



# Fleet Primary School

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Headteacher: Don McGibbon



## Update from school

24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

I hope you, your families and loved ones are all well. I am sure like me you have been watching and listening to the news of the increase in cases of Covid-19 with a lot of apprehension and anxiety. While we all probably expected that as we entered Autumn and into Winter a second wave was likely we desperately hoped it wouldn't happen.

It has been a few weeks since I wrote to you all directly, other than through the newsletter, and so I wanted to give an update on how our measures have been working to mitigate any risk to the Fleet Community and also to clarify a few things that have come up over these first few weeks.

### Staggered start and finish times:

The simplest way to ensure that classes do not mix and that the number of adults on site at any one time is through the staggered start and finish times and utilising the different entrances to the site. We know this is inconvenient, and if we didn't have to do it we wouldn't. However, all the guidance for schools is clear that this is crucial to minimise social contact between different bubbles.

I want to thank the majority of parents who are doing this as we have requested – getting children to the right entrance at the right time and not coming on to the site if they do not need to. However, over the last week there have been a number of children (and the adult dropping them) that have been arriving late and risking crossing with other groups of children and adults. I cannot emphasise enough how important it is that you arrive at school within the 5 minute window for your child's class. Also, please avoid arriving early as gathering in large groups outside the school gates poses the same risks.

Class	Teacher	Start Time	Finish Time	Entrance to use
Year 6	Oona Matheson	8.40-45am	3.15pm	Car Park – Junior Playground
Year 5	Holly Kingham	9.10-15am	3.45pm	Car Park – Junior Playground
Year 4	Ruth Hanfling & Lynley Benbetka	8:55-9am	3.30pm	Car Park – Junior Playground
Year 3	Sinead Costelloe	9.10-15am	3.45pm	Main Gate
Year 2	Rachel Webb	8.55-9am	3.30pm	Car Park - Nursery Gate
Year 1	Karen Coulter	8.40-45am	3.15pm	Main Gate
Reception	Elizabeth Cleine	8.55-9am	3.30pm	Main Gate
Nursery*	Rebecca Combes & Nicola Budd	9.10-15am	3.20pm	Car Park - Nursery Gate

\* finish times will be built up to as part of the nursery transition

### Social Distancing:

The evidence is very clear that the transmission of the virus is highest when people gather, close together, in large numbers. It is also clear from studies in this country and others that in terms of transmission in schools that child to child transmission is rare. The dangers are to the adults and spreading between adults on site. As we requested before, please only come on site if you need to. When you are on site we ask that you socially distance from all other adults and children at all times. Outside each class where there is waiting we have footprints, spaced 2 metres apart, for you to use as a guide. Please ensure that you stay on these and are up against the building – not milling around in the open areas. These are high traffic areas and we need people to be able to pass through without coming into close contact with you as best we can. In order to prevent congestion we would also ask that if you are coming on site to collect only one parent come. We want to avoid groups waiting to collect. If you are collecting more than one child we would ask that the child you've collected first wait outside for you if you come back in to collect another child later.

If you are collecting from the Agincourt Road side, please come in and spread out in the car park and leave the actual entrance to the car park free so people can come and go without it getting too congested. As the virus becomes more prevalent and infection rates are rising it is more important than ever that social distancing is implemented rigorously to reduce risks to you and the staff.

### **Illness:**

I want to be clear about the guidance on illness. These rules are common for all schools and designed to ensure that everyone in the school and wider community is kept safe and to limit the potential spread of the virus. The guidance comes from the government via the Department for Education and Public Health. It is very clear and there is no room for exceptions.

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 self-isolate for 14 days. The office can support you with information on where to go to get tested should you need to.

Visit [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) to book a test.

It doesn't matter if they display other symptoms not related to Covid-19 and you and we think it is most likely something else, such as a cold. **If any Covid-19 symptoms are present they need to be tested before they can come back.**

In the case of not being tested and you have been told by a medical professional that they do not have Covid-19, we would require that in writing from your GP before they can come back. I'm afraid you telling us that is not enough. Again, this is the guidance we have been given to follow, not what we have made up, and is common to all schools in Camden.

**You must ensure that while someone in the household has had symptoms the whole household needs to self-isolate indoors until a negative test result is received or the 14 day period has passed (10 days for the person with symptoms). You should not be leaving the house during this time unless it is to be tested. If you need help or support in getting food deliveries or other essentials and cannot arrange an online delivery there are services to support you. Contact the office who can advise. Again, this is not our advice, these are the rules issued by the government for all individuals and families to follow.**

Please do not conceal symptoms from us as you think they do not have Covid-19 and having to stay off would inconvenience you. We understand there is an element of inconvenience, but we have to follow the guidance if the country has any hope of bringing down transmission rates. We need to be sure. If children come in with symptoms, they risk passing on to other children and staff, which can then lead to classes having to be shut down while staff wait for test results.

Believe me, I know how inconvenient it is and how difficult it can be to get tested at the moment. My wife and I had to work from home for three days this week and keep our three children off school because one of my boys developed a cough. Thankfully he tested negative and we have all been able to return to normal but we had to follow the guidance to ensure everyone we come into contact with is safe.

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 and we will communicate with you throughout.

**Office:**

As I mentioned before, the evidence is that the biggest dangers are from adult to adult transmission, hence our reasoning with limiting the number of adults coming into school. Please avoid going into the office unless you really have to. All payments can be made online – if you speak to Lisa or Debbie on the phone they can guide you. We are also investigating how you can make payments in shop paypoints – we will be in touch when we know more about this. Most enquiries can be dealt with either over the phone or via email ([admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk)). Myself, or other members of the school Senior Leadership team are on hand during drop offs and can also pass on any messages you might have for the class teachers.

I'm aware that this letter may seem like I am 'nagging' and for the vast majority of you you know all this and are following the guidance consistently. However, now more than ever, we need to reiterate the importance of these measures and why we are taking them. The last thing any of us want is having to close a class or the school because avoidable transmission has occurred.

On behalf of all my staff and myself, thank you for all your support.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McGibbon', written in a cursive style.

Don McGibbon - Head Teacher