



Jerounds Journal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we eagerly await the arrival of EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils back into school on Monday, to join our key worker children, I wanted to take a moment to reflect upon the most bizarre national situation (crisis), that we as a community have found ourselves in, since the Second World War...

Unquestionably, Covid-19 has been a catalyst for change for many professions, but for Jerounds staff it has confirmed our belief, that education has been the 'champion at the coalface' - both as a profession and as a 'nucleus' for modern society. Significantly, schools have proven themselves to be at the very heart of society - the golden thread uniting a plethora of public services: health, social services, emergency services, community services, politics etc.. Ironically, '**education**' itself has almost been a by-product.

For the first time, since I have been an educator, I have seen a tidal wave of unity - a true coming together from a variety of otherwise hostile stakeholders within society - recognising the essential part education has had in binding 'people' together. Our hope now, as we commence our phased return to 'normality', is that society and our community, remember the unconditional services these sectors have provided, and continue to value and support all school staff and all hospital staff henceforward. Moreover, we believe that schools have *earned* the respect of communities, families and governments alike. Perhaps education's greatest success therefore, during this crisis, is that it is not about ideology, politics and policy, but far more about people and valuing the people within its care.

Interestingly, this pandemic has also afforded many school leaders the opportunity to take tremendous pride in their own school staff, supporting and nurturing not only our children, but also the wider community too: delivering food, smiles, conversations, art packs, support, school work (both remotely and through hard paper copies), messages via social media platforms - all in a valiant attempt to support those more vulnerable members of our community. It is worth noting also, that teachers, LSAs, school staff commence their academic journey and training in order to educate thirsty, young minds. I am sure they did not therefore, ever expect to be '**frontline soldiers**' during a medical pandemic; contemporary heroes and heroines by default, when the rest of England was sent into lockdown and isolation.

Despite some initial anxieties and fears expressed by many members of staff, not one member of Jerounds Academy staff ever failed to show up for work during lockdown, to support our community - quite the contrary in fact. Subsequently, it has been a real honour and privilege to witness such camaraderie and genuine affection for our community, by Jerounds' staff and NET Academies Trust.

Like the rest of the nation, schools across the country have been digesting initial guidelines and daily briefings - presenting numerous challenges - all in a concerted effort to mitigate and reduce the risk for children returning to school on June 1st. We have shared our processes and procedures with you weekly - concluding on Monday 25th with the publication of our risk assessment. Naturally, we will continue to update this as and when necessary and in the event of any government guidelines changing. We will all

need to be be flexible - parents, staff and pupils - over the coming weeks, to reduce risk and to remain within the government's ever-changing guidelines.

Subsequently, having all the staff back together again on Friday, in order to review our new policies and procedures for EYFS, Year 1 and 6's imminent return was both efficient and reassuring. The collective voice was loud and clear, and the narrative we established as a staff, is that our profession, and indeed society, is so clearly in need of schools, like Jerounds, to bring about consistency, stability and to provide a safe haven for fuelling young, curious minds.

Other important factors to note for Monday June 1st, 2020:

For those year group children who have not been advised to return to school, remote learning will continue in the usual way, through SEESAW - our excellent online learning platform - and the school website. Parents, please do continue to maintain a daily routine for maths and English in the mornings, coupled with some excellent family activities in the afternoons: art, PE, music, cooking, woodland walk, bike ride...

We have been duly notified by the School Crossing Patrol Service that after careful consideration a decision has been made NOT to resume patrols at any sites for the time being. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly. They will be reviewing the situation in response to any government advice.

The school entrance and exit points for each year group is detailed on our website. Each entrance will be ***clearly labelled*** with members of staff stationed alongside:

EYFS pupils: usual EYFS entrance 08.30-15.30

Please remember to pass your child over to the teaching staff immediately and NOT to remain in the school grounds, maintaining the required 2m social distancing with other parents.

Year 1 pupils: Side gate. 08.45-15.45

Mr Layzell and Mrs Wallsworth will be stationed here to receive Year 1 pupils in order to direct them to their awaiting teachers.

