



Fleet Primary School

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Key Information for return to school for all children on the Monday 8th March

24th February 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and have had as normal a half term as was possible under the circumstances. We are busy in school preparing for the return of **ALL** children on Monday the 8th March. I cannot overstate how happy I am to be able to reopen to you all. After the announcement on Monday, the government published its updated guidance and I spent yesterday working through it, speaking with other heads and Camden, and developing our risk assessment to ensure we reopen in the safest way possible. Much of the procedures in place for the Autumn term are required to remain in place. For your information I am detailing below the steps we will be taking and what we will need your help with.

While cases are thankfully dropping, and significantly so since the height over the Christmas break, they are still higher than anyone wants them to be. For this reason, and to ensure this reopening is not short lived, we must all continue, as we have been, to do our bit. There will be individual inconveniences created by some of the systems in place, as there was before Christmas. I thank you in advance for your patience and support with these. School will run in a way we wish it didn't have to a while longer but we are optimistic we are on the path to more normality in the not too distant future.

There is a lot of information in this letter so apologies in advance but it is all important. Please read the information below carefully and if you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to contact the school and we will answer them for you.

ONLINE/SCHOOL CLOSED FRIDAY 5th MARCH

As many of you will know while we have been open throughout lockdown to a significant number of children. As such, to be able to prepare for everyone coming back, we will need to perform a thorough clean of the school and prepare the individual rooms and resources needed to maintain the 'bubble' integrity needed from the 8th. For this reason, as many Camden schools are doing, we will be closing the school to all children on Friday 5th and there will be no 'set' work for that day. Teachers will direct your child to activities they can do independently – such as practice on Mathletics, Times Table Rockstars, Bug Club Reading etc. All staff will be in school that day preparing for the return and so we will not be phoning home or responding to emails during the Friday. I appreciate your understanding with this.

STAGGERED START AND FINISH TIMES FROM THE 8TH MARCH:

As we communicated and operated in Autumn we will have a staggered start and finish time system in place to ensure that contact between the different classes is kept to a minimum as per government and health guidance. Specific start and finish times for each class will stay the same as they were to avoid confusion. **PLEASE DO NOT COME EARLY OR LATE – ADULTS SHOULD NOT BE CROWDING ENTRANCES WHEN OTHER BUBBLES ARE ARRIVING/LEAVING.**

As before, siblings can come at the same time as each other and the one with the later start time will go to the hall and wait in a socially distanced way separate from the children from other bubbles.

If siblings have same start times but different entrances we continue to ask that you take each child to their specific entrance – there is a five minute window which is plenty of time to walk from one entrance to the other. They will both be able to go straight in to class at this time.

We continue to ask that you do not come onto the site at drop off and pick up time unless your child is in EYFS or KS1.

The children can enter the school/classroom from 5 minutes before the start time – **DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE THIS TIME**

Class	Teacher	Start Time	Finish Time	Entrance to use
Year 6	Oona Matheson	8.45am	3.15pm	Car Park – Junior Playground
Year 5	Holly Kingham	9.15am	3.45pm	Car Park – Junior Playground
Year 4	Ruth Hanfling & Lynley Benbetka	9am	3.30pm	Car Park – Junior Playground
Year 3	Sinead Costelloe	9.15am	3.45pm	Main Gate
Year 2	Rachel Webb	9am	3.30pm	Car Park - Nursery Gate
Year 1	Karen Coulter	8.45am	3.15pm	Main Gate
Reception	Elizabeth Cleine	9am	3.30pm	Main Gate
Nursery	Rebecca Combes & Nicola Budd	9.15am	3.20pm	Car Park - Nursery Gate

PARENTS/CARERS COMING ONTO SITE:

WE WOULD ALSO ASK THAT ANY PARENT ENTERING THE SCHOOL SITE WEARS A FACEMASK AT ALL TIMES – BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BUILDING. Parents should not come into the building/classrooms – reception and nursery can come into their outdoor playground area for drop off and to help settle. Year 1 and Year 2 drop at the same locations as during Autumn Term.

Please only go in to the office if there is something that cannot be dealt with via phone/email. I and other members of staff will be on hand at each entrance every day at both pick up and drop off should you need to speak to someone or have a message passed on.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL DAY LOOK:

As during the autumn term, classes will be treated as ‘bubbles’. Classes will not physically mix during the school day. We will be endeavouring to minimise the movement of adults between different groups too so the same adults are with the same groups as much as possible – there will be times when staffing pressures mean certain adults may be working in more than one group but they will endeavour to socially distance as much as is possible with young children.

In the classroom, children will be seated to avoid facing opposite to another child to limit risks of direct airborne breathing on each other and will be encouraged to stay physically apart as much as possible. However, it is recognised that this is not easy or always possible in a primary school. For this reason, a rigorous hand washing regime will be in place for all children throughout the day.

Children will have their own resource pack (pencils, rulers etc.) to avoid the need to share resources as much as possible.

The curriculum will continue to be taught and we will teach a broad and creative curriculum as we always have. Some minor adjustments will need to be made to certain activities due to the increased risks involved – for example singing brass lessons may be done in smaller groups or outside.

When the children return there will be a rigorous assessment period, as there was in September, to look at where children may have developed gaps during the loss of face to face teaching, and the subsequent planning and support will aim to support the catch-up of any skills/knowledge needed.

We will have the children’s mental health as well as their academic development foremost in our minds when planning and delivering our teaching.

COVID TESTING

You may have seen in the media about regular Covid testing of pupils using lateral flow tests. This is currently only happening in secondary schools. In primary schools there are no plans to introduce this with the children. However, all the staff have the option of doing these tests and many of us who have been in school throughout lockdown have been doing them and with the return of all the staff from the 8th many

more will start. This is another extra measure to support us in picking up asymptomatic cases and keep possible transmission down.

WATER BOTTLES:

Please send your child in to school with a water bottle (put their name on it) so that they have access to water throughout the day. They will be able to refill the bottle but will not be able to drink directly from the water fountains at this time.

IN CASE OF ILLNESS:

Should your child exhibit any symptoms of Covid-19 (any one of high temperature; persistent cough; loss of smell or taste) you should take them to have a test. They cannot come in to school while you wait for the results. If the result is negative they can return straight away. If they test positive you must inform us immediately and they will need to stay off school for 10 days while the rest of the family, if they do not show any symptoms must also isolate for 10 days. The office can support you with information on where to go to get tested should you need to.

In the case of a positive case within a class we will follow all the guidance we are given from public health when decisions are made around whether an entire class may need to isolate. These decisions will be taken on a case by case basis with professional advice at every turn.

RETURNING FROM OVERSEAS:

The list of countries from which you will have to quarantine on return is constantly changing. If you have travelled abroad, or are currently abroad, you must ensure you follow all quarantine rules before returning to school. Please contact us immediately if you think your child's return will be affected by these rules.

I'd like to thank you for your patience as we return. This time we have the advantage over September in that we know we can keep our bubbles separate and safe having done it in Autumn. We have become used to working in this way, minimising adults crossing groups and keeping children separate. We can't wait to get the children back and ensure that their learning journey can get back on track with all the fun and motivating activities they are used to. I will write to you all again on Friday with more detail of the term ahead. In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,



Don M^cGibbon - Head Teacher