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Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear parents, carers and families,

Return to School – 8th March

I am so pleased to be writing to you to welcome all children, in all year groups, to return to school full-time from Monday 8th March. Our key priority for the remaining three and a half weeks of the Spring term will be the ‘reconnection’ of our school community, re-establishing routines and relationships, recovering the children’s learning and responding to their needs, with their all round wellbeing being a core focus.

In planning for the full return of children the safety and well-being of children, families and staff continue to be 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 (a copy of this can be found on the school website) 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, which remain largely the same as for our return in September.

There will be a follow-up letter on Friday, this letter mainly contains a reminder of general guidance and information in relation to the school’s system of controls which for the most part you will be familiar with from the Autumn term. The focus of this letter is to update you with **a major difference on our return.**

After careful consideration of the Government’s new emphasis on **minimising contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible,** at the key times of the start and the end of the school day **we have decided for the need to stagger more the start and the end of the school day, as well as changes to access and entry points to the school site to enable a ‘one way’ system.** This is best shown/explained in the diagrams that follow on the next page.

In summary the diagrams on the next page show:

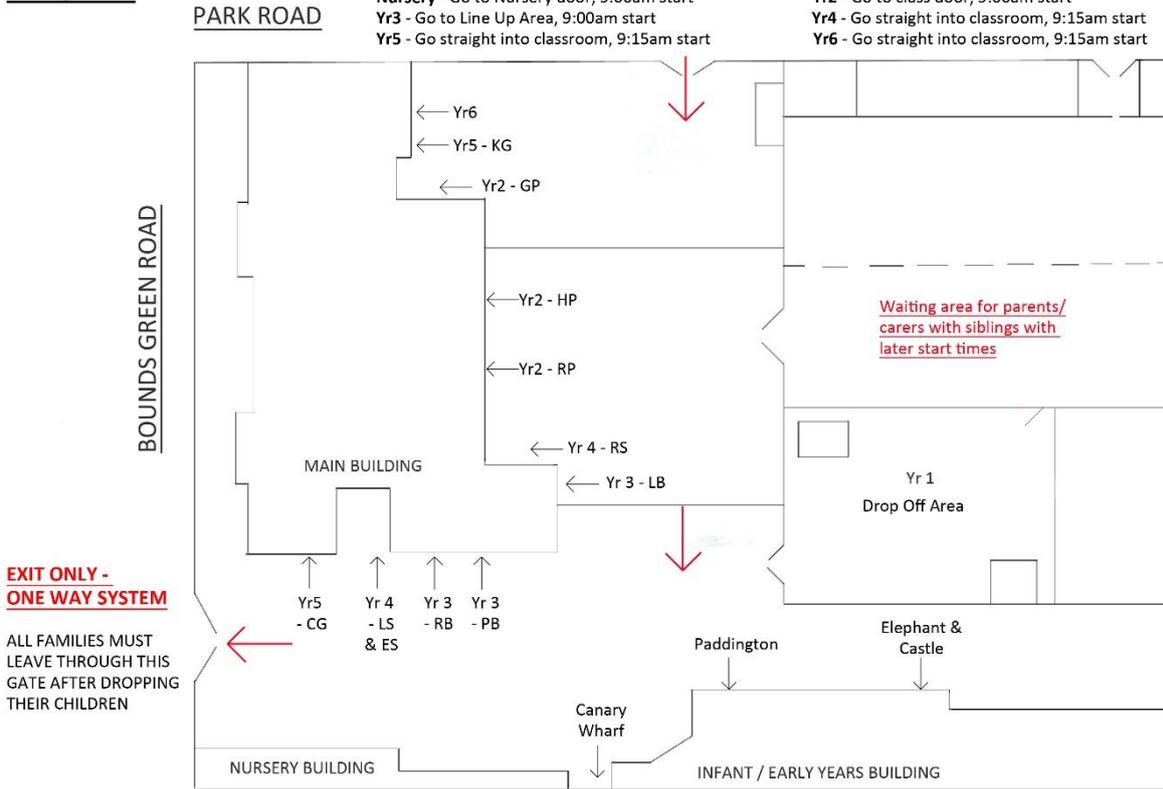
- Entry to the School site will only be from the entrance gates on Park Road.
- Exit from the School site will only be from the Bounds Green Road gate.
- Reception & Year 1 classes will have an earlier start time of 8.45am, lining up at their previous points of last term.
- Nursery, Year 2 & Year 3 classes will have a start time of 9.00am, with Year 2 & Year 3 classes lining up at their previous points of last term.
- Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 classes will have a later start at 9.15am. These children (as per last term) do not line up but should enter the buildings independently and go straight to their classroom. Year 4, 5 & 6 children should be in the classroom ready to start promptly at 9.15am so should be aiming to arrive at the Park Road gate for 9.10am and go in on their own so they are ready in their class seat at 9.15am.
- All children will still have their usual length of day but the staggered starts will see different end times which can be seen on the diagrams.
- We appreciate that these adaptations will be a slight inconvenience, particularly for families with different age siblings, however I am sure you will appreciate and be fully supportive of these changes which have been put in place to protect our school community. If you have different drop off and pick up times for your children, please use the waiting area in the main ballcourt to wait with your children until their start and finish time.
- It is important that children (& parents) arrive for their allocated time of drop off and pick up, as well as leave the playground swiftly, to maintain social distancing so avoiding close congregation at start & end of the day.

