



22/07/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

September School Opening

We are now in a position of having digested the Government, Local Authority and Union guidance and talked to all of the staff, to have a plan for the full opening of the school in September.

We started the plan with the aim that all children would be in school and have a full day of teaching. Once we knew that was our aim we then set about working out how we could reduce the risks for the children, parents and staff against this dreadful virus.

The message is clear – we will need to work together, be flexible and be considerate of the protocols as these are to protect everyone.

This letter is to outline the main changes for September, but I will be sending further information out to you nearer the beginning of the term.

And of course, should there be changes made by the Government in terms of advice, or any further lockdown, this could change.

Firstly, you should not send your child to school if they have any symptoms of Covid-19. The main symptoms are fever, persistent cough and loss of smell or taste.

We have specific procedures in place if we have a suspected case in school. This includes isolating the child (with an adult wearing PPE), and contacting the parent immediately to collect them. We will ask that the child is tested as soon as possible and that the family follow the guidance of isolating. We will expect to be informed of the outcome of the test so that we can inform families if we have a case in school and follow the isolation procedures. More information on this will be sent to parents nearer opening as we are expecting more guidance on access to testing and track and trace.

BUBBLES

In Years 1-6 the children will be in year group 'bubbles'. This means they will only mix with children from their year group at any time during the school day, (the exception to this is Night Owls After School Club). Therefore, there will be no whole school assemblies or larger gatherings above the 45 children, lunchtimes and playtimes will be in these groups too.

Early Years children will be one 'bubble' which will include Nursery and Reception children together, so that the whole space can be used, both inside and out.

UNIFORM

From September the most important thing is that your child comes to school each day in clean clothes. We are therefore saying it is up to you choose if that is uniform or not. You may choose to continue to wear uniform, or uniform on some days and home clothes on others. But uniform is not compulsory from September.

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We do however say that the children need comfortable clothes that they can play in, such as joggers or leggings, and trainers or other suitable shoes. Also please be mindful that any pictures or logos on clothes are appropriate for school; the clothes need to be WARM as we are well ventilating classrooms; and you need to put your child's NAME in their clothes. We cannot match clothes to children unless they are named. Additionally, it is important that your child has a coat, as even if it is raining, they will have to be brought to the playground at the end of the day.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO SCHOOL?

Your child **MUST** bring a named **WATER BOTTLE** to school every day. We can no longer have our cups in the class or water fountains in the playground. We will ask you to go back home and bring a bottle if you forget.

Your child will be able to have a book bag and take books home. We will be wiping books and have quarantine systems. Your child will also need to change for PE in school, so you will need a PE bag. However, you must **not** bring anything else into school.

HAND AND REPIRATORY HYGEINE

This is one of the most important things we need to ensure in school.

All children will wash their hands, and be supervised doing so, throughout the day. This starts with as soon as they come into a classroom. They will always wash their hands before playtime, before lunch and after eating and using the toilet.

All classrooms have a bin specifically for tissues and children are taught to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!' the classrooms have a supply of tissues, hand soap and towels.

Please reinforce his at home.

RESOURCES AND CLEANING

During the day we have a schedule for cleaning 'touchpoints' and the toilets throughout the school, rather than this being done only at the end of the day.

In Years 1-6 the children have their own pack of key resources including pens, pencil, whiteboard, glue and ruler. Additionally, resources stay within the 'bubbles' including playground equipment. Where equipment may need to be shared between 'bubbles' it will either be quarantined or cleaned in between. With some equipment such as laptops, children are encouraged to wipe with sanitising wipes after use (under supervision).

In the classrooms the staff will be wiping resources, tables and 'touchpoints' throughout the day with disposable cloth and disinfectant spray.

Classrooms have had furniture removed to reduce the amount of 'touchpoints' and increase space. Desks in years 2-6 are forward facing and children will sit side by side with a partner.

Year 1 will be transitioning from a Reception curriculum into year 1 and therefore will have a less formal classroom setting, more resembling EYFS in the first instance.

In the EYFS resources have been reduced and there is system for bagging and washing in the dishwasher and washing machine weekly, as well as daily wiping or dipping of some resources. Large resources such as wooden bricks will be sanitised weekly.

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LUNCHTIMES

Early years children will continue to have a family service lunch in the setting, and this will be a daily hot lunch offer. Year 1-6 will have a two weekly timetable with one week of hot lunches served in the hall in their year group 'bubble', and the following week an enhanced packed lunch served in their classroom.

