



Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Full Opening of Schools in September

I would like to once again thank you for your hard work supporting your children with their home learning for several months now. It has been a testing time for us all and I know many of you will have been juggling your own work with childcare whilst also supporting your child with their home learning. Thank you for all you are doing.

Last week, the government published guidance for the full opening of schools in September. All children will be expected to return to school on Monday 7th September. We will be holding two staff INSET days prior to this (Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th) to allow for staff training, thorough risk assessments and site preparations. I hope this letter will help to reassure you that all the necessary health and safety precautions are being taken to minimise risk and ensure we can safely welcome your child back to school.

Reducing Contact

In line with government guidance, measures to reduce contact will include:

- Maintaining consistent groups of children
- Limiting interaction, sharing of rooms and social spaces between groups as much as possible
- Keeping children within their class groups for the majority of the time but allowing mixing into wider groups for break and lunch times, specialist teaching and wraparound care
- Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- Staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

The government guidance recognises that siblings may be in different groups and that children from different groups may travel to school together. However, endeavouring to keep these groups at least 'partially separate' and minimising contacts between children will still offer public health benefits as it reduces the network of possible direct transmission.

The guidance states that *'all teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable'*. Staff will maintain distance as much as possible and will continue to follow the health and safety procedures outlined in our risk assessments. We will continue to review our risk assessments weekly.

Attendance

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, the government made it clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.



However, now the circumstances have changed and the guidance states that it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Therefore, from September, school attendance will be mandatory. The usual rules on school attendance will apply, which includes fixed penalty notices.

Arrival and Collection Arrangements

The school day will need to have staggered start and finish times to minimise the footfall onto the school site at any one time. The timings for the school day will be as follows:

Nursery, Reception, 1H, 1B and 2M: 8.45 – 3.30 (8.45 – 12pm for part time nursery)

3L, 3/4A, 4/5D, 5S, 6W and 6E: 9am – 3:45

It is vital that all parents and carers strictly adhere to school drop-off and collection times. Only one parent or carer is permitted to drop off and collect a child (not pairs or groups of adults). Please be on time and promptly leave the playground without stopping to talk to others.

We will continue to operate a one-way system. All year groups (including Nursery and Reception) should enter using the main school gate. The children will be greeted by their teacher in the playground and parents/carers may then leave via the Moresby road gate.

PPE

The school has purchased PPE for staff to wear should a child become unwell with symptoms of Covid-19 and they need to care for them before they are collected by a parent or carer. Staff who will be providing intimate care and first aid will be provided with PPE. We have also allocated a room for use if a child becomes unwell with symptoms whilst in school. A member of staff will take the child to the room and wear PPE while waiting for the child to be collected.

Food arrangements

We will be providing hot meals again in September for those who require it. Children who usually have packed lunch can continue to bring their own packed lunch. Break times and lunchtimes will be staggered with pupils remaining in their groups. Cutlery will be set out on the table to avoid children reaching for shared pots of cutlery and tables will be disinfected after each group. Each group will have a time slot allocated for use of the outdoor space and the playground will be divided into sections.

Infection Control

If any child or any member of their household displays symptoms of Covid 19, they should NOT attend school. If anyone in school becomes unwell with symptoms of Covid-19, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for at least 7 days and arrange a test to see if they have COVID-



19. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with the symptomatic person do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.

If a child or member of staff tests positive, they must self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

People who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive, are advised to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

All staff and children will continue to wash hands thoroughly more often than usual. Children will be supervised washing their hands regularly. This will be done when the children arrive, before and after each session, play and lunchtimes and before they go home. In addition, we have alcohol based hand sanitiser across the school site and children can bring their own if they wish.

Children should not bring any items from home with the exception of a named water bottle, hand sanitizer, coat, sun hat and packed lunch if required.

Pupil behaviour in school

Throughout this time, we have continued to provide care and education for children and their behaviour has been excellent. It is vital that children follow the school rules which includes staying safe in the classroom and keeping their distance where possible. If a child deliberately and consistently refuses to follow these rules which cause distress and increase risk to pupils and staff, then we will ask that they are immediately collected. We ask for your full support at this time to ensure the highest standards of behaviour in school for the safety of others.

Communication

In line with the government guidance, parents will not be allowed into the school building and will only be allowed onto the playground at drop off and collection time. Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed to have extended face to face conversations with staff until further notice. Communication must come via the office through phone or email. We value parent



communication highly and it is extremely important to us that you are still able to voice your concerns or ask questions about your child's education so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Uniform and clothing

Children will be expected to wear full school uniform each day. Children will be expected to wear PE kit for their PE sessions. The government guidance states that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. We will no longer be able to issue spare uniform to children who do not arrive to school in the correct uniform. However, uniform will be monitored daily and we may request a meeting if we feel your child is consistently not wearing the correct uniform.

Transport to school

All parents/carers, staff and pupils are encouraged to walk or cycle to school if at all possible. Families who have no option other than to use public transport should avoid the busiest routes, keep their distance where possible, wear a face covering and wash or sanitize hands regularly.

Wrap around childcare

Nation Sports will provide the wraparound care. We are committed to ensuring pupils have opportunities to re-engage with their peers and with the school and we are committed to supporting working parents.

Due to COVID-19, number of places available in breakfast club and after school club will be limited. We urge parents to only sign up for wrap around care if it is needed to allow you to go to work. We hope to be able to re-introduce a fuller range of clubs in the Spring term and this will be kept under review.

A survey will be emailed to you on Monday 13th July asking you to sign up to wrap around childcare. You will need to sign up by Friday 17th July for your child to be offered a place for the start of Autumn term. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that your child will only be mixing with other children within their designated school 'bubbles'. We will do our best to accommodate this but there is a chance that children of different age groups will be in a group together. This is why it is important to only sign up if you require the childcare to enable you to go to work. Thank you for supporting us to prioritise the health and safety of staff and children.

Curriculum

In line with the government guidance, we will continue to teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, whilst making use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content. Teachers are excited to begin their Black History topics with the children in September. As well as topic lessons, science, RE, computing, PSHCE and PE will resume.



Harrington Hill Primary School
Harrington Hill
London E5 9EY

Tel 020 8806 7275
Fax 020 8806 3364
admin@harringtonhillhackney.sch.uk

Harrington Hill Nursery School
Tel 020 8806 0855

The children's well-being will be paramount. We will ensure we provide plenty of opportunities for the children to settle back into school routines, get to know their new teacher and interact with their peers.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the plans for the full opening of school, please do not hesitate to contact us. A full, detailed management plan will be uploaded to the school website next week.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I wish you all a safe and restful summer and look forward to welcoming you and the children back in September.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Kennedy

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Acting Headteacher