

Dear parents,

It was lovely to see you at the MYT meetings yesterday. There were some questions that came up that are common across the year groups and we thought it might be helpful to have a written response.

When will clubs start?

Clubs will not be starting at the moment. There are lots of new systems and routines that we need to establish first. We started Breakfast clubs and Fit For Sport on Monday 14th and need to establish those routines now too.

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

Do the children get the opportunity to play in the whole playground?

Years 1 and 2 go out at the same time for lunchtime and playtime.

Years 3 and 4 have the same playtime and lunchtime.

Year 5 and 6 have the same playtime and lunchtime.

The year group pairs rotate around the spaces. For example, one year group would have the football pitch, gym equipment side of the playground all day and the other would have the climbing frame and houses side. The year groups regularly change over during the week, so that children can enjoy all the outside resources.

Will the lunchtime times change?

Nursery and Reception when they start full time will have lunch at 11.20pm

Year 1 and 2 have lunch at 12.00pm

Year 3 and 4 have lunch at 12.40pm

Year 5 and 6 have lunch at 11.20pm

The staggered lunch means that we can keep year groups in their bubbles. We will alternate the times later in the term for Years 1 - 6, so that it is fair, as the 11.20am option is very early!

Will the Headteacher awards and Tea Parties continue?

Yes. Teachers will start to nominate children in Years 1 – 6 from next week for HTA.

Children need to achieve the magic 5 to receive an invitation to the Tea Party.

Children in EYFS will start to receive their Super Achiever certificates from next week too.

Homework

Home work will start on Friday 25th September. It will be posted on Google Classroom. Log ins are the same for everyone in Year 1- 6. Our new Nursery and Reception children will get a log in to join GC and this will be sent via email.

Cycle training

We had booked cycle training last year for the whole school, but it had to stop because of the lockdown. We have contacted our cycle training provider to see when it would be possible to book again this year.

PE and Music

We start these lessons next week. PE will have a focus on HIIT exercise and will take place outside where possible. Classes are also doing '5 a day' which incorporates movement breaks within the classroom.

Alison has amended her lessons and is looking forward to visiting the classes to start music!

Water bottles

We are encouraging children to bring reusable water bottles rather than plastic ones. The children can keep them in their classroom and top up at the sink. If a child forgets, we do have spare bottles of water in school, but would prefer that children bring their own bottle so that we are reducing our use of single use plastic.

Hot meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 and those entitled to free school meals in KS2 are having a packed lunch freshly made by the kitchen team each day. Children can bring in their own packed lunch if they prefer.

This system is working well as the children are eating outside. Parents have asked about hot meals and at the moment, this is not possible. The children would need to eat a hot meal in the dining hall and we can only fit 60 children in at once and the space would need to be cleaned between each bubble. It would take a very long time for us to get everyone through! The kitchen team can't deliver hot meals to classrooms as there are health and safety issues due to the building design. We are looking into options such as a rotation for hot meals in the dining hall for example.

Catch up / gaps in learning

The government has announced additional funding for schools as part of the Covid -19 catch up premium. Schools will use this funding for specific activities to support children to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months, in line with the guidance on curriculum expectations. Schools have the flexibility to spend their funding in the best way for their cohort and circumstances.

We are completing assessments on reading, writing and Maths this week for all children in Years 1- 6 to help us plan support for children and adjust the curriculum.

Virtual parent meetings

Parents' Evenings would usually take place at the end of October / beginning of November. This term, the meetings will be virtual and we are planning to have them earlier. We will send out more information about dates and booking at the end of the week.

Social distancing

The drop off and collecting is working very well and your support here has been hugely appreciated. Parents have been walking round to drop off or collect their children at different gates, despite this being complex if you have more than one child! Parents have also been using their designated exit gate rather than cutting through a more convenient route. Thank you.

I would like to remind all parents to observe social distancing within the playground when collecting and dropping off and when waiting with your child outside the school grounds. It is important to ensure that we all do what we can to minimise risk and we are not always aware of the vulnerabilities of others.

Parties, sleepovers etc

A number of parents have contacted me expressing concern that families are organising sleepovers, parties and events which are not recognised in the government guidelines. This is very difficult if we as a school have organised everything within year group bubbles including Breakfast club and Fit For Sport. It is important that as a community we work together to minimise risk for everyone.

Children who are unwell

As the children come back to school and are in contact with the other children in their class. they are more likely to pick up illnesses. We are also heading into cold and flu season. To avoid any confusion at this uncertain time, it is important that families know what to do if their child is unwell. In **ALL** cases of absence, please inform school by phone or email admin@williampatten.hackney.sch.uk and tell us why your child is not in school. If the message is not clear or you have not called us, we will call you to ascertain the exact nature of the illness / absence.

If your child has symptoms of a cold - runny nose, sore throat, or they have a headache, tummy ache, toothache etc. or any other symptom that is **NOT** one of the 3 symptoms associated with Covid-19 as outlined on the NHS website (high temperature, new and persistent cough, loss of taste and/or smell) they would stay off school for the duration of the illness. Any siblings can come to school as normal, if they are well.

What to do if your child has symptoms of Covid -19

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Keep them off school and get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible. Siblings and other members living in the household would need to stay at home until the results of the test are known.

If the test is negative, your child can return as soon as they are well enough and any sibling being kept off can return too.

If the test is positive, you must let us know straight away so we can discuss next steps and action with Public Health England and the local public health protection team. The child and other members living in the household would need to self-isolate for the required time as advised by NHS guidance.

If you are unsure about your child's illness, then get advice from NHS 111.

Thank you for all your support in helping to make the new routines work. The start of term has been so positive and demonstrates the strength of our community and how well we work together!

Thank you.

Best wishes
Karen

