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www.muswellhillprimary.co.uk
Entrance: 26-28 Dukes Ave, N10

1 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Muswell Hill Primary School Transition Plan for Full Re-Opening 8 March 2021

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and you all had a good half-term and managed to find, at some stage, a break for some rest and relaxation.

For those of you old enough, I cannot help but think of Jurassic Park, 'so, looks like we are back in the car again!'.
'

This week we will be busy getting the school ready for the full re-opening of school; we are really looking forward to seeing the children all again.

I am writing to you to explain what will be happening from Monday 8 March. Apologies for the length of this letter, but we think it is important that we refresh your understanding of the steps we are taking and why we are taking them.

New guidance documents have been created by the government and whilst there are many things remaining the same, other things have been introduced that further strengthen the control measures with the aim of providing more reassurance and to help decrease the disruption the virus causes to education.

As I write this letter, I am sure many of you will be aware that the rate has increased over half-term and you may be feeling anxious about the new variants and/or our return. Please let me reassure you that we will, of course, continue to work incredibly hard to mitigate risk as much as is possible within our systems of control and practice.

This week, the government released their guidance '**Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance, February 2021**' alongside other guidance, relating to out of school activity for example. The DFE have worked with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and PHE to develop the guidance.

You will find attached a document outlining the key systems of controls for schools. This includes reminders and some changes around what happens if there is a suspected or reported case of coronavirus. It includes the expectations that are placed on us all around testing, isolating and tracing. This is in line with the updated research around the virus and the recent ONS data.



We will follow all advice provided by the local health protection team to contain outbreaks within the school – please note that this may include asking siblings to isolate for ten days as well as actual contacts.

Over this lockdown staff have been testing with lateral flow devices (LFD) on a voluntary basis. We will continue to do this twice a week. We will be asking that all staff who are part of this programme test themselves on a Sunday morning. This is to ensure that should a class bubble have to close on account of a member of staff with a positive test, then the 10-day isolation period will start from the Friday and the minimum number of school days will be missed due to isolation.

Please note that should a member of staff receive a positive test result following either a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test or a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test the class bubble will close immediately. If the result was from a LFD test the staff member will immediately seek a PCR test.

Primary age pupils will not be tested with LFD but the Government have advised that all households with children of school age will be able to get two rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week, this includes tests for childcare and support bubbles.

We have this afternoon received the following guidance from the Government on this initiative.

Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff

Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus (COVID-19) do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms (asymptomatic testing) is important to help stop the virus spreading. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

On Sunday 28 February, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that from Monday 1 March, households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8 March. Households, childcare and support bubbles of primary, secondary and college staff can also be tested. Twice-weekly testing will also be offered to adults working in the wider school community, including bus drivers and after school club leaders.

The twice-weekly test kits can be accessed:

- via employees if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online.

Schools should not give test kits to parents, carers or household members and should not order more test kits for this purpose. Letters containing advice on where to access testing will be made available for schools to share with parents and staff shortly. This [guidance](#) provides information on who can be tested and how you can get a test.

Curriculum

For the remaining term at school, all classes will follow aspects of a common curriculum designed to make children feel safe and secure being back in school, alongside our ongoing subject curriculum. In weeks 3 to 6 (until half term) we will focus on some key rebuilding and recovery foci alongside some formal assessments.

We will ensure that we continue to enable the children to build resilience and confidence after their break away from school. We will maintain a focus on mental well-being, a sense of belonging and dealing with trauma, building social relationships and of course personal safety, hygiene and self-regulation.

I have attached a very simple bitesize document that explains ***how we can help children/young people stay calm and focused*** when they are becoming upset - by thinking about ***'what we say and how we say it'***. This is helpful for whether we are teaching virtually or face to face - see the attached **Emotionally Friendly Communication – Reducing Anxiety**.

I have also attached a document to support your wellbeing, entitled **'Wellbeing for busy people'**.

Additional Curriculum Adjustments and Foci for Spring 2 and Summer 1

All children in all year groups:

- Building in more opportunities to socialise (safely – as no contact is still advised). For example, we have extended the children's playtimes and lunchtimes outdoors and the children will be playing class 'socially distanced' games with their teachers and key adults.
- Building in more opportunities to learn outside.
- Ensuring children have two hours of PE a week in addition to Y1-Y6 running 'A Mile a Day'.
- Re-establish high standards of behaviour and routines across the school.
- Re-establish high standards of presentation in their books and re-build their stamina for writing.
- Re-establish and re-build their attention, focus and listening skills.
- Continue to promote reading for pleasure and support reluctant readers on text selections.



