for the core subjects of reading, writing and maths. There will need to be some adjustments to the foundation subjects in the curriculum due to the half an hour of travel time we envisage each day. However, we will plan to make sure that children catch up with this at a future date. There may be some adjustments in the length of the lessons rather than the breadth of what is taught.

We intend to set up the classrooms as you would expect to see them at our schools with appropriate furniture and resources. Reception children will have access to continuous provision, including outside, alongside their more formal learning.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning, please contact their teacher who will be happy to arrange a phone call to discuss them in more detail.

My child has SEND – how will this be supported?

If your child has additional adult support, this will continue exactly as it is within the classes as they stand at Merriott.

Mrs McLelland will be spending time at the campus at Maiden Beech to carry out her role as SENCO for our Federation so that children with SEND are considered very carefully in this provision. If you have any specific questions in relation to SEND, please see your child's class teacher and/or Mrs McLelland.

If your child has a medical need, we will support this in the usual manner.

My child has weekly appointments with an outside professional – will this still be able to go ahead?

Yes, Maiden Beech are happy to provide a space for professionals to work with children as they usually would.

Will there be a loss of teaching time due to the travelling to and from Maiden Beech?

We anticipate that the transportation will take approximately half an hour out of the school day, however we are thinking of clever ways to utilise this time.

Drop-off/Pick-up & Transport

What transport will be provided and the details for drop-off and pick-up.

Transport (bus) will be provided by the Local Authority to all children affected by this temporary change in location, accompanied by Merriott Primary School staff from the children's classes. **Drop-off and pick-up will remain at Merriott Primary School.**

Reception pupils need to be dropped into the new building where they will be registered in the group room of this building. Children will be dismissed from this building at the end of the day.

Year 2 pupils need to be dropped into the Hall where they will be registered. Children will be dismissed from the Hall at the end of the day.

Children should arrive as usual to Merriott Primary School by 8:40am to be registered by their class teachers at 8:45am. Children should be collected as normal at 3:15pm.

The Local Authority are yet to confirm the exact timings of the bus, but we can confirm it will be within the confines of the school day. This section will be updated when we have received clear confirmation.

Can I drop-off and/or pick my child(ren) up from Maiden Beech School?

No, for safeguarding purposes, we need children to be brought to and collected from Merriott and not to/from Maiden Beech.

What happens if my child is unwell during the school day?

Staff will make contact with you via the usual channels and make arrangements for you to collect your child from Maiden Beech. You would need to buzz the office at Maiden Beech via the intercom on arrival and they will alert Merriott staff so that your child can be handed to you safely.

We have made provision for direct contact between Merriott School office and the classroom staff at Maiden Beech.

Where do I send messages regarding my child?

Please contact the Merriott School office as normal. We will ensure messages are passed on to your child's class teacher where necessary. Please do not contact the Maiden Beech office as they will not be able to deal with these enquiries and will direct you back to Merriott School office.

Extra-curricular activities

Will the children still have the opportunity to attend performances i.e. Christmas performances?

Yes! The show will go on!

We will need to make some adjustments for Pippin Class who were originally going to be performing as a full Key Stage 1 production with Year 1 and for this reason, we will need to put in an additional showing for Year 2 families.

New Christmas Play showtimes:

Friday 8th December:

Year 2 1:45pm

Reception 2:45pm

Wednesday 13th December:

Year 2 2:30pm

Please note that children will stay at Merriott all day on Friday 8th December in order to have time to rehearse in Merriott Church during the morning.

Will breakfast, early riser and afterschool clubs continue to be provided?

Yes, these will continue to operate as usual therefore continue to drop-off and pick-up from the School Hall at Merriott.

School meals and snacks

Will the children continue to receive their cooked meal (if applicable) and morning snack?

Morning snack and milk will be provided in the classroom as normal.

Lunch meals will be provided as normal in the Maiden Beech dining hall.

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Merriott Primary School contact details

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