



We all want children to return to school but this needs to be in a safe and steady manner. Parents and carers, quite understandably, would like additional information before finally deciding on whether to allow their child to return to school. Hopefully, the information below will help you decide on the right course of action for you and your child.

We would like to emphasise that even though our plans and risk assessment are based on what we consider to be the safest option, they are not fool proof and cannot guarantee 100% safety. Every family must independently come to a decision which they feel is right for them. There is no right or wrong choice!

### Which children will be returning and when?

- Children will return in a staggered way.
  - **Key Worker and Vulnerable pupils** will continue to attend what we call 'Summer Camp'. The same curriculum will be covered as other year groups.
  - **Reception & Year 1** will be able to return from **Monday 8th June**
  - **Year 6** will be able to return from **Monday 15th June**
- If you have more than one child in the designated year groups (YR, Y1, Y6), you must bring all your children to the entrance point for the **youngest member of the family**.

### If I am eligible to bring my child back to school on the dates above, do I drop them off to their normal classroom?

- Not necessarily. **We will create 'safe bubbles' for small groups of children**. Each year group has been **divided into** smaller bubbles by the class teachers, who know the children best. There are 8 children in a room. Your child will therefore either be in **group a, b, c or d**. For example Year 1 has the following bubbles/smaller classes: 1A, 1B, 1C. If your child is returning you will have received a notification informing you the name of your child's bubble. Prepare your child by telling them they may not necessarily be taught by their usual teacher.
- Depending on your child's year group, you will only be able to use one designated gate to access the school:
  - Year 6 pupils - Buxton Road junior playground double gates from 15th June**
  - Year 1 & Reception pupils - infant playground side gate on Gurney Road from 8th June**
  - Nursery pupils - Buxton Road Children's Centre and Nursery gates from 8th June**
  - Summer Camp - Gurney Road main office gate from 8th June**
- There will be **markings and signage** to guide you where to stand and hand over your child. Parents and children must take responsibility for keeping at least 1 metre's distance from each other as recommended by the World Health Organisation.
- It is important that you arrive **at 8.50am** to avoid crowding at the school gates.
- We will review as to whether school times have to be altered to allow for the transition of pupils in and out of school, but fortunately, we have **4 separate entrance gates**.
- **Parents will not be permitted near classroom doors or inside the Children's Centre** at all during this opening phase, but will be allowed to stand in a space in the playground. Any queries can be answered by email or a phone call to the office.

- You must practise social spacing whilst on the school premises
- **YOU MUST NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE HAD COVID SYMPTOMS WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS.**

### Are there changes to the length of day?

- 8.50am-3.15pm for all children, including nursery children. This will be reviewed.

### Does my child have to attend?

- No! Every family's situation is different and therefore you need to make an informed choice that is right for you and your child.

### Will I be fined?

- No. It is not a legal requirement at the moment for children to attend school.

### If they stay home how will you support their education? If they attend school, what will the curriculum be?

- You may have decided to keep your child at home or your child may not be in one of the eligible year groups. For children who will be staying at home, we will continue to set daily work for them to complete via Google Classroom.
- There are some small changes we wanted to make you aware of though. As most of our teachers are now responsible for planning and teaching for a class within school, this work may be set and marked by a different teacher to the one your child is usually taught by.
- The following teachers will be setting work:
  - Year 6 - Miss Spicer and Mrs Furlonger
  - Year 5 and Year 4 - Miss Khan
  - Years 2 & 3 - Mr Hoque & Miss King
  - Reception and Year 1 - Mrs Iqbal
- There will be no changes to the way you log in and access work and it will continue to appear in your child's Google Classroom in the usual way. You should continue to submit the work and this will be reviewed by a teacher who will comment on it. Feedback from teachers may be less regular than it previously was, as staff will now have work from more pupils to review, but please be assured that we will continue to celebrate your child's efforts.
- If your child is attending school, there will be no specific weekly homework set as we want to limit the amount of resources that go back and forth between school and home. If you would like your child to continue to do homework in the evenings or at the weekend, you are welcome to access some of the tasks on Google Classroom, Mathletics, Times Table Rockstars and BBC Bitesize. There is no expectation that they submit tasks or complete everything.

### Can I change my mind later?

- If you commit to your child attending school, they should do so regularly. It is not helpful for their education or well-being to keep swapping. It can also affect the well being of other children in the bubble as there will be less children for them to socialise with as they cannot socialise with children from other bubbles.
- If you choose for your child not to come into school to start off with and then change your mind later, you will need to contact us 2 days in advance of your child returning. Please be aware your child may not be able

to start straight away as we need to make sure that the new bubble has enough children for your child to socialise with.

### **What if we are late?**

- If you are late and miss your time slot you will not be able to access the school that day.
- This is because we need to keep the groups of children and parents separate and therefore you cannot just join another gate or group.
- By saying you want your child to attend school you are committing to bringing them and collecting them on time. If this does not happen, we may have to discuss if returning to virtual provision at home is more suitable for your circumstances.

