



Head Teacher – Will Wawn  
Bounds Green Road  
London  
N11 2QG  
Tel: (020) 8888-8824  
Fax: (020) 8365-7986  
[www.boundsgreenschool.co.uk](http://www.boundsgreenschool.co.uk)

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Dear parents, carers and families,

### **Return to School**

I am delighted to be writing to you to welcome all children, in all year groups, to return to school full-time from the beginning of the Autumn term. This is where our children should be.

It has been a difficult six months and we have a tough year ahead but I have no doubt with the resilience, understanding and determination that typifies our whole school community we will all rise to any challenges that lie ahead. In planning for the full return of children this September the safety and well-being of children, families and staff are our foremost priorities. In line with this duty of care we have undertaken a thorough statutory risk assessment in accordance with the latest government guidance, in liaison with Haringey's Health & Safety officers and union representatives. This risk assessment informs and guides the plans we are implementing to ensure our school is safe and that effective measures are in place to prevent the spread of infection as the school fully re-opens. These measures follow the government's '[system of controls](#)' that schools are expected to follow.

This first letter contains important general guidance and information in relation to school re-opening, and focuses on the numbers 1-4 of the government 'system of controls' expected, most particularly number 1. A second, important, letter will go out tomorrow morning which will go into the detail of how school will operate on a day-to-day basis at Bounds Green. We ask that you please take the time to read this carefully and discuss this with your child so we can all follow new routines and expectations for the safety of all.

### **System of controls**

During the summer the government issued guidance and a 'system of controls' that schools are required to put in place to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. While COVID-19 remains in the UK community, schools are expected to make judgments on how best to maximise these control measures while providing a broad and rich education for children. The government guidance states that, whilst it is not possible to ensure a totally risk-free environment, if schools follow the control measures set out they can be confident they are managing risk effectively.

The following measures summarise those within the 'system of controls' that all our community are expected to follow on return to school.

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

As a School we had systems in place for this control measure prior to re-opening to certain priority year groups in June, so it is already familiar to our 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.



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. They will be attended to by a member of the admin staff.

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.

**(PLEASE REFER TO THE QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE ATTACHED AT THE END OF THIS LETTER, DOCUMENT 1)**

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

Again as a School we had systems in place for this control measure prior to re-opening to certain priority year groups in June, so it is already familiar to our school. The only further considerations for the school for this September is the logistical one of managing this with the return of all pupils. To this end we have ordered 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. 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 be asking parents and carers who enter our school playgrounds at the beginning and end of the day to wear a face mask/covering. More details will follow in tomorrow's letter about day-to-day school operation.

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

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**

This system of control is one that schools have needed to consider very carefully and put in place measures that suit their own particular circumstances.

To keep this information manageable, full detail on how the school will operate will follow in tomorrow's letter. It will include clear information on a range of expectations and routines about school daily life such as:

- Arrangements at the start and end of the school day
- Staggered playtimes and lunchtimes
- School resources and equipment (Advance notice – we will be encouraging all Junior children to bring into school an empty pencil case for storing each child's own core stationery such as pencils, pens, etc which the school will provide. The pencil case will remain at school, not go home!)
- Assemblies
- Movement around school and maintaining separation of groups
- Class and year group bubbles
- Teaching by specialist staff
- Breakfast & After School clubs
- Other

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR TOMORROW'S PART 2 LETTER!**

All the staff at Bounds Green are looking forward to Friday and the return of the children from last year's Reception to Year 5.

My best wishes to all of you!

Will