

8th September 2020

Dear parents,

Welcome back! How lovely to see you yesterday and of course your fabulous children. The staff and children were so thrilled to be back at school and had a lovely day. After lunch, one child asked me how long it was until home time. When I asked why, were they not enjoying being back at school, they replied that they had had a great day so far, but were very tired!

Thank you for your patience with the new systems and routines. It is new to all of us and we will continue to evaluate what we have in place and refine the things that we need to. There are some slight amendments to the collection arrangements at the end of the day for some year groups (Years 1, 2 and 3), but we have contacted families about those separately.

Please find below some questions that have been asked by parents.

What happens if my child is late to school?

To ensure that the start of and end of day arrangements work, we need everyone to be punctual. If children are late, it has a knock on effect for the following year groups and that means we won't start on time. In the event that your child has missed their year group coming in, they will need to go to the office. If a child is late then they need to enter via the Church Street entrance.

At the end of the day, children who are not collected at their designated time, will go to the bottom hall and can be signed out from there. Please enter via the Church Street entrance, if you are late collecting your child.

Can it be children only in the playground at the start and end of the day, with parents waiting outside?

At the moment, parents of children in Years 4, 5 and 6 are not able to come into the playground and parents of children in Nursery – Year 3 are able to come into the playground to drop off and collect their children. There is a concern that to have all parents waiting outside both entrances would cause huge congestion and make drop off and collection even longer, even with the staggered start. We will continue to monitor and evaluate what we are doing to ensure we are following government guidance and keeping everyone safe, but also ensuring that our systems are efficient. Please leave the playground promptly, after drop-off and pick-up.

Can I wait in the playground to collect my other child instead of walking round?

No. Parents need to leave the playground as soon as they have collected their child. If you have more than one child and have to walk round to a different gate to collect your other child, I appreciate that this is inconvenient, but this is what parents need to do at the moment.

When do Breakfast Club and Fit For Sport start ?

Breakfast Club and Fit For Sport will both be starting on Monday 14th September. The times will be the same as last year.

Breakfast Club starts at 8am. As the start times for year groups are different, the children will stay in BC until their start time e.g. Year 5 and 6 children will go to class at 8.50am, Year 3 and 4 children will go at 9am, Year 1 and 2 children at 9.10am and Reception children will stay in BC until 9.30am.

Children who go to Fit For Sport will go when their class is finished at the end of the day.

When do clubs start?

Breakfast, lunchtime and afterschool clubs will not be starting at the moment. There are lots of new systems and routines that we need to establish first.

We will inform you as soon as we feel that we are able to safely restart the club provision.

Will I have an opportunity to meet my child's class teacher at the beginning of this school year?

Meet the teacher meetings will be taking place on Monday next week (14th September) for Y1 – Y6 parents and Thursday (17th September) for EYFS parents. These will be virtual this year and will take place via Google Meet, a link will be sent to you shortly. At this meeting, which will take about 20 minutes, teachers will tell you more about how the children have settled in, the current organisation of your child's school day and what we are looking forward to this term. The schedule for the virtual meet the teacher meetings is as follows

| Time | Year Group |
|-------|------------|
| 9:00 | Y6 |
| 9:45 | Y5 |
| 10:45 | Y4 |
| 11:30 | Y3 |
| 1:30 | Y2 |
| 2:15 | Y1 |

Will music and PE lessons still be happening?

Yes. We have had to adjust the content of these two subjects in line with government guidance (no singing or contact sports for example), so Music and PE lessons will begin after the first two weeks back at school (week beginning 21st September). Teachers will also be using the '5-a-day' resource to increase children's physical activity in the classroom, with 5-minute exercise routines and 2-minute 'chill-out' routines.

Alison is busy amending her teaching schedule, to include more rhythm games and aural games/activities, followed by theoretical aspects (this could involve children's learning about a focus musician and then listening to/evaluating/responding to music composed/devised or performed by the focus musician).

