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Saturday 12th September 2020

Dear parents, carers and families,

Update after 1st Week Back at School & Routines for Transition to New Classes on Monday

It has been wonderful to welcome the children of Bounds Green back to school this week. The school feels alive again with the children's spirit, energy and enthusiasm. We have needed to implement a number of changes to school routines which we communicated to you before the children's return on 4th September. We would like to thank you so much for your co-operation in supporting us by following the necessary measures we have had to put in place to ensure our School is as safe as possible.

Keeping you informed about how school will work in these new circumstances is going to be important and therefore I apologise that you will be receiving many communications in the coming weeks as we communicate changes, adaptations and reminders about how school will operate.

Revised Arrangements & Routines for the Start/End of the School Day (from Monday 14th September)

As you know the children will be 'moving up' to their new Year Groups & classes from this Monday 14th September and this will mean some changes to the arrangements for the beginning and end of the day relating to which entrance/exit gates should be used.

This is shown on the revised map at the end of this letter which shows which gates Year groups should use as well as timings. With the start this week of our new Reception children and the gradual start of groups of our new Nursery children there will be increased numbers of children and parents so it will be especially important to use your identified entrance/exit so we can maintain social distancing.

As per the previous letter we ask that children scheduled to start the day at 9.05am (Year 3, Year 4 & Year 5), and their parents if accompanying them, wait outside the gates until the earlier Year groups have entered premises. As per the previous letter families who have children in different year groups, for example with one child starting at 8.55am and another starting at 9.05am, we recommend using the entrance gate identified for their youngest child and the older sibling can enter with you, however they will need to go to their identified waiting areas for Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5.

PLEASE CHECK THE MAP AT THE END OF THE LETTER!

Parents/Carers on School Premises

We would like to thank parents and carers for following the guidance last week. Just a few reminders:

- Parents/carers need to wear a face mask (or covering) on entry, and at all times, whilst on the school site, and observe social distancing.



- Parents/carers are not allowed to enter the school buildings with the only exception being for those parents of new Reception and Nursery children (a separate communication about this will go out to new Reception and Nursery parents explaining expectations)
- The Admin office is closed for parents. Please contact the office by telephone or email, or if you need to make an appointment.
- We ask parents/carers to disperse quickly at the beginning and ends of the day, and keep in mind social distancing outside the school gates.

Ensure those who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.

This is a key message we need to remind you about. It is one that Public Health England and the Department for Education expect schools to communicate regularly and repeatedly to our school community. In summary:

- If any member of your household becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), your child must not come to school, regardless of whether they have symptoms themselves.
- Any member of your household with symptoms must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the commencement of symptoms. Other members of the household must self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.
- Children or family members with symptoms of COVID-19 are expected to have a test and report the results to the school. If your child or a member of your household is displaying symptoms, you should immediately contact the admin office by telephone/email to inform us of this and you will be given information on how to book a test.

Parents' Meetings and Keeping You Informed

In previous years we have organised a 'Meet the Teacher' parents' evening early in the new academic year where you have come into school and your child's classteacher shared information about the new class and answered any questions you might have. Unfortunately in the present circumstances this will not be possible. We will have to do things differently.

We have asked our classteachers to prepare an "information booklet" which will cover the usual FAQs parents have about their child's new class / year group, as well as preparing a short 'welcome' video from themselves. This will go up on the School's website by the end of next week, Friday 18th September.

The first parents' evening where you would meet the classteacher to discuss your child is scheduled, as per usual, for November. We are considering how these can be safely managed, and will keep you informed.

Recovery Curriculum

We have been thinking a lot about what a curriculum might look like for children in this next phase of school. One thing we know for sure is that it would be naïve of us to think that the children will pick up the curriculum at exactly the same point at which they left it on the day our school closed. Too much has happened.

You may have heard a lot of talk nationally about a 'Recovery Curriculum'. This 'Recovery Curriculum' has two main aspects. The first relates to a focus on the children's emotional well-being. At Bounds Green the Recovery Curriculum is based on re-engaging our children with their learning through building on their confidence and capturing their interest with exciting and engaging topics.