This is so that we will only have one 'bubble' in the hall at a time.

The lunch break will be 45 minutes, this is so that we can fit the increased numbers of groups into the two outdoor areas (roof and downstairs playgrounds), safely in their 'bubbles' and to ensure we have a good amount of teaching in the day.

START OF THE DAY

In order that we do not have many parents and children arriving at school at the same time we are staggering the start of the day. This also allows time for children to get into class and wash their hands before lessons start. Both Chisenhale Road and Zealand Road Gates will be opened.

Years 4-6 – Gates open at 8.30AM - Toasted bagels will be available in the classroom and lessons start at 8.45AM

Younger siblings (Years 1-3) can come into school at this time and go to the hall where separate 'bubble' tables will be set up with toasted bagels available.

Years 1-3 – should come into school from 8.45AM. Lessons start at 9AM and they need to have washed their hands before.

Reception – Vivian Road Gate will be opened from 8.45 AM. Parents will not be allowed into the playground.

Nursery – separate arrangements have been sent out in a letter regarding settling your child into Nursery.

END OF THE DAY

As with the beginning of the day, we need parents not to be gathering at the gates and to be demonstrating good social distancing. We will not be letting parents into the playground at the end of the day, but dismissing children from the gate. This will require you line up, to be patient and kind.

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| 3PM | Year 6 will be dismissed from Chisenhale Road Gate |
| 3PM | Year 5 will be dismissed from Zealand Road Gate |
| 3.10PM | Nursery will be dismissed from the EYFS Zealand Road Gate |
| 3.15PM | Year 4 will be dismissed from Chisenhale Road Gate |
| 3.15PM | Year 3 will be dismissed from Zealand Road Gate |

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3.20PM Reception will be dismissed from the EYFS Zealand Road Gate

3.30PM Year 2 will be dismissed from the Zealand Road Gate

3.30PM Year 1 will be dismissed from the Chisenhale Road Gate

If you have a child in 5 or 6 and one in 1 or 2 we can arrange for them both to be picked up at 3PM, if you prefer.

CURRICULUM

It is our intention to offer a full, broad and balanced curriculum for the children.

In the first weeks we will be focussing on restorative texts across the school to rebuild and nurture the children back into the learning environment. We will be quickly seeing where each child is at with their learning. We believe that the children, no matter how difficult lockdown has been, will not have gone backwards, but may be a little frozen and need some thawing.

Some areas are going to be more difficult to teach as there is still guidance in place, we will adjust our music curriculum and consider not singing in the first instance. And some PE will need to be adjusted. We are not planning to swim as yet.

And should the worse happen and we go into lockdown again, in September, we will be training the teachers, and the children how to use Google Classroom, for if we need to return to blended learning.

PARENTAL CONTACT

We have over 50 members of staff in school, and the staff are also coming into school on different modes of transport. It is acknowledged that in primary school social distancing cannot be maintained with the children. It is therefore essential that any other contact is minimised.

Teachers or support staff will not be available to talk to at the end of the day, but will call you back or email you if you leave a message via telephone, or send an email to teachers@chisenhale.towerhamlets.sch.uk.

Reception and nursery parents have a separate email contact:

receptionteachers@chisenhale.towerhamlets.sch.uk

nurseryteachers@chisenhale.towerhamlest.sch.uk

We will not be having face to face meetings with parents in school, but may be able to arrange virtual meetings if necessary.

Parents are asked not to gather in the office but to observe social distancing. There will be a 'mobile office' in the main playground each morning in September for parents to ask questions or give in any necessary paperwork.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club will be open from Monday 7th September starting at 7.45AM. The children will be in an EYFS 'bubble' if they are in Nursery or Reception and this will be in Earth Room in the EYFS setting.

Children in Years 1-6 will be in the hall on separate year group tables in order to remain in their 'bubbles'.

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NIGHT OWLS

After school provision will also begin on Monday 7th September.

Parents need to be aware we are not able to maintain children in year group 'bubbles' for this provision, but will be mixing years 1&2 together, Years 3&4 together and Years 5&6 together.

EYFS will remain in the setting for Night Owls and in their EYFS bubble.

I will be sending out more information, but I hope this gives you the most vital points, and some reassurance, that we have been considering how best to keep your children safe.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Taylor-Sezgin
Head teacher