Key Worker pupils (Years 2-5): Breakfast Club entrance. 08.30-15.45 Mrs Lidbury and Miss Pollard will be waiting here to direct our key worker children accordingly.

Year 6 pupils: KS2 Playground 8.45 -12.30 Mrs Ciftci will direct the children into the school and onto the top playground where teaching staff will be waiting.

Polite reminder: Entrance into school is strictly subject to the school receiving a signed copy of the 'home-school agreement' ***prior*** to Monday June 1st. All parents have been sent a copy of the home school agreement, which may be electronically signed. Please also note that the school office is closed to all visitors until further notice and access will only be granted via a pre-arranged appointment by telephone.

Classes are set to a maximum of fifteen pupils per class, and may be taught by a combination of teachers, LSAs and Senior Leaders. Every effort has been made to provide our children with consistency. In return, we ask that parents fulfill all aspects of the home school agreement for their children, including daily clean clothes, reinforcing stringent hygiene expectations, no items to be brought into school other than a water bottle. This is especially important for key worker children in EYFS, Years 1 and 6, who will form a new bubble group every Friday, aside from their year groups bubble on Mondays through to Thursdays.

For any further reminders please do refer to our COVID-19 folder and parent guide on the school website (Parent Information tab - COVID-19 Updates).

Finally, the key initiative to observe over the coming weeks will be ***flexibility*** - from parents, staff and pupils. If government guidelines alter, schools may also have to alter their services. Please remember therefore, to liaise with the school office via email, if there are any issues that you wish to discuss further with a member of staff, should either you or your child's circumstances change over the coming weeks.

Wishing you all a glorious weekend of sunshine!

With best wishes,
Mrs Laura Ciftci BA (Hons) MEd
Head of School



COVID-19—Resource

Please take a minute to have a look at the below link and share with your children.

[https://en.calameo.com/read/00077721945cfe5bb9cc?
authid=Xu9pcOzU3TQx](https://en.calameo.com/read/00077721945cfe5bb9cc?authid=Xu9pcOzU3TQx)

COVID-19 - Important information



Back to school?



Is your child going
back to school?

If possible walk or
cycle, or go by car.

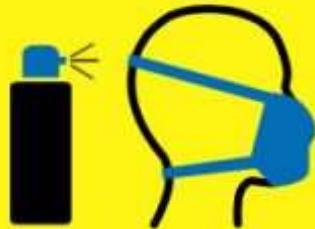
STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES



Plan your journey



Can you travel off-peak?



Take hand sanitiser and a face covering, if you can



If you require assistance you should continue to request this as you normally would



Wash or sanitise your hands before your journey



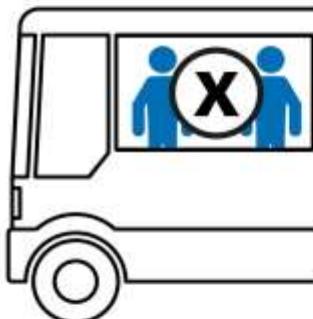
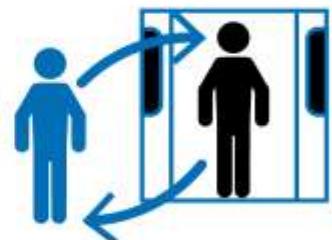
Plan ahead and use a direct route

Help keep our buses safe



Take a window seat, avoid standing and leave space in front and behind you.

Please be patient and wait for passengers to get off before you board a bus



Do not stand or queue in the aisle or next to the bus driver

If you can, wear a face covering where social distancing isn't possible.

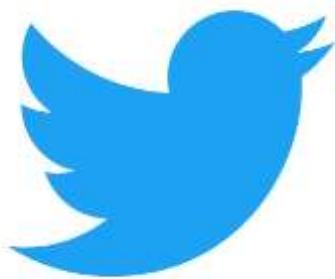


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