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Friday 5th March 2021

Dear parents, carers and families,

Follow Up Information About Return to School – 8th March

In Wednesday's letter I outlined the significant change of the need to stagger the start and ends of the School day as well as some other important updates, and forewarned you of this follow up letter to remind you of the routines and controls that will be similar to last term.

When we re-opened fully at the start of the Autumn term in September last year after the first lockdown, a sense of anxiety amongst the school community was understandable. However you had confidence and faith in the measures we put in place resulting in pupil attendance that was as high as in any prior autumn terms, higher than even previous national averages. Following this latest lockdown I am required by the Department for Education to inform you that children's attendance at school is expected, indeed 'mandatory'.

Transmission rates of C-19 have reduced so significantly in recent weeks they have seen a return to rates last seen in late September 2020. I have seen latest Haringey local data for different age groups that each evidence the reduction. We want all our children back and with our ongoing system of controls and the new measures outlined in Wednesday's letter I hope all our families are not only confident about returning, but actually enthusiastic to get back. I know as a whole staff we are.

A quick reminder and clarification with regard to the routines for the new start and end of the day outlined in Wednesday's letter (please refer to the diagrams within that letter):

- There will be a one way system in place, ENTRY only through the Park Road gate, EXIT only by the Bounds Green Road gate.
- Please try to arrive at the Park Road gate for entry at the allotted time:
 - The Park Road gates will open just before 8.45am to allow entry onto only site for parent/children of Reception & Y1 children (and older or Nursery siblings of these children accompanying their parents)
 - We will then allow parents/children in through the Park road gate of nursery, Year 2 & Year 3 children (and older siblings of these children accompanying their parents) from about 8.55am (after reception & Year 1 parents have dispersed) to go straight to their line up areas or to the Nursery.
 - Finally we will allow children in Years 4, 5 & 6 entry through the Park Road gate from about 9.10am to proceed straight into school independently so they are ready in class for a prompt 9.15am start. For the overwhelming majority of parents we do not expect them to need to enter through the Park Road gate to accompany their child
- I have written to the 27 families who are most affected by the staggered start by having children with an 8.45am start as well as a sibling with a 9.15am start with an arrangement to support them
- If you have only a child who is in Y4, 5 or 6, they should arrive at the gate at about 9.10am. If they or you arrive earlier you will need to wait, socially distanced out side the gate till the allocated time (unless with a parent with a younger sibling and start time)
- We hope these new arrangements are short lived in necessity and conditions allow us to return soon to the arrangements of last term!

So onto the promised reminder information, though you may have seen them often before they remain important

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

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. Children or family members with symptoms of COVID-19 are expected to inform the school, have a test and report the results back to the school. You can book a test via: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

If any child (or member of staff) develops these symptoms whilst at school, they will have to go to a designated 'isolation' room which will be the Multi-purpose room next to the school admin office, and their family contacted to collect them and any siblings who also attend the school. They will be attended to by a member of the admin staff.

2) **Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.**

The same arrangements as for Autumn term. We have sufficient hand sanitiser for every room, sufficient paper towels, handwashing stations within classrooms and allocated toilets to specific year groups to maintain separation of pupil groups.

Children (and staff) will be expected to clean their hands regularly using hand sanitiser and at sinks with soap and water during the day. Staff will be ensuring this takes place and remind children regularly of expectations. Children will be expected to clean their hands when they arrive at school, when they return from playtimes, if they change rooms, before and after eating and additionally as appropriate.

3) **Ensure good respiratory hygiene by following the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.**

Again, another control measure the school is already familiar with from last term. Children will be expected, and supported, to follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' guidelines regarding sneezing, coughing, use of tissues and disposal of tissues. The school will ensure an effective supply of tissues and adequate pedal bins in each room in the school to support pupils and staff to follow this routine. There are PHE posters around the school to remind children and staff of the expectations.

In line with latest advice and guidance for primary school aged children provided by Public Health England, children should not wear face masks/coverings whilst on the school site.

We will now be expecting parents and carers who need to enter our school playgrounds at the beginning and end of the day to wear a face mask/covering.

4) **Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.**

As per last term we have organised additional cleaners throughout the school day, in addition to our usual before and end of the day cleaning staff, to undertake frequent, focused cleaning of particular communal areas such as door handles, stairwells, toilets and so on. Cleaning products, such as sanitiser spray, will be used for shared resources within the classroom.

5) **Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible**

Class and Year group 'bubbles', playtimes & lunchtimes

- Apart from our Reception year group, all classes from year 1 to year 6 will operate as class bubbles
- As per last term there will be no joint assemblies of any kind at the present moment. We are looking forward now to holding Google Classrooms 'live streamed' virtual assemblies to each classroom.
- As per last term, to maintain separation of groups we have organised staggered playtimes, as well as organising for different, separated zones within the playground. KS1 and KS2 morning playtimes remain separated in terms of

timing to support separation of groups at end of KS1 and start of KS2 breaks. Year groups will continue to have a rota of which 'zones' they can play in on a week-by-week basis to support separation of Year groups.

- As per last term, the lunchtime break continues to be staggered to support separation of groups within the lunch hall and enable cleaning between different year groups' use of the lunch hall. Again year groups will be allocated zones to play in on a rota basis, whilst lunchtime staff will be allocated to support specific Year groups.
- As per last term toilets around the school remain allocated for use by specific year groups to maintain separation and distancing
- Movement around the school remains as per last term to do the same
- A reminder that parents/carers shouldn't enter the school building. If you need to contact the school office please either call on 0208 888 8824 or email to admin@boundsgreen.haringey.sch.uk.

Specialist subject teaching

- The same arrangements as per last term this will continue in Spanish Art and PE with these staff allowed to work across Year group bubbles to maintain the breadth & depth of educational experience for the children. We continue to have to put in place adapted measures to support these staff and minimise any risks for them.

Children's resources

- General class resources will be shared by the class bubble. Teachers will have sanitiser spray to use as needed.
- More specific resources that need to be used across class bubbles will be cleaned between usage or quarantined for 72 hours as well before use by a separate class bubble.
- The use of playground resources will also be allocated to year groups according to which zone of the playground they are timetabled on the rota to use, and again will be cleaned and quarantined before use by another year group.
- When your child has PE we ask that they come to school in their PE clothing. There will be no changing of clothing as in usual times during the school day.
- Whilst the outside water fountains remain switched off, each classroom has point-of-use water dispensers for the children's use. We strongly encourage you to provide your child with a water bottle which they can refill if necessary during the day. Please ensure the water bottle is labelled with your child's name and class.

Finally I mentioned in Wednesday's letter that I would be updating you with any guidance in relation to the recent news about asymptomatic testing for parents and adults in households with school age children. This is an additional strand in the Government's strategies to control transmission of Coronavirus. The following was published in an update to Headteachers yesterday and is copied for your information

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- *Through your employer, if they offer testing to employees.*
- *By collecting a home test kit from a local test site (<https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site>) – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests.*
- *By ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most.*

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

We are so looking forward to seeing all the children back on Monday!

In Wednesday's letter I ended by thanking all of you and stating the privilege of serving our Bounds Green community. I would like to end this letter by expressing what an honour it is to be the Headteacher of such a committed, dedicated and amazing staff team at our school. It is a privilege and pleasure to work alongside them.

Kind regards

Will