### **Does my child have to wear uniform?**

- Yes. Your child must arrive with clean, washed uniform or school colours each day. If this is difficult for families to maintain, please contact the school who may be able to assist.
- The same applies for PE kit (for now, any type or colour shorts or T-shirt can be worn), to be taken home and washed after each lesson - you may need to enclose a plastic bag in your child's backpack..
- Dress code applies eg. no jewellery - we would encourage those children who have long hair to tie their hair up and Public Health advise against draping clothing such as scarves for this period.
- We suggest that as soon as your child returns home from school they shower and change out of their clothes, which should then be washed with ordinary detergent.

### **What about other items?**

- Children may bring their own water bottle with them.
- If it is cold, they can bring a coat or if it is hot, they can bring in a hat.
- No book bags, pencil cases, reading books or other items can be brought in or go home with children. They may bring a backpack to carry water bottles, spare clothing and PE clothing.

### **What about PPE?**

- You may wish your child to wear PPE whilst travelling but they must not wear it when they come into school.
- This is because a child is unlikely to wear a face mask for the entire day (particularly when running around outside) and therefore will want to take it off. This poses a bigger risk of touching the face than not wearing one.
- Staff will generally not be wearing PPE which is why the social distance areas are in place in all rooms (including staff areas).
- Staff will only wear PPE if there is a risk of contact with bodily fluids i.e. first aid, or if they are involved with helping younger children use toilet facilities. They will also wear it if they are looking after someone who displays possible COVID symptoms.
- In these cases, the PPE will be disposable gloves & aprons. They may also be wearing a clear visor.

### **My child has SEND & or medical needs, what should I do?**

- If your child is in one of the returning year groups, we will work with you to create a risk assessment in relation to their needs.
- This will then be used to decide whether school or home-based education is more suitable at this time.

### **I am a key worker and now need to use priority provision. Can I do this?**

- If you are a key worker you may already be in our priority provision which has been running for 8 weeks. These spaces need to be booked with the school. If you think you are eligible, please call the school on 02085348135.

### **How many will be in a class?**

- Returning children will be placed into groups of between 7 - 15. They will use the same room, designated play area by rota, with the same children and same allocated adult each day – this is their ‘bubble’. They will eat in class with their bubble mates.

### **Will they be in their normal room and with their class teacher?**

- Although we are planning to have a teacher lead each bubble, with classes being split into so many groups it is unlikely it will be their usual class teacher.
- We need at least 4 classrooms for each year group so it is likely your child will be in a different room.

### **Will children be allowed to choose their own bubble?**

- No. The teachers will allocate children into their year group bubbles.
- We cannot therefore guarantee that they will be with their usual group of friends.

### **Can my child mix with friends or relatives who may be in another bubble?**

- Unfortunately, no. Each bubble needs to stay within itself both in the classroom and outside in the playground.
- Each bubble will be given allocated space and times to be in the playground every day, but they will not be able to play with children from other bubbles who may be in a different area.

### **What about social distancing (personal spacing) in the classroom?**

- Each classroom has 10 -15 tables separated as far as possible.
- Each child will be allocated a table to themselves.
- After washing their hands, children will need to sit at the allocated table or allocated space elsewhere in the class.
- Children will need to stay at their tables unless they are going outside to play.
- If they need help with their work, they will put up their hands to show the teacher what the difficulty is so they can help them.
- We will try to utilise outside space as much as possible too.

### **What about social distancing in the playground?**

- Children will be allocated a large enough space for their bubble to play in. This will be a shared space for every child in the bubble.
- Children will be encouraged to socially distance from each other and understand the space needed by putting their arms outstretched to the sides. Their fingertips should then not touch the fingertips of the child near them who is doing the same thing.
- Play equipment for each bubble will be supplied and children will be encouraged to play games that require distance between them.
- Children will not be able to play contact games with each other.
- There are a set of new outdoor playtime rules that will be enforced and displayed around the school (see poster below):



### What about social distancing in Early Years?

- Reception classrooms and the Nursery have been set up in a similar manner to the other rooms in the school (only 5 children in the Nursery group, 8 in each room in the infants))
- However, children this young will find it extremely difficult to socially distance, even with reminders.
- Therefore, in accordance with government guidance, children will be allowed to be in contact with each other but only within their bubble. We will endeavour to restrict the number of children engaged in any activity where possible.
- Every reception space will also have permanent access to an outdoor space for the use of their bubble.
- We will of course make use of this for as many activities as possible, in addition to break and lunch play.

### How will you look after my child's mental health?

- This has been a challenging time for everyone and that includes children.
- Many of our families have experienced illness, change in family circumstances and bereavement.
- We realise that many children may be scared to be outside with others, whilst others will be looking forward to it but find the restrictions they must follow difficult.
- Social, emotional and mental health is a priority in all of our teacher's planning right now - each teacher has a timetabled daily opportunity to explore this subject with the children and help them adjust to this 'new normal'.
- All staff will also receive additional training in relation to supporting children's mental health and how to support those who have experienced bereavement.

