

## St. John's Upper Holloway C.E. Primary School

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26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents

As you will no doubt be aware, all children will be returning to school on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. This latest lockdown has felt incredibly challenging for everyone and we are very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back.

Although the number of Covid cases has fallen significantly since the peak in December and January, levels are still quite high and so I wanted to clarify some important information that both school and parents will need to adhere to if we are to minimise the risk of further outbreaks and closures within school.

- ✓ We will be keeping pupils and staff in '**class bubbles**' throughout the day as much as possible. However, we are unable to keep children socially distanced from their classmates within the classroom and playground. This means that if a child does test positive, only the children in their class will have to self isolate rather than children across several classes.
- ✓ Children should **not come to school if they have any symptoms** of covid (dry, persistent cough, high temperature, lack of sense of taste) and must be taken for a covid test. If the test is positive, they need to self isolate for **10 days** from when the symptoms started and other members in the household also self isolate for 10 days. Children should not return until all symptoms have gone.
- ✓ School will continue to have a programme of hygiene and cleaning for all pupils and staff including regular handwashing and increased cleaning of school premises and resources.
- ✓ **The school day will start and end at the normal time** (9:00am –3:30pm for Years 1 to 6 and 9:00-3:20pm for Nursery and Reception classes). However, we are introducing a '**soft start**' and children may enter their classrooms from 8:45am if they have arrived early and a member of staff is in the classroom. We hope this will reduce the number of children and adults standing/queueing in the playground.
- ✓ **Entrances**—We are asking Early Years children to continue using their entrance to and from the classrooms. Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 should use the side entrance to come into the playground and wait to enter their classrooms. Parents are asked to leave their children at the gate rather than bring them into the



playground area. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 should use the rear gate to come straight into their classrooms. ***It is important that pupils do not play and mix with children in other year groups in the playground but go straight into class or straight home with parents.***

- ✓ Breakfast and Buzz club—although many schools will not be providing extended school provision, we understand how important this is for parents and are exploring ways in which we can offer this whilst still minimising risk of transmission between age groups. We are aiming to start these clubs on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March but will confirm all the details next week.
- ✓ School uniform—although we allowed pupils who attended school as part of the key worker group to wear their own clothes, we are asking parents to ensure all pupils are wearing correct school uniform when they return on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please make sure all items of clothing are named!
- ✓ Curriculum—we understand that not all children will have fully accessed the home learning that was set during lockdown. We will therefore be assessing pupils in their first few weeks back to identify any gaps in their learning for reading, writing, phonics and maths. During the summer term we will be providing additional support for those pupils and will be contacting parents about how you can support us with this.
- ✓ Parents evening – we will have virtual parents’ evenings on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April to talk about your child’s progress and next steps. Parents can sign up for a time straight after the Easter holidays.

I know there will be lots of reading books from school that need to be returned when the children come back in. Can you please have a good look in all the places that books normally disappear to (under beds, in cupboards, behind bookshelves etc!) so they can come back in with your child on 8<sup>th</sup> March. ***It is really important that we get all books back as we don’t have the money to replace all those books that remain at home.*** We will also need to ***collect in all the chromebooks and iPads*** that were loaned to children so please have these ready to come back too.

On a different note, **the school will be closed for Polling day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May.** We did request that the school was not used this year due to the severe disruption to learning that the children have already faced but unfortunately, we have been told that they do require the school space as they have no alternative sites in the area.

We very much look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please do contact the school office if you do have any questions or concerns and we will do our best to answer them.

Mr Welsh and all the staff at St John’s

