

Dear Parents

Following a thorough review of the Government's guidance on the return to school in September (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#A>), I am pleased to inform you that children from Years 1 to 6 can return on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September. Reception children will start their half days on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September and full-time from 28<sup>th</sup>.

In order to safeguard all staff, children and their families, there will be many changes when we return. We will be creating three new protective "bubbles": one will cover Years 5 and 6, another Years 3 and 4, and the third Year 1 and Year 2, with Reception joining them later in the term. These bubbles will not mix with one another throughout the school day (ie playtime, assemblies or lunch).

The requirement for children to maintain strict social distancing between each other inside classrooms has been removed, but all desks will be positioned in rows facing one way. Staff will be required to maintain a distance from children as far as possible. We will continue with regular handwashing and with teaching good hygiene, especially in relation to coughing and sneezing. Perspex screens have been purchased to facilitate face-to-face work, and PPE will be available for all staff when administering first aid.

There will no longer be a requirement to wear freshly laundered clothes each day; children will be expected to wear full school uniform. Every class will be allocated a PE day, on which children must come to school wearing their PE kit (underneath their own tracksuit) and trainers. PE kits cannot be brought into school in bags. Your child's PE day will be given in the first week back.

Children will be required to bring in their own fully equipped pencil case on the first day and leave it in school. Class teachers will inform you via a letter this Thursday of the items needed. Please would all children return the reading books that they took home in March. However, from September we will not be sending reading books home in the usual way, although children will still be heard reading regularly in school. The only item children will be allowed to bring in on a daily basis is a packed lunch (if applicable). No other bags will be allowed.

Playtimes will be staggered, so that each bubble can have its own fifteen-minute morning break and half-hour lunch break. Lunch will be eaten in classrooms for the time being. Our new catering organisation, Hertfordshire Catering Limited, will be providing a range of hot meals in take-away style containers, as well as packed lunches. Details of the menu will be distributed when I receive them.

We are sorry that we are not able to invite parents to enter school. We shall continue to keep in touch with you by email and Class Dojo for any video messages, but cannot invite you in for liturgies, assemblies or any other special occasions for the time being.

Each class will have a class teacher and teaching assistant. They will be the only staff in regular contact with those children, apart from PPA time (planning, preparation and assessment time, which all teachers have each week). PPA will continue to be covered by our music specialist Ms Phillips (all classes), Mrs Tottle-Nugent (Reception, Years 1, 3, 4 and 5) and Karen Borley (Years 2 and 6).

To conform with the Government's guidance, at the same time as maintaining as much as possible of the School's rich music curriculum, music will be taught in groups of fifteen. This will enable singing and some playing of instruments to be resumed safely. A new teacher, Mrs Kells, has been recruited to work with Mrs Tottle-Nugent and Karen so that, when classes are divided during PPA time, the children not being taught music will have intensive maths and English teaching. We have received no additional funding for this new arrangement, but have decided it should still be put in place both to retain our music curriculum and to facilitate the catching up in key subjects that is likely to be necessary for many children.

Enfield Music Service will continue to provide instrumental tuition for children who have booked lessons, but only for strings, guitar, piano or keyboard. For the time being, tuition in wind instruments will remain suspended because of their greater infection risk.

To avoid large numbers of children and parents gathering at the school gate, drop-off and collection times will be staggered. We have decided to do this by surname so that all the children in one family can be dropped off and collected at the same time.

<b>Years 1 – 6 from 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>			
<b>First letter of surname</b>	<b>Drop off in the morning</b>	<b>Collect in the afternoon</b>	<b>Where?</b>
<b>A, B &amp; C</b>	8.50am	2.50pm	parish car-park gate
<b>D, E, F &amp; G</b>	8.55am	2.55pm	main entrance
<b>H, I, J, K &amp; L</b>	9am	3pm	parish car-park gate
<b>M, N &amp; O</b>	9.05am	3.05pm	main entrance
<b>P, Q, R &amp; S</b>	9.10am	3.10pm	parish car-park gate
<b>T, U, V, W, X, Y &amp; Z</b>	9.15am	3.15pm	main entrance
<b>Reception children from 21<sup>st</sup> September – half days</b>			
<b>Reception Green</b>	GROUP A 9am	11.50am	gate by Site Manager's house
	GROUP B 1pm	3.05pm	
<b>Reception Yellow</b>	GROUP A 9.10am	12 midday	
	GROUP B 1.10pm	3.15pm	
<b>Reception children from 28<sup>th</sup> September – full days</b>			
<b>Reception Green</b>	8.55am	3.05pm	gate by Site Manager's house
<b>Reception Yellow</b>	9.05am	3.15pm	

**Reception parents who also have children in other infant classes, may drop off siblings in the morning at the Site Manager's gate if this is more convenient. At home-time, new families to the school will pick up their Reception child from the Site Manager's gate at the time above. However, Reception children with older siblings will be collected from the relevant gate by the letter of their surname.**

As you will have gathered from Mrs Murphy's letter last week, there will be no after-school clubs initially for netball, football, gymnastics, choir, guitar or strings; neither will Sticky Fingers or Young Centre Stagers be starting up again. We will however be re-establishing our own breakfast and after-school clubs. You should have responded to Mrs Murphy's google survey by Tuesday if you want a place.

Our risk assessment is being updated and will be published on the school website later this week. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms of COVID-19 will immediately be required to self-isolate at home and to be tested. If a child develops symptoms while in school, they will be quarantined in school until a parent or carer arrives to collect them. If the test result is negative, the child/staff member will be able to return to school as soon as they feel well again. If it is positive, they must continue to self-isolate for at least seven days from the onset of symptoms. The School will liaise with the local health protection team, which will advise on further action, including the identification and self-isolation of others who might be infected. Any child exhibiting symptoms will not be allowed to return to school until a test has been done and the result shared with the School.

I hope this letter reassures you that we have the necessary measures in hand to ensure that all children will be able to return to a safe, welcoming and stimulating school environment in September. Unfortunately, we must all be prepared to live for some time to come with restrictions – and with the possibility of another partial or full closure of the School. I am confident however that we have the experience to deal with this.

For those parents who would like their children to continue with school work during the summer holiday, details of online resources recommended by the Department for Education can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>. Class teachers will also be including their own suggestions in the letters they plan to send out on Thursday.

Thank you again for your co-operation, understanding and support throughout this extraordinary term. Should you have any immediate queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at [headteacher@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk).

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste, Headteacher