

Benhurst Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs K. Hart BSc (Hons)

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the children were able to enjoy a restful half - term and you enjoyed a welcomed break from the challenges of home learning. Following Mr Dutnall's letter earlier this week, please find below the details for the return of all pupils from Monday 8th March. Many of the arrangements which were in place before the school closures will remain, with some changes/additions highlighted in yellow for ease.

School day & class sizes

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

We are unable to release older pupils with their younger siblings who finish earlier than them due to the number of children this would involve and the interruption to learning time for our older children. However as the weather is now improving, the short wait between the two finish times should not be as challenging.

- Children will remain in year group bubbles (This will be reviewed as further guidance is provided)
- We will restrict 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.

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 must 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 of the school will take place once a week and in addition of classrooms affected by a positive case before the bubble returns to school.



COVID Guidance

- **Government guidance remains in place upon our return to school.**
- If a member of your household develops one of the main symptoms of Coronavirus (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>) you will need to arrange for them to have a test. **Your child should not attend school whilst they or a member of your household is awaiting test results.**
- If a member of your household receives a positive test, all household members should self - isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.
- Please inform the school office of a positive test result as soon as possible to enable us to establish contacts of the positive case. **We will still be required to isolate year group bubbles should they have been in contact with a positive case in the 48 hours before the onset of symptoms.** Remote learning will be provided in these circumstances.
- **If your child receives a positive test result outside of office hours, 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.**

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.
- Only local walking trips to be considered in the Spring Term (e.g. Harrow Lodge Park)

Assessments

- The Department for Education have confirmed that all national statutory tests including the Year 1 Phonics Check and the Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs have been cancelled for this academic year. Therefore, children in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 will not be completing national tests at the end of this academic year. Statutory national tests do not currently take place in any other year groups.
- **Teachers will complete in class assessments before Easter to enable them to identify gaps in learning which will be addressed during the Summer Term.**

Staff Testing

- The Department for Education, in conjunction with the NHS, have introduced asymptomatic testing in Primary schools for **staff only** which will continue upon our return on 8th March. The purpose of this testing strategy is to break the chain of transmission of Covid 19 and our school is pleased to be supporting this programme in the effort to eradicate the virus.
- Staff will be testing at home so there will be no change to the school day both during the school closures or when we fully re - open to all pupils. It is possible that regular staff testing will result in bubbles needing to close. Should this be the case, this will be communicated in the usual way.

Pupil Attendance

- **School attendance is mandatory from Monday 8th March, unless following Government advice, and usual procedures will be followed where absences occur.**
- **If your child is unable to attend school as they are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, please contact me directly.**
- **If you need to collect your child for a medical appointment, please aim to do so either at the start of end of their lunch hour (KS1 11.45 - 12.45, KS2 12.45 - 1.45). This is to reduce disruption to year group bubbles.**



Clubs

- ABACUS Breakfast and After - School Club will fully re - open from Monday 8th March
- Year group before school and lunchtime clubs will be offered from Monday 15th March. These were arranged during the Autumn Term (see letter 25/11/20) and you will have been informed if your child has been offered a place.

Parents Evening

Parents evening appointments were due to be offered between Monday 15th March and Thursday 1st April. In light of the full school re-opening, we have made the decision to move parents evening to the start of the Summer Term. Teachers will have completed their assessment by this time and will be able to inform you how your child has settled back into school life. Further details will be issued regarding this nearer the time.

Bikes and Scooters

Ahead of our return, please can I remind you that bikes and scooters should not be ridden anywhere on school site as this could cause an accident. This includes whilst waiting for older siblings to finish school. 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.

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 8th March.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs K Hart
Head Teacher

Key Dates

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

Monday 8th March ~ School fully re-opens to all pupils

Monday 15th March ~ Morning sports clubs start today (See letter 25/11)

Thursday 1st April ~ Final Day of Spring Term

Monday 19th April ~ First Day of the Summer Term