

Benhurst Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs K. Hart BSc (Hons)

Thursday 17th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a very different Autumn term, I would firstly like to thank you for all your patience, understanding, cooperation as well as messages of support that we have received; we are very lucky to have such a supportive school community.

Our approach to the festive season has sadly been like no other but I hope your children have still been able to enjoy the Christmas activities we were able to provide within our bubbles. I am sure you share my disappointment in being unable to attend Christmas Performances at school this year but we very much hope you enjoy our **Children of the World virtual performance which will be shared in each Google Classroom on Friday 18th December at 9am.**

As we look ahead to the Spring Term, the COVID arrangements shared with you ahead of our re-opening in September will remain in place. I have summarised the key arrangements below and highlighted any changes in yellow for ease.

School day & class sizes

- Staggered start time for all children from 8:45 to 9:00 (9:00 is registration).
- Split end time. YR, Y1 is 3:15 and Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 is 3:30.
- **We are aware of the challenge the split end of the day causes when the weather is poor as there is no shelter available in the playground when waiting for siblings. We are looking at solutions to overcome this and I will write to you in January with an update.**

School Site

- Benhurst Avenue and Warren Drive entrances can be used at the start and end of the day. 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.
- Face coverings to be worn by parents and carers when on school site to drop off/collect your child unless you're exempt from doing so on medical grounds.
- Staff will also be wearing face coverings at the doors when you drop off and collect your children.

Cleaning

- Toilets are cleaned at the start or end of the day and regularly throughout the day.
- Classrooms are cleaned every day.
- **Deep cleaning will take place of classrooms affected by a positive case before the bubble returns to school.**



Curriculum

- We continue to offer a broad curriculum including Maths, English, Cornerstones topics, PE, RE, Computing and Mental Well-Being sessions. Class timetables have been created to allow for some weekly flexibility so teachers can focus on specific areas of need individual classes may have.
- Home learning will focus on reading/spellings/phonics only during the Spring Term.
- Y4 will not attend swimming sessions in the Spring Term.
- No large assemblies will take place in the Spring Term. Year Group assemblies will be offered where possible. Teachers will issue certificates/sunshine badges in class on a Friday.
- Only local walking trips to be considered in the Spring Term (e.g. Harrow Lodge Park)
- The Government have stated that most statutory assessments in primary schools will go ahead as planned. Further information will be shared with key year groups in due course.

Other information

- School attendance is mandatory. School uniform and PE kits are required as usual.
- Year group before school and lunchtime clubs will be offered from the Spring Term. (see letter 25/11)
- Google classroom home learning will continue to 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).
- Please ensure your child uses Google Classroom; this is where all homework is posted and will be used for learning during a school closure. <https://classroom.google.com/h> . Please email Mrs McCarthy if you have any difficulties sdmccarthy@benhurst.havering.sch.uk
- We have a dedicated COVID-19 page on the website with links to key information that you may find helpful - <https://benhurst.havering.sch.uk/covid-guidance/>

Christmas Holidays COVID Notifications

As detailed in my previous letter (11/12), should your child develop one of the main symptoms of Coronavirus (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>) within 48 hours of their last day at school you will need to arrange for them to have a test. **I will be on call between 8am and 12 noon each day from Saturday 19th December until Thursday 24th December. If your child receives a positive test result between these dates, please text the following number 07729086539 stating your child's full name and class, the date they were last in school and the date they became symptomatic.** I will confirm I have received your message and call you should I require further information. **Please do not use this number for any other purpose than reporting a Benhurst pupil case.**

Please can I also remind you of the importance of following Government guidance when returning to school on Tuesday 5th January. If a member of your household has received a positive test, all household members should self - isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. (This is updated guidance with effect of Monday 14th December) If a member of your household has developed symptoms, all members of the household should isolate until a negative test result is received.



Trusell Trust

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our foodbank appeal in early December. We were overwhelmed with donations and these were delivered to the foodbank earlier this week. Your donations have helped to make a difference to lots of local families this Christmas. A huge well done to our Life Ambassadors for organising this appeal.



Bikes and Scooters

Please can I remind you that bikes and scooters should not be ridden anywhere on school site as this could cause an accident. This applies to pupils of Benhurst and anyone coming onto site to collect one of our pupils. Reminders will be given as required by members of SLT on duty before and after school.

Snacks

We have seen a wide range of snacks being brought into school recently. Our packed lunch and snack policy details the snacks that can be eaten at break time. These are: A piece of fruit, a vegetable or a healthy cereal bar. Fruit and vegetables are also provided for pupils at break time. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 5th January. We are hopeful that our school community will not be further affected by bubble isolation during the holidays and you are able to enjoy a safe and restful Christmas.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs K Hart
Head Teacher

Key Dates

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

Monday 4th January ~ INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

Tuesday 5th January ~ First day back for all pupils

Monday 11th January ~ Morning sports clubs start today (See letter 25/11)