We have spent time looking at evidence and research by Barry Carpenter who has developed the recovery curriculum as a response to the losses that all children will have experienced in different ways during this time. The common thread running through for all is the loss of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom. These losses can trigger anxiety in any child. We are aware that some of our families have experienced this with their children.

We know that an anxious child is not in a place to learn effectively. So with this in mind, we have thought about the most effective way to support your child's ability to learn.

The intention of the Recovery Curriculum at Bounds Green is to provide opportunities to rebuild relationships and a sense of community, space to re-establish a sense of self and to relearn behaviour for learning skills. This curriculum as a response to these losses is a way for school to help children come back into school life, acknowledging the experiences the children have had. We want children to be happy, feel safe and be able to be engaged in their learning.

Our absolute priority is to reach out and greet our children and to rebuild those strong home-school links. Many children have been disconnected from their friends and teachers for five months. Time will be made to listen to children, their experiences and to support them with the transition back into school routines – both pastorally and academically

As a positive start for the term, all classes have focused their learning around a shared text 'After the Fall by Dan Santat.' Staff have already carried out lessons, which combined pastoral and academic expectations for each year group around this shared text.

The second aspect of the 'Recovery Curriculum', and priority for the school, is to swiftly respond to the loss of learning for all children during lockdown. Whilst continuing to offer a broad and progressive curriculum, we will focus on filling the gaps in children's learning and help them to catch up. We will be informing you of how we will approach this in the coming weeks. It will be an ongoing process that will involve plans and actions over the coming weeks, the next term and beyond.

We hope this has explained some of the thinking behind our approach and provided some re-assurance as we move forward.

Other Reminders / Routines

Just a few key messages on routines follow below:

- Children need to bring in their own water bottle (labelled with their name please)
- Apart from this children should not bring in anything else unless absolutely necessary (a snack of fruit) or packed lunch or their packed snack for after school club. We need to minimise possibility of contacts and so children are discouraged from bringing in bulky rucksacks (even the school brand ones!)
- We heard news on Friday that the Infant Fruit scheme is due to restart next week...however there is the possibility that after such a long time deliveries might be delayed...so please send your Infant child with a snack of fruit just in case for the time being.
- PE. On the day that your child has PE we request that they come to school in appropriate clothing for PE. Children will stay in their PE clothes for the whole day. There will be no changing of clothing during the school day.

Advance Notice for next week for PE for Years 2-6!

Luigi and London Academy will be starting their PE sessions next week with classes from Year 2 through to Year 6.

Mondays:	Year 6
Tuesdays:	Year 2
Wednesdays:	Year 3
Thursdays:	Year 5
Fridays:	Year 4

Specialist Teaching (Years 2 – 6)

Next week our subject specialist teachers/tutors will be starting their timetables.

- As mentioned London Academy teachers will be teaching their PE lessons to each class from Year 2 through to Year 6.
- Sylvia Laguna (our Spanish teacher) will be taking each class from Year 3 to Year 6 across Wednesday to Fridays
- Danni Leach will be starting her Art lessons, but will be restricted to working with just Years 4 – 6.
- Helen Reardon will be teaching each Year 2 class their art lesson on Tuesdays, whilst Year 3 classteachers will be teaching Art in their own classes (from Danni's expert plans)
- Elena Browne will be re-starting singing on Wednesday mornings. Due to guidance year group singing assemblies are not permitted, so Elena can only work with one class at a time to ensure social distancing. For this half term she will have a singing session with each Year 3 and Year 5 classes. This will change each half term so that each class has the opportunity.

Welcome back from the Governors

A warm welcome back to school to all parents, carers and children, from the Governors. We trust you've all had a good summer holidays, and like us, are looking forward to a full term of school activities.

We know you'll join us in thanking Will and all our staff for their work through the summer, firstly running a limited operation before the holidays, and then preparing for a full reopening this term. We should particularly thank Helen for stepping up into a day-to-day onsite leadership role during Will's time shielding and thus necessarily working from home, which has now come to an end.

Governors too are now returning to a more normal pattern of work supporting the school and the leadership team. We'll let you know how we get on.

*On behalf of the Governing Board
Mark Chapman (Chair)*

Thank you for taking the time to read this latest newsletter,

Kind regards

Will

PS. PLEASE CHECK THE MAP & GUIDANCE NOTES ON THE LAST PAGE!