Specific Year Groups:

EYFS/Y1

- Build up their gross muscle groups in order to be able to develop their fine motor skills required for writing. By helping our children to develop the proximal muscles (neck, shoulder girdle as well as core) we will be providing activities that require them to be on their tummies and push up with their hands (including lying on their tummies to write).
- Develop their language and communication skills, including discrete vocabulary building.

Y2-Y6

- Practicing and developing maths fluency.
- Editing and responding to feedback – daily Fix It Time.
- Re-building every stage of the writing process.
- Continuing to build a strong, subject-based vocabulary.
- Build written comprehension skills.

We have revised our routines following further government guidance so do **please read this letter carefully** – we have a few requests for you and some reminders.

Illness

Please be aware that we had three positive coronavirus cases in early February which resulted in the closure of two year-group bubbles. If your child is displaying **any** signs of illness/sickness, even a snivel, **please do not send them to school.**

Also, if your child has diarrhoea or has vomited then they must not return to school **until 48 hours after the last bout of diarrhoea or vomiting.**

Our experience over the past two terms has demonstrated that children with these symptoms have often gone on to test positive for Covid-19, so we will be asking you to test your child(ren) before returning to school following bouts of such illness.

School Start and Finish Times

We have attached a document which has been updated in line with guidance. You will see we have staggered **ALL** class arrival/finish times (except Y6) by 5mins, to avoid adults mixing across year group bubbles when dropping off or picking up.

Friday early dismissal (after lunch) will continue until the end of term. It will be reviewed by the Governing Body at its 28 April meeting. If government guidance permits the opening of bubbles, transmission data continues to improve and health concerns and staff absences stabilise, the school hopes to end Friday early dismissal at the end of April and return to a 'normal' timetable from Monday 3 May 2021.



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Please ensure **only one** parent/carer accompanies their child(ren) into school each day to help minimise the numbers at each entrance. It is imperative **you maintain social distancing (2m)** at all times and we ask that you **wear a face covering as a courtesy to other parents/carers**. Please can we remind you that gathering at the school gate and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed.

As we are continuing with staggered starting times, we will also continue to allow drop off for all siblings at the latest starting time (not the earliest, as we simply don't have the space or the staff for childcare) and collection at the earliest times as we did before the Christmas break.

If you want to do this again this term, or if you want to start doing this from 8 March, please email Suzy for EYFS/Y1/2 children, Liz for Y3/4 and Elena for Y5/6 via their class email address:

Reception reception@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk
Year 1 year1@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk
Year 2 year2@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk
Year 3 year3@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk
Year 4 year4@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk
Year 5 year5@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk
Year 6 year6@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk

NB: Please note the direction of movement at **both** school entrances remains one-way. For the Dukes Avenue entrance, please **enter** school from Dukes Avenue and **exit** via Pinnacle Close. Please adhere to the one-way social distancing markings which are painted on the ground. Entry for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be via the Muswell Hill entrance, a one-way entry system also applies here, and markings are also painted on the ground. You and your child come down the pathway and adults exit via the car park on to Springfield Avenue.

Lunches

A reminder to you all that our new catering company, Pabulum, started with us on 1 January 21. Children have been really enjoying the food over the past six weeks. As all staff will now be un-furloughed, they will receive an intensive re-training programme this week and start rolling out the new menu from Monday 8 March. For the first week back we will offer only two meal choices but from the following week (starting 15 March) choice will be from the full menu.

Please remember that whilst we have a 3-week menu cycle, we still need to provide the majority of meals to children in the classroom, served in our new recyclable food boxes. At the end of this term, we will then review the menus with the company, after we have taken feedback from the children.



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If you wish for your child to have school lunches, **please notify the office by Friday 5 March**. In order to help the kitchen staff run things smoothly, there will be no changes accepted until the start of the summer term. You will be committing to 3.5 weeks.

Children in KS1 (Reception and Years 1 and 2) will have a free school meal, they will be asked for their choice at registration each morning, **copies of the menus are attached**, again for ease of reference.

Children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) may **EITHER** have a school lunch (cost is £2.60 per day, paid for in advance) **OR** a healthy packed lunch. Remember if you decide on a healthy packed lunch – please don't use any plastic containers – a paper throwaway bag would be perfect; we have to wipe down all containers so we need to minimise the amount of cleaning that must be done before the children can enter the building and start learning!