### Will there be new school rules?

- Our rules will stay the same whilst being sensitive to the needs of our pupils
- However, children will be expected to follow new directions in relation to hygiene and social distancing.
- If a child repeatedly refuses or is unable to follow these expectations, we will contact you to discuss this.

- In the unlikely situation that a solution cannot be found, the child will need to return to being educated at home as the risk to themselves and others would be too big.

### **What happens for lunch?**

- Lunch will be a packed lunch which will be brought to the internal door of each class bubble.
- The children will then take turns to collect their lunch and eat it at their table.
- Children will be provided with wipes and hand sanitiser so that they can clean their hands and table before and after they have eaten.
- Packed lunches from home are acceptable. However if this is your child's preference, you will be expected to provide a packed lunch everyday (you will not be able to switch to a school lunch option). Only your child will be allowed to touch their lunchbox.

### **What about Free School Meal Vouchers?**

- If you are eligible for free school meal vouchers and you choose for your child to attend school, you will no longer receive these.
- If your child is not attending school, you will continue to receive them.

### **What about toilets?**

- Children will be encouraged to go to the toilet throughout the day staggered rather than all at once during break or lunch time
- Facilities will be checked throughout the day and cleaned daily and more frequently if needed
- Access to toilets/foot flow will be monitored by support staff
- Soap is available for students to wash their hands thoroughly

### **What is happening about cleaning?**

- Cleaners have been trained by their employer (Juniper Ventures) how to manage cleaning regimes in light of Covid 19.
- High contact areas (such as door handles) will be avoided if at all possible (eg. leaving specific doors open) and if not possible will be cleaned more frequently throughout the day
- School cleaners will clean every area each night.
- We have sourced additional cleaning materials which will be used throughout the day eg. disinfectant wipes, sprays, etc.
- In reception, only resources that can be disinfected will be used and this will be done on a frequent basis.
- Resources will not be shared across bubbles unless they have been disinfected and ideally left for 72 hours.

### **How are you promoting good hygiene?**

- Everyone entering the site must wash or sanitise their hand for 20 seconds.
- We will be reinforcing this with children as they return.
- Hands must be washed/sanitised frequently throughout the day including before and after using the toilet, before eating and when returning from the playground.
- Every bubble has a hygiene kit with antibacterial wipes so children can wipe their table before and after eating, tissues and a lidded bin for these items to be placed in, when not in use.
- We will also reinforce the importance of using tissues if sneezing – “catch it, bin it, kill it”.
- Rooms must always be well ventilated, so windows and doors will be left open wherever possible.

### **What if my child needs first aid?**

- A qualified first aider will be on duty in each central area, so they are minimising the number of children and adults they interact with.
- Temperatures will be taken using an infra-red thermometer. If your child has a temperature, we will contact you to collect them immediately (see below).

- If it is a minor injury (such as a graze) you will be informed in the usual manner that your child needed to receive first aid.

### What if someone shows COVID symptoms during the day?

- **YOU MUST NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE HAD COVID SYMPTOMS WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS.**
- If someone feels unwell during the day with any of the symptoms of COVID they will be taken to a first aid isolation room and a member of staff (wearing full PPE) will stay with them. We will then contact the named family member to come and collect them immediately (or an ambulance in a more severe situation).
- Their temperature will be taken with an infrared thermometer.
- Therefore, if you choose for your child to come to school you MUST provide a contact number that will always be answered.
- Everyone in the bubble the person is linked to will be contacted. The bubble will then not attend school until the person showing symptoms has been tested (which we can help arrange) and the household should isolate until the results are received.
- If the test comes back negative, we will contact you and the bubble can come back into school the next day.
- If the test comes back positive, we will contact you and can help arrange testing for your household.

### What if I need to speak to the school? Can I come into the front office?

- Unfortunately, no. For this period if you need to speak to someone you need to call or email us.
  - Tel: 020 85348135
  - Email: info@maryland.newham.sch.uk
- No parents or visitors will be allowed on site unless in the case of an emergency such as a fire.

### Is there any breakfast club or after school clubs?

- No. The company that provides these services have not confirmed re-opening. Contact them directly (Wright Education)

### This is so different to normal school; how do I explain this to my child?

- Please pass on any information from this FAQ document that you think may put your child's mind at ease.
- Reassure your child that even though there are lots of physical differences in school eg. classroom changes, zones in the playground, etc - everything that makes Maryland special has not changed one bit - staff are so excited to welcome the children back, see for yourself by clicking the following link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HDTfBYAv908UPMgGOnecEkqxGEtOiuqz/view>

### What happens now?

- If your child is in year 6, 1 or Reception or full time nursery you will have received information via ParentMail outlining next steps

### What if the national or local situation changes?

- We hope to keep to the dates provided for each year group. However please note that if national or local circumstances change, or staffing is reduced (particularly first raiders) then these may need to be reviewed but so far, Newham Education Department have accepted our risk assessment. School will close for summer break on 15th July for children although staff will continue to work in order to pack down, reorganise and respond to whatever the next government situation is for September (currently unknown).