



The Orchard Primary School
Nurture Learn Grow

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents

As you may be aware all children are expected to return to school on 8th March and we are looking forward to seeing them.

Their return is a mandatory requirement. The government is very clear about the need for all children to attend school every day so the usual rigorous attendance monitoring and follow-up will resume.

We have again planned for all year groups to return and have worked hard to ensure that we have the necessary measures in place to make the school as safe as possible for our whole school community - staff, pupils, parents and visitors.

What follows is information about what the expectations are for you and your child. This will be a return to school arrangements as they were before the Christmas break as we still need to minimise the potential for the spread of Covid-19. We still need to ensure the safety of everyone concerned by following guidance on social distancing and hygiene for educational settings.

The added safety measure we now have in place is in relation to testing. All staff in school now carry out Lateral Flow Covid-19 tests twice each week. These are asymptomatic tests which are a useful way to test for people who may have very mild or even no symptoms. With this regular self-testing we can help to protect staff, pupils and parents and slow the spread of the virus.

Please note the testing of children only applies to secondary school aged pupils and will not be carried out in primary schools.

What will the school day look like?

We will continue to operate staggered start and end times as follows

YEAR GROUP	START TIME	FINISH TIME
Nursery	8.45am 12.45pm	11.45pm 3.45pm
Reception	9.20am	3.00pm
Year 1	9.00am	3.10pm
Year 2	9.10am	3.20pm
Year 3	9.10am	3.20pm
Year 4	9.00am	3.30pm
Year 5	8.45am	3.30pm
Year 6	8.45am	3.30pm

- We will be returning to the expectation that all children should wear school uniform each day. They are expected to wear school uniform but on days when they have PE they should wear their PE kit to school so they do not have to change during the school day. They should wear their school sweat shirt over their PE kit. We recommend that they wear trainers rather than plimsolls on a PE day but should be wearing school shoes on other days.
- Please do not arrive more than 5 minutes before your drop off or pick up time.
- Please be punctual
- Please leave the site immediately. Do not wait to watch your child walk across the playground in the morning - there are staff outside to help them but they all know where to go and all go straight into class. This is particularly important as there is little time between groups of children coming into school and we still need to ensure that there is no congestion at the gate and along the paths onto and off the site,
- **Only one parent/ adult** per family will be permitted onto the site. If older siblings are coming to collect, they should not bring other friends onto the school site with them.
- If you have more than one child, please drop them all off in the morning with the **earliest child** and pick up with the **youngest child**. We are trying to encourage children in Year 5 and Year 6 to stay until 3.30pm even if they have younger siblings.
- Please remember to wear a face covering when you come onto the site. Unless you are exempt from wearing a mask and can show this with the relevant evidence card this is an expectation for all parents and carers coming onto the site.
- Children who come to school wearing a reusable mask should have a small sealable plastic bag to put it in when they take it off. Temporary face coverings should be disposed of in the bin on arrival.
- Please **supervise your children** when you have collected them at the end of the day and keep them with you. The children should not play in the conservation area, climb and play on the adobe at the far end of the field or on the play structures in the playground. This is very important and ensures their safety.
- We are trying to encourage as many children as possible to have a school meal at lunchtime rather than bringing in a packed lunch from home. We are finding that packed lunch boxes and bags are taking up much needed space in the classrooms at the moment and are a hazard. We are also trying to reduce the number of things children bring in from home as an additional safety measure. This is particularly important with the current rise in Covid-19 cases both locally and nationally.
- Remember that if your child does have Covid-19 symptoms they should self-isolate for 10 days and the other members of your household should isolate for 10 days.
- It is very important that you inform us if your child has any of the covid-19 symptoms and will be self-isolating.

The symptoms to particularly look out for are:

- a high temperature,
- a new continuous cough,
- loss of sense of taste or smell

If we ask you to collect your child from school because they have symptoms:

- they should isolate for 10 days.
- You should arrange a test for your child either by **ordering a home test kit or by booking an appointment and going to a testing centre.**
- If the result of the test is negative and you are happy to share the result with us, your child can come back to school if they are well enough to do so.
- If you do not feel able to share the result with us it is important that your child completes the self-isolation for 10 days and does not return before. This is to keep the rest of the school community safe and reduce the risk of spread.
- If your child is self-isolating, work will be sent home for them to complete. The Year Lead or your child's teacher will send you a letter with the relevant information and login details for DB Primary.
- The office team are available via telephone and email from 8.15 to 4.00pm each day. In order to maintain social distancing please do not come to the school office unless you have a confirmed appointment.
- **Social distancing is really important** as part of all our efforts to reduce the spread of Covid-19, along with good hygiene and wearing face coverings. Please do not gather in the playground or at the gates to speak with other parents. You should all be adhering to social distancing guidance with staff, children and parents **at all times** including when walking along the paths on the school site.

Although infection rates nationally are slowing down, Hounslow continues to have high rates compared to other parts of London and it is important that everyone continues to be vigilant and follow the guidance in relation to Hands, Face, Space. We have all sacrificed so much trying to keep ourselves and others safe and we should not stop now if we want to return to 'normal life' in the Summer.

Please see this message from Hounslow's Director for Public Health - Kelly O'Neill.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR0J5ZE4CYJruwF9lvoiKxu3DVmfZRqqrABmz39mrFIFtI6ZnZKr7Mr6of4&v=X5iYGTw05Sg&feature=youtu.be>

We have given a great deal of consideration to the children returning to school. If you have further questions, please email them to the school office and we will do our best to help you. Please note that we are led by the government guidance at all times as well as our own risk assessments so these plans may change if there are any further updates.

The challenges related to Covid-19 will continue to be with us for some time and I would again like to thank you for your continued understanding, support and cooperation.

Christine Haslam
Headteacher