Will my child continue to have musical instrument lessons?

Hackney Music service hope to have their tuition service up and running in schools at some point this half term.

Will the home/school learning offer continue?

No, as children are back in school. However, where a child is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, parents can access the following:

- Oak Academy Classroom <https://classroom.thenational.academy/>
- Online education resources for home learning <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1>

If we have partial closure of the school (one class, bubble, or phase) that we will then offer on-line teaching.

How will the Government Catch-up Programme Funding be used?

The government has announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people affected by school closures. This includes a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time. At the time of writing, detailed guidance has not been released about this and no funding received.

Please note this is an allocation of funding for our school to determine how best it is used for our pupils.

Will the children still have playtime and lunchtime?

Yes. All the children from year 1 – 6 will have a morning break, lunchtime and an afternoon break as well.

What's the policy for children if a parent (or anyone the child lives with) comes down with Covid symptoms? Please read NHS guidance below.

You must self-isolate immediately if:

- you have any [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- you've tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- [you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace](#)
- you arrive in the UK from a country with a high coronavirus risk

School has been provided with a small number of testing kits which can be given to parents when they collect a child showing symptoms. These will only be given to families who are not able to attend either the drive-through test centre or local, mobile testing unit.

Will parents of children at the school be informed if any child (or their family) has Covid symptoms?

No. School will contact the local health protection team and follow their advice if Covid-19 cases are confirmed. They will support us in assessing the risk and advise us of actions to be taken.

We will work with national and local partners to prevent, contain and manage outbreaks as outlined in the following document:

[Containing and managing local Covid-10 outbreaks \(tier information\)](#)

The children need to wear clean clothes every day. What about jackets, shoes, book bags or umbrellas etc? Is there any recommended care or cleaning for those?

Coats, book bags and other items are hung on pegs outside the classroom or put into children's trays when they go into the classroom. We have asked that the children (and staff) wear clean indoor clothes every day to minimise the risk of spreading the virus through direct contact with chairs and tables within the year group; as these items are cleaned regularly throughout the day.

What measures if any has the school taken regarding ventilation of classrooms please?

All classrooms will be well-ventilated at all times with windows and doors (where safe) kept open.

Will the lunches be made at school and will there be a choice?

Lunches will be prepared at school by our regular team of kitchen staff. As we are not currently able to offer hot lunches served in the lunch hall, packed lunches will be provided. Please see this week's menu below. We will be asking the children for favourites and not so favourites to inform future menus! Please remember to provide your child with a clearly labelled water bottle.

LUNCH MENU – W/B 7th September 2020

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Bagel or Roll</p>  <p>Cream Cheese & Cucumber (V) Or Houmous & Cucumber (VG)</p> | <p>Bagel or Roll</p>  <p>Egg Mayo (V) Or Roasted Vegetable (VG)</p> | <p>Bagel or Roll</p>  <p>Cheese & Coleslaw (V) Or Houmous & Grated Carrot (VG)</p> | <p>Bagel or Roll</p>  <p>Cheese & Salad (V) Or Houmous & Salad (VG)</p> | <p>Bagel or Roll</p>  <p>Tuna Mayo & Cucumber Or Falafel & Grated Carrot (VG)</p> |
|  <p>Mixed Salad (VG)</p> |  <p>3 Bean Salad (VG)</p> |  <p>Pasta & Pesto (V)</p> |  <p>Potato Salad (V)</p> |  <p>Couscous (VG)</p> |
|  <p>Fresh Fruit & Raisin Box (VG)</p> |  <p>Fresh Fruit & Flapjack (V)</p> |  <p>Fresh Fruit & Banana Bread (VG)</p> |  <p>Fresh Fruit & Fruit Jelly (V)</p> |  <p>Fresh Fruit & Brownie (V)</p> |

(V) Vegetarian (VG) Vegan

I hope the above information has been useful, please do get in touch if you have any further queries.

Best wishes
Karen