



**Dear Community,**

**Please see below a series of FAQs including the time line for testing updates.**

### **Where did the materials in the school grounds come from?**

It is too early to say at this stage. Initially, materials were discovered while clearing work was being carried out to develop the garden and pond area in preparation for Forest School and outdoor learning. Specialists came to look at the materials on the evening of Thursday May 23. When visiting the school to collect these small pieces of material, they walked through some of the woodland bank outside of the pond area and collected some other small samples. They took these pieces off to test and we immediately shut down those outdoor areas. Testing continues to be carried out. As soon as we have those results back, we will be able to share more information with the community.

### **How long will the tests take and when will we know more?**

Experts have already carried out initial testing, and further, more in-depth, tests began outside of school hours on Wednesday June 5 and Thursday June 6. It could take around eight working days for results to be delivered. We therefore expect to receive our first batch of further test results back by Monday June 17. If we're remotely able to share those results with you any sooner, we will do. We will then share further updates with you as soon as we receive them back, and will hold a meeting with school and council representatives once we have more information to share.

### **Which sections of the school grounds are affected?**

The woodland area and earth bank were closed immediately on the afternoon of Thursday May 23, following the discovery of a small amount of unknown materials. Tests were carried out confirming these were asbestos-containing materials. Further outdoor areas were closed off over half term, purely as a precaution and to allow for testing. The areas that are closed are the Key Stage 2 grassed areas, pond area and woodland bank areas. The grassed banks near the Dukes Avenue entrance and the woodland area that runs astride the school building were closed off on the evening of Thursday June 6, purely as an extra precautionary measure. The concrete playground area and the astro-pitch remain open.

### **How long will these areas be closed for?**

This will depend on the kind of work that needs doing following testing, and which areas are affected. Some areas are being tested as a precaution. Once we have the results back, we will know more. We will reopen as much of the outdoor space as possible as quickly as possible, but we must first be absolutely sure which exact areas are affected and what work, if any, is required. Any steps that need to be taken will be carried out thoroughly and with the best interests of the school's pupils and community at the forefront of our efforts.

### **PROVISIONAL TIMELINE:**

**Wednesday June 5 & Thursday June 6:** Testing of the grass area, the play area and the wooded bank at MHPS.  
**Thursday June 6:** Additional fencing erected, purely as an extra precautionary measure.



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Entrance: 26-28 Dukes Ave, N10

**Tuesday June 11\* (\*Weather permitting):** Testing of the pond area, the Woodland Teaching area, the Exposed ground/end of tarmac area and the bank areas by playground exit gates, steps and table tennis tables.

**Monday June 17:** First batch of test results back.

**Monday, June 24:** Second batch of test results back. **NB: This date may be put back in the event of bad weather on Tuesday June 11.**

**Circa Friday, June 28:** Full report, encapsulating both tests, back. **NB: This date may be put back in the event of bad weather on Tuesday June 11.**

Please bear in mind that some of the outdoor areas that are currently subject to testing are being investigated purely as a precaution.

We really appreciate your continued patience, support and understanding in this matter.

Mandi Howells

