



**Community
School**

The Drive
Walthamstow
London E17 3BN
Tel: 020 8520 0775

Because everyone has a future...

26th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

RE: Potential Phased Return To School On Monday 1st June 2020 For Reception Class, Year 1, Year 6 And Children Of Key Workers

Introduction

I am writing to provide details of the proposed plans to re-open our school for **Reception Class, Year 1** and **Year 6** on 1st June. If, later this week, the Government confirms their plan, these classes are invited to return to school **alongside the children who have been attending school since the lockdown, such as those of keyworkers.**

Firstly, can I say a huge thank you to all of you who have shown your support to the school and staff over the last two months. It has been an incredibly difficult time for everyone and we appreciate all of the comments, emails, well wishes and kindness you have shown. We are confident that we can continue to work together to provide the best for our children under very challenging circumstances.

If, later this week, the Government confirms that schools will open more widely on June 1st, we will be open **ONLY** for **Reception, Year 1** and **Year 6 pupils, alongside the children who have been attending school since the lockdown, such as those of keyworkers.**

We have considered how we can make the school environment as safe as possible in every decision we have made and every procedure we have put in place. However, you will appreciate that, despite all of this, we cannot make the school entirely risk free.

It is really important that we all understand that school will not work in the same way as it did before we closed. We have had to introduce a number of new routines and practices to ensure the safety of children, staff, parents and carers. We must all adhere to these new expectations in order to maintain the safety of our whole school community.

Headteacher: **Peter Lewis** B.Sc (Hons), P.G.C.E., N.P.Q.H.
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Arriving At School

We have had to think very carefully about entry to and exit from the school grounds. It is very important that you are clear about where you should drop off and collect your child.

All children should enter the school site via the green gate on Rectory Road. This gate will be opened at 8:45am and will be closed at 9:15am. In a similar manner to visiting supermarkets presently, you will need to queue up with your child along Rectory Road, at two-metre intervals and children will enter the playground one at a time. We are keeping the gate open for 30 minutes, to facilitate this. Parents and carers will not be able to enter the playground.

Departing From School

At the end of the school day, gates will open at 3:15pm. Parents/carers will need to queue outside of designated gates, socially distanced along the pavements. Once parents/carers reach the gate, their child will be sent over to them.

Children will be released at different exits:

- Reception - The Drive main gate
- Year 1 - Rectory Rd green gate
- Year 6 - The Drive Ark gate
- Key worker children with a sibling in Reception – The Drive main gate
- Key worker children with a sibling in Year 1 - Rectory Rd green gate
- Key worker children with a sibling in Year 6 – The Drive Ark gate
- Key worker children with no siblings in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 – Rectory Rd green gate

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Hygiene

All staff and children will wash their hands upon arrival at school. Handwashing will take place regularly throughout the day and before leaving to go home.

Timings

Please be prompt when dropping off and collecting your child. Please note, **school will close at 1:00pm every Friday** to allow for additional cleaning and for the school to be made ready for the following week. Playtime and lunchtimes will also be staggered and the use of play equipment will be significantly limited. This is to reduce the risk of potential transmission of COVID-19.

Small Groups

In class, your child will be in a small group of no more than fifteen children. The children may be in different classrooms than the ones they are used to. This is because the rooms have had to be modified to accommodate smaller groups and to ensure the best social distancing measures can be observed.

Uniform

Children should wear school uniform as normal if they are able. If they have grown out of their uniform, please ensure that the clothes they wear are as similar to the school uniform as possible. As the weather is now more sunny, please feel free to apply sun-cream before the children come to school in the morning. Children can bring sun hats too. Please ensure that these are name-labelled.

Lunch And Water Bottles

Our excellent school dinners will be available as usual and we recommend these to you. We ask that children bring a **name-labelled water bottle** to school, as our water fountains will be unavailable to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

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Visitors

Visitors to school will be reduced to essential workers only and these will be limited each day. This is to help reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19.

Rise and Shine

The before and after school club provision will not be running at this time.

General

We are delighted at the prospect of many of our children returning to school from June 1st. We understand that you will have your own views about whether you think it is right for your child to return and we will support you in whatever decision you make. The Government has confirmed that there will be no sanctions for non-attendance.

We hope that the Frequently Asked Questions document, we are making available as a complement to this letter will be helpful to you.

Thank you, once again, for your care and kindness. We have a beautiful school community. We are all longing for the day when all of our children can return to their normal patterns of education.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Lewis
Headteacher

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