

21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Return to Watling Park School for September 2020**

Further to last week's update, please see finalised information about our plans and procedures for returning to school in September along with our in-depth risk assessment attached. As for the phased re-opening in June, the work that has taken place behind the scenes in order to address everything included in the government guidance has been undertaken in liaison with the SLT, staff, the Trust, Barnet and our Chair of the LAB, Sharma Ruddock.

As every school is different, no two schools will have established the same procedures and routines for the September return. Building structures, gates, staffing, resourcing and a range of other factors have influenced decision-making but we have tried to keep everything as straightforward as possible for parents and carers. As carried out previously, I have consulted with a range of organisations/groups when undertaking our thorough risk assessments in order to ensure we have addressed as much as possible.

#### **Government directive regarding children returning to school:**

The government has stated that it is mandatory for every primary school child to return to school in September. This means that the normal expectation regarding school attendance will apply.

For children beginning Year 1 – 5 in September 2020, the first day of school is **MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**. Our new Reception children will begin from 21<sup>st</sup> September and will be following a staggered entry timetable.

#### **Our focus:**

As previously, underpinning all decisions and actions is a focus on ensuring the health and safety of every member within our school community. While I can never 100% guarantee anyone's safety, even in our normal day-to-day routines, I can assure you that the risk assessments and solutions we have decided on have been taken to ensure we can minimise risk in all areas to the smallest possible. Please read our comprehensive risk assessment which is attached.

We have a comprehensive learning recovery plan, which will begin urgently in September beginning with assessing where any learning gaps may be and tailoring the curriculum to meet the needs of our pupils.

#### **Bubble groups**

We will be following the government guidelines and will have year group bubbles. The children will continue to be encouraged to exercise social distancing wherever possible but no one will be upset with them if they do not. This model provides the children with a wider but consist group of peers to interact, play and learn with while also ensuring there is limited mixing outside this group.

#### **Explaining year group bubbles**

To reduce the risk of cross contamination, each class will have tables facing the front (apart from reception) with children sitting beside a consistent partner. Each child will have their own set of resources (pencils, glue, scissors, etc.).

Lunch and play times will be staggered so that year groups can have their own assigned dining hall and playground times. Resources will be sorted into year group boxes to reduce the risk of cross bubble contamination.

As much as possible, staff working with classes and year groups will remain as consistent as possible.

Therefore, our plan uses the concept of 'bubble' groups in a similar way to what is happening currently but extends it to full classes and year groups, meaning children can continue to developed relationships with each other allowing them to mix while maintaining their safety net.

Please also see the following short film which has been produced by Barnet Education Services to help explain the changes, where to go for help, a reminder of good hygiene, how to get to school safely and the concept of bubbles for children:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxDF5YKFaFk&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxDF5YKFaFk&feature=emb_title)

[www.watlingparkschool.org.uk](http://www.watlingparkschool.org.uk)

Head teacher: Mrs Sally Quartson  
Part of the Bellevue Place Education Trust Family of Schools  
Pavilion Way ~ Burnt Oak ~ HA8 9YA

**Drop off and pick up:**

It is very important that all members of our school community carefully follow the systems of control that have been set out by the government to keep everyone safe. This includes:

- Minimising contact with people who are unwell by ensuring people who have coronavirus symptoms or those people in their household do not attend school and remain in isolation for the allotted time.
- Fully engaging with the government's 'Track and Trace' programme.
- Following quarantine periods if you return from abroad.

The government guidance can be found using the link below. You will also find a link for parents which provides answers to questions you may have. It is important for families to read and ensure they understand it:

[https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIut\\_3maPU6gIVeU7tCh0DGwVXEAAAYASAAEgJek\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIut_3maPU6gIVeU7tCh0DGwVXEAAAYASAAEgJek_D_BwE)

In order to prevent cross-mixing as much as possible, we will be staggering the drop off and pick up times for year groups and using all available gates with different year groups using different gates at different times.

Parents and carers will drop their child off at the gate and collect them from the same gate at the allotted times. Entry to the school grounds will be by appointment only to maintain everyone's safety.

As is currently in place, you should wait on the footsteps and ensure you and your child avoid mixing with others wherever possible. It is important to remember that we are setting the expectations for the children and if we don't follow these, it will be very difficult for us to expect the children to follow them either. We have had to remind parents and carers in some year groups of the importance of social distancing to avoid any chance of picking up or passing on the virus within the school community.

