

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support since we had to close to the majority of children on the 20<sup>th</sup> March. I know that this has been a difficult time for many families, especially when you have had to juggle work with childcare, if you have children with special educational needs or disability, or if you are a single parent.

We have remained open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children since 23<sup>rd</sup> March and will continue to do so. If you are unsure whether your child should attend school due to a health condition that they or someone they live with has, please contact us so we can discuss the details with you.

### **Protective measures we are taking in light of COVID-19**

The safety of your child and of our staff is important to us and we are working really hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and introduce new ways of working. This will allow us to open as safely as possible.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- There will be a maximum of 15 children in a class (or 'bubble')
- Desks will be placed 2m apart
- Different 'bubbles' will be kept separate during breaks and lunch
- Children will arrive and leave the school by different entrances
- The start and end of the school day will be different for each year group
- Surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day
- All classrooms have sinks and soap dispensers
- Wall mounted hand sanitisers have been installed in all classrooms
- Hands will be cleaned more often
- Tissues and bins have been provided in all classrooms to promote ***“catch it, bin it, kill it”***
- Parents and carers must social distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children
- Only one parent or carer per household can drop or collect children
- Children are not to bring toys or other items from home to school
- Children who have coronavirus symptoms, or who live with someone who does must not attend school

## **What can parents and carers do to help?**

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help:

- If your child, or someone in your household has coronavirus symptoms you must not come to school. You should all self-isolate for 14 days and follow government advice.
- If your child has coronavirus symptoms while in school, you must collect your child immediately.
- Support your child to understand that life in school will be different, but that everyone is here to help them learn and stay as safe as possible.

## **Testing COVID-19**

We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child if they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test. If the test is negative your child can go back to school, and parents or carers do not need to self-isolate any longer than is necessary. A positive test will ensure quick action is taken to protect other children and staff in school.

## **Children's return**

***Year 1 and Year 6 can return to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> June***

***Nursery and Reception can return on the 15<sup>th</sup> June***

If your child is in these year groups and you want them to return, you must fill in the on-line questionnaire by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=AKWCKQcCTE60AgnqmAyAl4F00Av-e\\_hPj0uQcdlCf2BUMUcyMEE4UVkzOFhHWEpTVIVLTTJKNkdOVC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=AKWCKQcCTE60AgnqmAyAl4F00Av-e_hPj0uQcdlCf2BUMUcyMEE4UVkzOFhHWEpTVIVLTTJKNkdOVC4u)

If you are not able to use the questionnaire, please call the school office. **Do not send your child to school unless you have been contacted by the school and your child has been offered a place.** This will help us to keep all classes to a maximum of 15 children. Once these classes are full we will put arrangements in place to create more and contact you with a start date.

I will be writing to these year groups to tell them what time their children start and finish school and which entrance they should use.

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return. We are looking forward to welcoming your child back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our school. To ensure social distancing the **school office will be closed to parents** for next few weeks. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call us on 0208 477 9910 or email [admin@eps.barking-dagenham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@eps.barking-dagenham.sch.uk).

Kind regards



Lisa Shepherd

Headteacher