

Benhurst Primary School

Benhurst Avenue
Elm Park
Hornchurch
Essex
RM12 4QS

Tel: 01708 450807
Email: office@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
Website: www.benhurst.havering.sch.uk
Twitter: @BenhurstPrimary



Head teacher: Mr D. Denchfield BA (Hons) NPQH

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

It has been great to welcome our children in Reception to school this week. They have settled incredible quickly and it is lovely to see them making new friends and getting used to their new surroundings. I would also like to thank the Reception staff for their careful and thoughtful planning for our new children.

Thank you for the many kind messages we have received since returning to school and also the feedback regarding our procedures. Earlier this week, The Senior Leadership Team met to discuss the current school arrangements in relation to COVID-19. A key area we discussed is the congestion at Warren Drive at the end of the school day which this week has been significant as our Reception children have now started; the congestion was further compounded by the emergency pavement repairs required following a burst water main.

Below is a summary of what we have in place; I have highlighted changes in yellow for ease.

School day

- Start time (all children) - Class doors open from 8:45 to 9:00 (9:00 registration time)
- End time (YR, Y1, Y2) - 3:15
- End time (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) - 3:30

Bubble class sizes

- Bubble classes are normal class sizes of 30 children.
- Children can mix with children from the other year group bubble.
- We have restricted the opportunity for children in different year groups to mix. This will not always be possible (e.g. siblings, ABACUS) but our plans significantly reduce contact outside of your child's year group during the school day.

Entrance/Exit for the start/end of the school day

- From this afternoon, the entrance and exit system will revert back to either Benhurst Avenue or Warren Drive. Please ensure you leave the school premises immediately after dropping off/collecting your child/children and observe social distancing protocols wherever possible. There should not be any congregations of parents and children on school premises. This change will significantly reduce the congestion we have seen at Warren Drive this week.

Office access to parents/visitors

- Only 1 visitor is permitted into the office at a time.
- Parents should only visit the office when absolutely necessary.

Cleaning

- Toilets will be fully cleaned at the start or end of the day and hourly during the day.
- Classrooms are fully cleaned on a daily basis.



Classroom

- Desks face forward where possible. Children are able to share a desk.
- We will provide all stationery.
- Books/resources etc may be used but not shared outside the year group unless cleaned.
- SMART boards are being used. Screens are regularly cleaned during the school day.
- Lockers/pegs and class trays may be used.
- We have two hand sanitisers in every classroom and a hand sanitiser in all admin offices.
- Children will continue to use their own individual water bottle which remains on their desk during lessons. These may be purchased from the school office.
- Children will sanitise/wash their hands at key points during the day (e.g. upon entry, before and after break, lunchtimes)

Other information

- School attendance is mandatory.
- Face coverings or face masks in primary school are not required to be worn by adults but you are very welcome to do so.
- ABACUS are operating a breakfast and after school provision.
- School uniform and PE kits are required as usual.
- Year groups are separated for break and lunchtime.
- School lunches are available. <https://benhurst.havering.sch.uk/school-dinners/>
- No sports clubs, lunchtime clubs or sports events in Autumn 1.
- No FOB events in Autumn 1.
- Some areas of the school will be out of use in Autumn 1 (e.g. library, KS2 playground gym).
- School corridors has been taped in the middle to guide children to walk on the left hand side.
- Visitors to the school will be limited.
- Google classroom home learning will be provided for children not at school because of COVID-19 (i.e. awaiting the results of a test, requiring to isolate). We do understand that children who are unwell may not be able to complete their learning. This is not in place for any other school absence (e.g. non-COVID related illness, unauthorised holiday).

This week, we have seen a number of children and some staff who have been absent from school because of potential COVID-19 symptoms. Many of you have contacted the school and requested guidance. We follow the NHS guidance (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>) which are currently as follows:

The main symptoms of coronavirus in children

- 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

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

- Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result - only leave your home to have a test.

Every year, many children develop minor coughs and occasional high temperatures and which do not always require time away from school. However, parents should carefully follow the NHS guidance and update the school as required. This can be via email to Mrs Bastin (gbastin@benhurst.havering.sch.uk) or via the website absence link <https://benhurst.havering.sch.uk/reporting-an-absence/>.



Havering Schoolwear

In recent weeks, Havering Schoolwear have received a huge number of orders as many children required uniform for the new school year. In order to process the outstanding orders, the shop will be closed today (Friday). Havering Schoolwear have informed us they do not have any major stock issues, with a few minor exceptions of sporadic colours or sizes missing in some items which they hope will be resolved very soon.

In addition, from Saturday 19th September, they will be operating by appointment only which can be booked through their website: <https://haveringschoolwear.appointedd.com/>

Please remember that you may also purchase uniform from the following outlets:

- Directly from My Clothing <https://myclothing.com/>
- Young Fashions, 13 Elm Parade, Elm Park Avenue. 01708 449724

September 2021 Secondary School applications (Year 6 parents only)

Now is the time that you will need to make an application for your child to start secondary school in September 2021. Without an application your child will not be offered a Secondary school place.

Please visit www.havering.gov.uk/admissions/secondary where you will find a booklet called 'Transferring to a Havering Secondary School in September 2021' along with a short video which explains the application process and answers some of the most common questions asked by parents. You will also find a link to the application system (eAdmissions). To ensure you have a clear understanding of the process, it is important to view these resources before making any applications.

If after reading the booklet and watching the video you have any further questions, please email the school admissions team via schooladmissions@havering.gov.uk or call the team on 01708 434600.

All applications for Secondary Schools must be submitted online by no later than 31st October 2020.

Bikes and Scooters in the playground

Please remind your child/children that they should walk their bike or scooter whilst on school grounds. Thank you for your support with this.

Key Dates

These are also on the school calendar - <https://benhurst.havering.sch.uk/calendar/calendar>

Monday 5 th October	-	YR start full-time
Thursday 8 th October	-	Individual photographs (letter to follow)
Monday 19 th October	-	P/Evening & Termly Learning Conferences (3:30 to 5:00)
Tuesday 20 th October	-	P/Evening & Termly Learning Conferences (3:30 to 5:00)
Thursday 22 nd October	-	P/Evening & Termly Learning Conferences (3:30 to 7:00)
Friday 23 rd October	-	Final day of half term (My last day!) 🥲
Monday 2 nd November	-	Return from half term (8:45 start) 🥲

Please do not hesitate to get in contact should you require any additional information or have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Denchfield
Head teacher