Timings for year groups and drop off/collection gates are as follows:

Gate	08.30 – 15.00	08.40 – 15.10	08.50 – 15.20
<b>A</b>	Year 2 – Cedar	Year 3 – Willow	Year 4 - Ash
<b>B</b>	Year 2 – Hazel	Year 3 - Birch	Year 4 - Maple
<b>C</b>	Year 1 – Pear	Reception - Oak	Year 5 – Holly
<b>D</b>	Year 1 - Pine	Reception - Elm	Year 5 – Chestnut

Gates will be clearly marked as A, B, C or D so please look for the labels when you arrive on the first day.

It is important to ensure you arrive promptly to prevent cross-mixing. Pupils who arrive late may be asked to wait away from the school until all other year groups have entered before they can enter.

We are aware that many families need to use public transport to get to school. This is something you will need to consider.

**Other things to note:**

1. Children will need to wear school uniform BUT NOT TIES OR BLAZERS. School shoes will also be required. Children will also need to bring a **waterproof coat with a hood** as we want to ensure we spend as much time learning outdoors as possible.
2. Children will need to wear PE kits to school on their PE days (they will stay in their PE kit all day). PE days are:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Monday	Wednesday
	Friday	Friday	Thursday	Tuesday	Thursday



3. If your child displays a high temperature or any other signs associated with the virus, you will urgently travel to school to collect them and agree to keep them self-isolated for the recommended amount of time (PHE recommends 7 days).
4. You will need to inform the school **immediately** should anyone within your house bubble develop any symptoms associated with the virus and follow the guidance provided.
5. Children will only need to bring a water bottle and coat/jumper to school. Both must be clearly named. We will begin sending reading books home as soon as possible but as these will need to be stored and not used for 72 hours after they are returned to school, we are currently rearranging our home reading books.
6. Play and lunch times will be staggered.
7. It is expected children will have school dinners to limit the number of items being brought to school. Children in Years 3, 4 or 5 will need to pay if you are not eligible for Free School Meals. Hot meals will be provided each day.

#### **Sunrise (Breakfast) Club and After School/Sunset Club:**

From Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, we will be offering Sunrise Club (beginning at 7.45am) and a limited After School Club until 5.00pm only. There will be no Sunset Club (5.00 – 6.00pm) until further notice. Children will be kept in year group bubbles.

As we have been fortunate enough to secure funding to allow us to offer every child in the school a breakfast bagel each day, we will not be serving breakfast in Sunrise Club until March 2021 at the earliest (when the funding ends). This allows us to slightly reduce the cost of Sunrise Club.

After School Clubs will be limited to Stay'n'Play and clubs offered by some school staff – there will be no external providers attending school until further notice.

Further information regarding Sunrise and After School Clubs will be sent out shortly.

#### **What we need from you:**

We have been advised to ask parents to limit the number of different childcare or other activities that children access out of school hours in order to limit the possibility of cross contamination. Where parents have no other option but to use other childcare options, you should ask for assurance that the providers are carefully considering their own protective measures. It is recommended that you only use providers who can demonstrate this. Further guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

#### **Further information:**

We will be reviewing these procedures regularly but would like you to work with your child/ren over the holidays on the following:

- Regularly cleaning hands thoroughly for the suggested amount of time (use the NHS handwashing song to help: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>)
- Ensure you continue to promote the 'Catch It, bin it kill it' approach for good hygiene when coughing or sneezing
- Continue to read regularly and do as many of the holiday projects as you can
- Engage in the Barnet Library project sent out recently
- Look for virtual museum and zoo visits if you can't go in person
- Click on the links below to find lots of fun and informative activities to keep you entertained over the holidays: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z3g4d2p> (follow the links to other key stages and lots of subjects) <https://www.thenational.academy/>; <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/> (you need to register first but it is free) Lots of books you can read online for free! Handwriting tips and worksheets, spelling lists, maths games and activities.

- To access free eBooks go  
to: <https://connect.collins.co.uk/school/Portal.aspx>: Click on the Teacher portal and enter:  
Username: **parents@harpercollins.co.uk**  
Password: **Parents20!**  
Then click **Login**

I have also attached some virtual and face-to-face free activities in and around Barnet for you to access. You will need to register for these activities but they include some great, fun things for the children to get involved in.

We will contact you again towards the end of the summer holidays with any further information you may need.

We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back in September and welcoming our new families to the school. Thank you once again for all your support throughout this year and we can't wait to return ready for an exciting year ahead where Watling will continue to go from strength to strength.

Enjoy a wonderful summer holiday and see you all very soon!

Kind regards,



Mrs S Quartson  
Headteacher