Morning Drop Off

ENTRANCE ONLY - ONE WAY SYSTEM - Opens at 8:45am

Reception - Go to class door, 8:45am start
 Nursery - Go to Nursery door, 9:00am start
 Yr3 - Go to Line Up Area, 9:00am start
 Yr5 - Go straight into classroom, 9:15am start

Yr1 - Line up in KS1 playground, 8:45am start
 Yr2 - Go to class door, 9:00am start
 Yr4 - Go straight into classroom, 9:15am start
 Yr6 - Go straight into classroom, 9:15am start

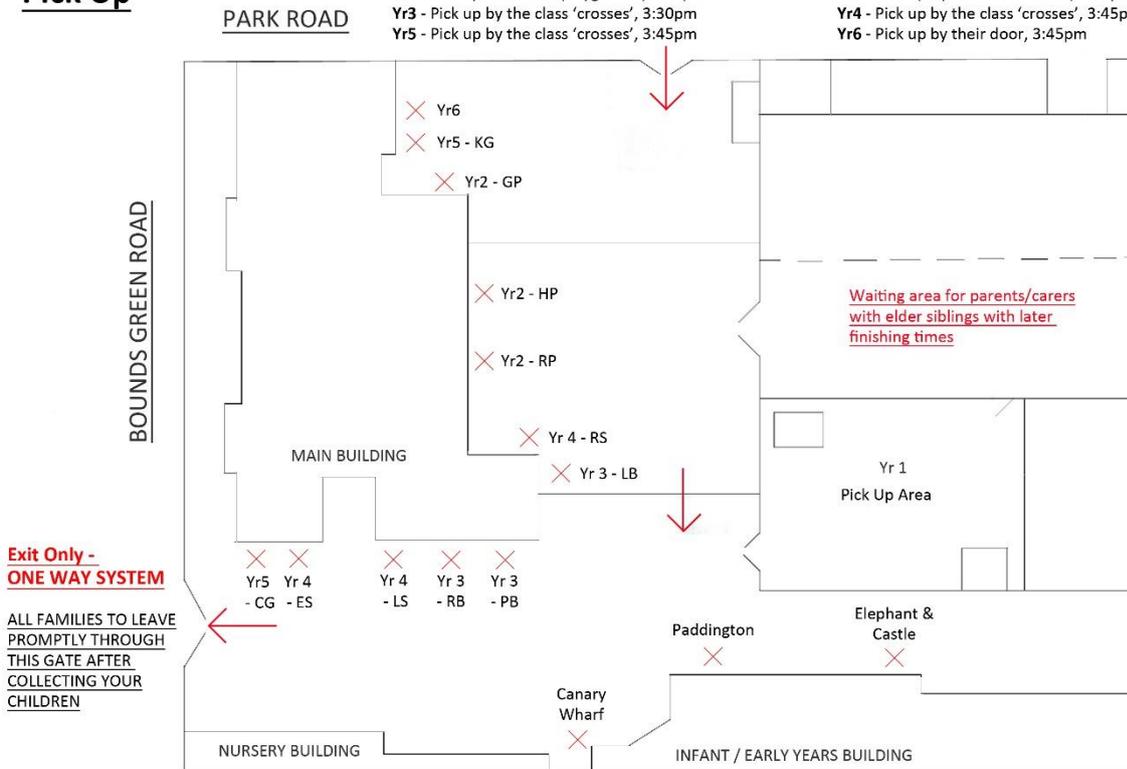


Afternoon Pick Up

ENTRANCE ONLY - ONE WAY SYSTEM - Opens at 3:00pm

Nursery - Pick up at Nursery entrance, 3:00/3:30pm
 Yr1 - Pick up in the KS1 playground, 3:10pm
 Yr3 - Pick up by the class 'crosses', 3:30pm
 Yr5 - Pick up by the class 'crosses', 3:45pm

Reception - Pick up at classroom, 3:10pm
 Yr2 - Pick up by their classrooms, 3:25pm
 Yr4 - Pick up by the class 'crosses', 3:45pm
 Yr6 - Pick up by their door, 3:45pm



Importance of Face Coverings/Masks

Even with these further control measures to minimise transmission risks we want to emphasise the importance of parents/carers wearing face coverings/masks at the start/end of the day. It will be an expectation that all parents wishing to enter the school playgrounds to accompany their child at drop off as well as pick up wear a face covering, unless they have a medical exemption. Senior Leadership staff will be on duty at the gates at start and end of the day, and I have asked them to remind parents/carers of this expectation. We will have a supply of spare masks for the few parents who may have forgotten them.

I know that all of you will be fully understanding and supportive of this.

In terms of other brief information and updates for you in relation to return are summarised below:

- With the increased emphasis on **ventilation** in school we would recommend your child comes to school with **layers of clothing**. Whilst Spring is in the air we will still have cold days so it will be important that children do have additional layers of tops that they can put on or take off as needed.
- As per last term children can bring in their own (labelled please!) water bottle. **Children should not bring anything else into school. The only exception to this is solely for After School Club children who can bring in a back pack to carry their snack.**
