



Post-Covid Madrasah Reopening (Sep 2020)

Introduction:

Assalamu alaikum

Dear parents,

I sincerely apologise, as the head teacher of Thamesdown Islamic Association (Jamia Masjid), for the delay in the reopening of the Madrasah this academic year.

Alhamdu lillah we have approximately 250 students enrolled, which is more than a single entry primary school, yet the space we have available to us in comparison to a small primary school is very limited. Trying to accommodate our students and staff while keeping their safety and that of their families at the forefront, and at the same time ensuring adequate teaching/learning time has been a great logistical challenge. We have also had intensive teacher training programs during the first week of September to ensure our staff are well equipped to deliver to the best of their abilities during the course of the year.

Risk Mitigating Actions:

As expected, the Madrasah has taken multiple steps to ensure we provide a safe environment to the children and staff. Below are some of the actions we have taken:

Classes have been reduced by 50% at any given time, and the 50% that will attend shall be split up in three different groups for entry/exit purposes. Each year group shall be assigned a zone; each zone shall have a specific entry/exit point (details to follow). Each zone will also have a dedicated space for their shoes.

Classes will be set up in a way that students can sit at a safe distance from fellow students, and each class (consisting of a single year group until year six) shall form one bubble. This bubble will not interact or mix with other bubbles.

After each use, the benches used by one group will be sanitized using anti-bacterial spray; we have allocated a fifteen-minute gap between sessions for this purpose.

Staff will supervise student entry/exit to ensure a safe distance is maintained and that there is no clustering and mixing of different bubbles.

Sanitization will be required upon entry and doors will be locked upon class start time to ensure no student is able to come in without staff supervision. Students will also be required to use a mask while entering and exiting the premises.

Toilet facilities have been reduced to a single toilet, which will be sanitized after each use.

Student/ Parent Protocols:

- All students **MUST** wear a face mask when they enter the Masjid premises and as they leave. Masks can be taken off during class. Failure to wear a mask will result in entry being denied
- Hand sanitizer will be kept at all entrances. Students must sanitize their hands as soon as they enter the building.
- A safe distance between students will be observed during class. Coloured stickers on the carpet will indicate where students need to sit. Students are required to sit in their allocated places for the entire duration of their class.
- Parents must not enter the Masjid premises under any circumstance.
- **STUDENTS MUST USE THE TOILET AT HOME BEFORE COMING TO CLASS.** Only one toilet (ladies toilet) will remain open. Any student in need of the toilet will need to be accompanied by a member of staff, and the toilet will need to be sanitized thoroughly after use. This will result in losing valuable teaching time.
- Any student who has symptoms of Covid-19, or who has a family member tested positive for Covid-19 must not attend class for two weeks, or until symptoms subside.
- The movement plan posted on the website must be followed.
- The Main Masjid entrance is **NOT** to be used any time by any child.
- Any parent wishing to speak to their child's teacher may contact them via phone.
- Any parent wishing to see the headteacher in the office must make an appointment in advance. Alternatively, parents can communicate via phone.
- Parking on double yellow lines around the masjid is strongly discouraged. All entrances will be used when students enter and exit the masjid

premises. Entry and exit points are required to offer clear access. Parking on yellow lines will pose a risk to the safety of students.

- Parents must drop children off no earlier than two/three minutes before class commences and must collect children no later than two/three minutes after class ends. All entrances will be locked exactly three minutes into class time; students attending late will not be able to enter the Masjid building. Staff will not be able to supervise children who are collected late as they will need time to sanitize benches and other areas between sessions.
- Parents **MUST NOT** cluster outside the entrances/exits, and must keep a safe distance from each other while waiting.

FAILURE TO OBSERVE the above protocols will result in **SERIOUS ACTION** being taken against individuals perpetrating. If we find a large number of parents showing disregard to the above protocols, we will be forced to close the Madrasah. Perpetrating children/ parents may **NOT** be offered online classes either.

Schedule:

Classes have been reduced in capacity by 50 per cent. This also means class times have been halved. This will help ensure that we are able to keep a manageable amount of students in the premises at any given time.

Class A will now be divided into A1 and A2, and similarly class B will be divided into B1 and B2. Class A1 will not be followed by class A2 on the same day, as there is a very strong likelihood of many siblings having to come to class on the same day but different times. The only other option is to have class B1 followed by A1. This may mean that siblings have to come on different days, for example, child A on Monday and Wednesday, and child B on Tuesday and Thursday.

We understand that your child's times or even days will very likely have changed from what it was originally pre-covid. We humbly request you bear with us. It has been an incredibly difficult effort getting the Madrasah running, and our single objective for the short term is to ensure the safe resumption of on-site classes for all students and staff. Any request to change days/ times will not be entertained until we have the Madrasah running at a satisfactory level. Changes after that may not be guaranteed due to the limitations we encounter in light of the current circumstances.

Please refer to the 'Covid Madrasah schedule' posted on the website for details on time and days for your child's classes.

Phased Return

Year 2 and year 3 students will return this week (commencing 21st September). Other year groups will return in the coming weeks in two more phases. Parents will be informed by their teachers, and from management via text message service of exact return dates. Teachers will also inform students prior to their return as to which group they are in (A1, B2 etc.)

Jazakumullahu Khairan

Maulana Mohummed
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