What all children need to bring to school

On Monday each week every child should bring a bag (please no bulky or fluffy rucksacks – either a book bag or a drawstring flat bag – the children will be storing their belongings under their tables) **containing**: their packed lunch (if they are having one); **a piece of fruit for snack time** (KS2 children only); a water bottle with their name clearly indicated; a plain, easily cleaned pencil case (again please no fluff!) and their reading book for pleasure if they have one (Years 3 to 6 only). The water bottle must be taken home each day for cleaning but the pencil case will remain in school until Friday when they will be taken home. Children will not be allowed to share items so please ensure the pencil case contains writing pencils, colouring pencils, an eraser, a sharpener, felt tip pens and writing pens/biros.

For the remainder of this term children should **wear their PE kit to school on their PE day**. They should also bring in another top to wear after PE. PE days are as follows:

Reception	Tuesday
Year 1	Friday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Wednesday
Year 5	Monday
Year 6	Tuesday

Please note we will continue to implement very regular hand-washing throughout the day so it should not be necessary to send in antibacterial gel but we do understand that you may want to. If you do send your child in with antibacterial gel, please ensure it is the sort that contains 70% alcohol as this is the sort recommended in government guidelines. It should be named and kept in your child's bag for **their sole use only**.



Children who wear a mask to school

If your child comes to school wearing a mask (**please make sure it is a plain one**) they will be required to wash their hands before removing it, asked to store it away in their sealable bag, place that inside their school bag and then immediately wash their hands before entering the classroom. Older children will be asked to bring sanitiser so they can sanitise their hands, remove their mask and re-sanitise their hands before they enter the building. On departure home, children will wash their hands before leaving and then put their masks on when in the playground with their belongings. **If you want your child to wear a mask during the school day, please contact the Assistant Head Teacher for your child's phase, via your year group email, or Doy, our Inclusion Manager, for a private discussion.**

Attendance

From 8 March, school attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, your child should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive (please note this includes anyone in support bubbles or childcare bubbles).

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice and provide us with a copy of the letter of instruction from the NHS.

For pupils who are self-isolating or shielding, they will continue to access the provision outlined in the Blended Learning Policy. Following the Remote/Blended Learning consultation, the updated policy will be completed and published the week beginning 15 March 2021.

Breakfast and MASC (Muswell Hill After-school Club)

Within the guidance it states that from 8 March, we should work towards resuming our pre/post school after-school educational activities and wraparound childcare. We need to advise you that where you are accessing this provision for your children, you **must only be using this**, where:

- the provision is being offered as part of the school's educational activities (including catch-up provision)





- the use of the provision is **reasonably necessary to support you to work**, seek work, undertake education or training, attend a medical appointment or address a medical need or attend a support group.
- (Vulnerable children may attend regardless of circumstance.)

Therefore, we will un-furlough the staff during the week beginning 8 March and review with the community who would like to resume their child attending (based on evidence of the reasons outlined above). We can then work out if it is financially viable for us to be able to staff the provision and maintain the in-school bubbles.

If this is feasible, we will open the provision from Monday 15 March 2021. Darrell and Elaine will be in touch with you on Monday or Tuesday (8 and 9 March). Please do not contact us on this issue before then.

Please follow the link for the new guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

With the exception of Riaan's after-school sports bubble clubs, other extended provision and mixed after-school activities will not resume until the start of May at the earliest.

After-school Sports Bubble Clubs

From Monday 8 March, the after-school year group sports clubs will restart. The year group days will be as follows:

Monday	Year 3
Tuesday	Year 6
Wednesday	Year 5
Thursday	Year 4
Friday	Year 2

Riaan will follow the same legal guidance as outlined above. There will be small timing adjustments to ensure that the class bubbles are collected separately. Again, this is to avoid adults mixing unnecessarily.

Riaan and the Kickabout Team will be in touch in the coming week with further details including timings and booking details.



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Return to School Risk Assessment

The updated risk assessment will be uploaded to the website the following week (beginning 15 March), once we have reviewed all our systems at the end of the first week back.

We know there is a lot of information to take in and there will possibly be further guidance over next week, but we have done this all before and we will, of course, continue to ensure our number one priority is the safety, health and wellbeing of all our pupils, staff and the further school community.

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with us by emailing Sarah on welfare@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk and she will get the information to us.

We'd also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We'll continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

See you on next Monday!

Kind regards

Mandi

