



Back to school

Our plans for the September return



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I wish I had followed my own advice and kept a diary - what a term! How I have wished for a crystal ball these last few months. We have made plans A, B, C and X as guidance has changed, often in the space of a day or two. We have guessed, second-guessed and then guessed again what the government guidance would be and how it would impact our school community. I do hope that one thing has been constant during this period however: our unwavering dedication to do the very best for our students whilst keeping staff, parents and pupils safe.

I was so pleased that the efforts made to re-open school safely for the selected year groups have been recognised by you. In the recent survey 100% of you agreed that both you as a family and your child benefited from going back to school, 92% agreed that the return to school process was well managed by the school, and 99% thought that every possible risk mitigation that the school could have taken was taken. Some of your lovely comments are included at the back of this document. Thank you also for the ideas and requests some of you made as we turn our attention to September.

We do not know for certain what September will bring but we have made plans based on a number of scenarios and have closely followed the evolving government advice. By imagining and then planning for the different possible scenarios we will be faced with in September I believe we are set up to step into the new academic year with confidence and vigour.

One overall reflection that I have is that I want our school to preserve the best that came from this period - how staff adapted their educational methods, how we embraced a new way of doing things, how the students coped with uncertainty and change, and how we built a new and deeper relationship with you, our parent body.

Thank you once again for your support of the school this summer term, and for your encouragement and feedback. I truly don't believe we would have made it without all your positivity and kind words. I wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to an exciting new academic year.

As ever, please let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Caroline Hayward

HIGHLIGHTS FOR NEXT YEAR

1. Back to normal - this means open and running a normal day for all year groups, within the government guidelines.
2. Catch up support - for any students who feel that they would benefit from revisiting any subject learning post lockdown.
3. Wellbeing - a focus on both students and staff to help them emotionally process the lockdown experience.
4. Safety - risk mitigation to include enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures with new procedures for confirmed cases and outbreaks
5. Growth mindset - taking the lockdown experience and continuing to innovate and grow from what we have learnt.



How will it work?

We have done a large amount of scenario planning and we're confident we can get back to normal.

The latest government guidelines have significantly reduced the need for social distancing and as a result schools will be encouraged to return to a full timetable for all year groups.

This is, of course, conditional on the continued downward trend of the infection rate.

Guidance Summary

Based on the government guidance released on 2nd July this is what we are basing our planning on:

- The bubble concept will be increased from 15 to 30.
- Specialist teachers will be able to move between classes provided they maintain social distancing.
- Track and trace in schools will be a focus.

What does this mean for us?

- We will continue to work in a bubble format but with whole year groups.
- Classes will remain in one teaching space with no crossover of bubbles ie at break times.
- Class teachers and teaching assistants will move freely through the classroom, but specialist staff will need to maintain a 1m distance.
- We wish to maintain separate toilet facilities for all bubbles and so consequently the Rainbow Room will relocate to the Jungle.
- In order for the Star Room to remain a bubble the staff room will be relocated to the Rainbow Room.
- We believe that a staggered start is no longer viable or beneficial once all year groups return. Drop off will continue to be 8:30-9am. With the exception of the Red Room and the Stars who will use the door of number 38 all other classes will enter and leave via number 40. We will continue to gel children's hands when they enter the building.
- Children will sit in rows where possible with the exception of the Green and Red Rooms.

- Home times will vary slightly so that only one class leaves at a time. They will be as follows:-

Green Room 3:00pm Doors of 40

Red Room 3:00pm Doors of 38

Yellow Room 3:10pm Doors of 40

Blue Room 3:20pm Doors of 40

Rainbow Room 3:30pm Doors of 40

Star Room 3:30pm Doors of 38

Balloon/Kite Room 3:40pm Doors of 40

Please may we ask that if you are collecting from number 40 you line up from the Barbican direction and if from number 38 towards Smithfield.

Please ensure you maintain social distancing at all times.

- Homework will recommence as normal.
- Parents and visitors will not be allowed into the building unless their child is new to the school.



FAQS

WILL THERE BE AN ANNUAL INCREASE TO FEES NEXT YEAR?

No. Given the exceptional circumstances, the economic situation and the value we place on our relationship with our parent cohort there will be no fee increase for the 2020/21 school year.

ARE SPORTS AND TRIPS RETURNING?

Yes, where possible. We are keen to return to ‘business as usual’ as much as we can, and this component of education is so important. However, the facilities that we currently use for sports are closed. Once we know their plans for reopening we will be in touch.

ARE EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS RETURNING?

We are not running any extra-curricular clubs for the first half of term but will review this. Private lessons for drama and music can take place and will be held in the child’s classroom. Children will no longer be able to wait in school until their session starts.

WILL LITTLE LUNCH COMPANY PROVIDE LUNCHES?

Little Lunch Company will resume providing lunches for families who subscribe to this service.

WHAT ABOUT LOCAL LOCKDOWNS?

We are planning in detail what happens if the school needs to temporarily close in the case of an outbreak or localised lockdown. If the call comes we can respond quickly, following a pre-agreed plan.

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN WHO BECOME UNWELL WHILST IN SCHOOL?

If a child develops a temperature or persistent cough whilst at school parents will be asked to collect them and if necessary have them tested for Covid-19. We continue to ask that parents take their child’s temperature before bringing them to school.

WHAT ABOUT INFECTION CONTROL?

We will continue our robust cleaning regime next year and work closely with our cleaning staff to ensure every possible risk mitigation is taken. We are also reviewing our infection control procedures over the summer to allow us to track confirmed or suspected cases and communicate with parents in the smoothest way possible.

CAN MY CHILD USE THEIR OWN DEVICE?

We have consciously and purposefully decided against a so-called ‘bring your own device’ policy. Research indicates that it can have a negative impact because the broad range of devices means teachers spend too much time supporting students to fix issues, a role teachers should not be doing. It also presents a security risk to the school network, will not necessarily be suitable for academic work, and will not always have replacement insurance.

RETURN TO SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

100% of parents agreed that their child benefitted returning to school

100% of parents agreed that their family benefitted from the return to school

92% of parents agreed that the return to school process was well managed by the school

99% of parents agreed every possible risk mitigation that could have been taken was taken by the school

THANK YOU FOR THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK

- You have provided exceptional continuity and support for them and for us with clear, helpful guidance
- We have been so impressed with the way in which it has been done
- The communication has been excellent
- It is clear that you all care desperately for the wellbeing of the children
- We believe that the transition has been handled excellently by the school
- We were very grateful for the positive and welcoming attitude staff have shown throughout. The kids have picked up on this positivity. My child has not noticed any real difference in the school experience despite all the protective measures - thank you
- It has been a great joy to see the children working so hard and with huge enthusiasm