- On return children should bring in their '**blue books**' where they have recorded any home learning so the teachers can value and celebrate the children's efforts
- In terms of **Reception classes** we considered very carefully at the end of last term, and subsequently since the Government announcement on 22nd February of return, how Reception would operate. We have looked at transmission rates and weighed up the risks and benefits to the children of operating as a year group 'bubble' or making the significant change to working as different classes. **After careful consideration we have made the decision that it will be better for the children on balance to continue to run our Reception as an environment that the children are familiar with and best meets their needs, and keep it as a free-flow environment. We will obviously keep this under constant review.**
- For the last 4 weeks the majority of staff have engaged in twice weekly asymptomatic testing using Lateral Flow Tests which is an additional protective control measure. We are awaiting information from Haringey Public Health in relation to how this will be offered to parents/families of school age children which has appeared recently in the media.

The remaining control measures are the same as per last term. I will be writing a separate short letter to go out this Friday as a reminder of these so we can all continue to keep our school and community as safe as is possible.

I cannot express how excited the staff team are to welcome all the children back on Monday. I hope the children feel the same way. I should at this point extend our best wishes to our teachers Giuseppe (Earls Court) and Sheila (Canary Wharf) who, though they have been with us since January, will finally have the chance to meet their children in the real rather than virtually!

I hope you feel, like me, a sense of positivity about the future and optimism that there are blue skies ahead. As a community you have shown incredible resilience and support. I cannot thank you enough. It is a privilege to serve our Bounds Green community.

Kind regards

Will