



Holtsmere End Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have had an enjoyable, healthy and safe summer during these unique times.

The past six months have been the most tumultuous in most people's lives and we have all had to adapt and respond to an ever-changing situation. The closure of schools for this period is unprecedented and nobody can be certain of the long term impacts. During the closure period we made our best efforts to provide learning opportunities for our pupils and maintain contact but I am under no illusion that children will have been affected in a number of ways – not necessarily all bad! This means we all have a responsibility to support our children in catching up on their loss of learning as soon as we can and in helping to recover emotionally and socially if they have been negatively affected in those ways. We have to be realistic about how long this might take; to use a cliché, a child's education is a marathon, not a sprint, so we do not propose to 'hothouse' children or drastically narrow the curriculum. Instead, we will concentrate on ensuring our children's wellbeing is given the highest priority and that our relationships and community are rebuilt to be as strong as they were before this crisis. We will take a measured approach to teaching and learning and provide a 'recovery curriculum' that will meet the needs of all our children.

However, there are restrictions on what we can do, as children will not be able to move around the school to different classrooms and different groups and they will generally be taught by one teacher for most subjects in the short term.

In line with government expectations, we intend to re-open to all children. However, as you will expect, there are a great number of measures we have had to take in order to keep our children, staff and their families as safe as possible. The following information outlines most of the information you will need ahead of the return to school.

Term Start Dates

All children will return to school on Monday 7th September

We aim to continue to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum for all children on their return. The curriculum adaptations will also focus on the children's well being as much as possible following the pandemic and the length of time absent from school.

We will continue to take every action possible to ensure the safety of children and staff on the children's return in September. In order to reduce the risk for children they will be in class bubbles, with no interaction with other children, outside of their class bubble. The implications of this will be:

- Each class bubble will have their designated entrance in to the school building. Usually the door that leads directly into their classroom or through a fire door.
- A member of staff will take your child's temperature as they come in to the school building in the morning. If this temperature is above 37.8 degrees parents will be called to collect the child immediately.
- The children will be taught every subject by their class teacher.
- Children will not move around the school but will stay in their classroom, unless taking part in PE

- The school dining room will not be in use in order to eliminate queuing and large groups of children interacting. Children will eat in their classrooms.
- Playtime and lunchtimes will be staggered
- PE lessons will to avoid physical contact
- Every child will be issued with their own 'learning pack' containing all of the resources that they will need so that there will not be a need for sharing resources.
- Each class bubble will be allocated a toilet cubicle to use.
- Rigorous and regular hand washing will continue
- No whole school assemblies in the hall- these will be delivered either by class teachers or via zoom into every classroom.

We ask that no Year 5 and 6 parents to come on to the playground to either drop off children or pick up children in order to reduce the number of adults congregating on the school grounds. Year 3 parents will be able to collect from the Lower playground, outside the Year 3 classroom doors and the year 4 children can be collected by parents from the upper playground. We would like to request only one parent to collect each child.

We are very much looking forward to getting the children in school and learning as soon as possible however all children and staff need to be safe. The expectations for children in September will be as follows:

- Follow the routines for arrival and departure on to the school site. This will include social distancing from other pupils and entering the school building via the designated entrance for the child's allocated 'bubble'
- Follow school instructions on hygiene, such as hand washing and sanitising.
- Follow instructions regarding who children can socialise with at school. ALWAYS follow instructions and reminders about the 2m social distancing rules.
- Move around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out-of-bounds areas, queuing).
- Follow expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal (in line with the "catch it, bin it, kill it" message) and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes.
- Children telling an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus.
- Follow rules about NOT sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles.
- Follow rules about expectations about breaks or play times, including where children may or may not play.
- Only use the allocated toilets.
- Follow clear rules about coughing or spitting at or towards any other person.

All expectations will be made clear to the children on their arrival on the first morning and there will be regular reminders. Children deliberately choosing to not follow the instructions and guidance will receive a warning and if the behaviour continues parents will be called to collect the child immediately from the school. The school has a duty of care to both children and staff and wilful ignoring of the instructions would be deemed to be dangerous behaviour putting the welfare of others at risk in these circumstances.

Following the current Government guidelines if a child or staff member tests positive for COVID we will be required to contact Public Health England immediately who will complete a risk assessment and advise the school accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Emma McGuigan

Headteacher