

Park Academy
200 Dorset Road
London SW19 3EF
Tel: 020 8542 3365

Email: office@park-academy.org
Website: www.park-academy.org
Twitter: @ParkAcad

Headteacher: Bella Street

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Re: school return on **Thursday 3rd September 2020**

The last four months have been a challenging time for most of us. I know that many children have been struggling at home as they have not just missed out on their formal education, but also on the social aspect of school life. Many children have felt isolated and down and they have struggled to cope with the home learning tasks. School life here has also been challenging since the lockdown started. We have remained open for particular groups of children and I have been enormously impressed with how, flexible, positive and adaptable all the staff have been. We have all acted quickly to do our best to continue to serve our community safely during the pandemic as well as planning home learning for children learning at home and also managing the phone calls to families. Like me, I am sure you were pleased to hear the Government announcement recently regarding all children returning to school in September. This letter will set out how school life at Park Academy will differ in the new academic year. We have made some adjustments in order to keep the children and staff safe. Apologies in advance that this is a long letter, but there is a lot to cover.

Class Bubbles:

From September, the children will be separated into their own year group 'bubbles' which means they will only interact with the children from their year group as well as the staff in their bubble. Within the classroom, the children be sat in rows facing forward as per the guidance. Each child will have their own resources which no one else will use. Children are not allowed to bring any stationary items from home at the moment. Children are welcome to wear PPE in class, although this is optional.

Safety precautions:

Children will be asked to apply hand sanitiser when they arrive at school every morning. They will also be asked to apply hand sanitizer after break time, before they eat their lunch they will wash their hands, and when they come in from lunch time play they will apply hand sanitiser again. Finally, they will given hand sanitiser before they go home at the end of the day. There is a one way system operating throughout the school, so there is no crossing on stairs or in corridors and all doors are propped open so there is minimal contact. The staffroom is considered a 'hot zone' so there is a one way system in there and staff sit at a distance from one another. All staff are offered free, optional weekly Covid-19 tests at school and results return within 24 hours. Staff do not move into other classrooms and they keep at a distance from one another in the staffroom.

Children's desks are cleaned regularly in the day and we have two separate bins; one for normal waste and the other for tissue waste. Classrooms always have windows or doors open so that fresh air circulates.

There will be no assemblies or group congregations for the foreseeable future. PE will be non-contact in the autumn term. The children will be taking part in athletics. PE will start the week beginning 7th September and you will be informed about what the PE days on the 3rd September. Each class has their own PE resources which are not shared. These resources and cleaned after each session.

Eating arrangements:

All children will eat their lunch at their desk in their classroom. Can all children please bring their own labelled water bottle which will sit on their desk. The new lunch menu can be found on the new school website. Children who bring in a packed lunch will do so as normal, however the lunch boxes will go to the child's class and be kept on their desk.

Break and lunch time arrangements:

Children will spend break and lunch times in their class bubbles. Lunch and break times are therefore staggered and lunch time play is reduced to 20 minutes in order to accommodate all classes. The children will eat for 20 minutes, play outside in their bubble for 20 minutes, and carry out mindful colouring at their desks for 20 minutes daily.

Outbreaks and sickness:

If a child or member of staff in the bubble contracts coronavirus, the whole bubble will be asked to self-isolate according to the Government recommendations. We will keep reviewing these guidelines during the next few months. If your child or someone in the households has any of the Covid-19 symptoms (high temperature, continuous cough, loss of taste or smell), you will all need to stay at home and again, follow the Government recommendations. Currently they advise getting a Covid test ASAP and self-isolating until the results are known. Your child will only be able to come back to school once a negative result is proven or a week has passed and they have passed a temperature check administered at the school gate upon arrival.

Start and end of the day:

In order to prevent too much congestion at the end of the school day we have made the following changes: The morning will start with the normal slow staggered start to the day, from 8:30 until 8:45, however there will be different entrances for different classes. I am waiting to hear back from the Council as to what adjustments they can make to the road and pavement in order to make Dorset Road safer during this period.

Year group	Entrance	Pick up location	Pick up time
Reception	Back car park	Back car park	14:50
Year 1	Normal school	Back car park	14:55
Year 2	Back car park	Back car park	14:55
Year 3	Normal entrance	Normal exit	14:55
Year 4	Normal entrance	Normal exit	15:00
Year 5	Main office entrance	Normal exit	15:05
Year 6	Main office entrance	Normal exit	15:10

Please note that at the end of the day, there will be a one way conveyor belt system for children in Key Stage Two (KS2 – Year Three to Six) leaving the school. Parents of the class being dismissed with spaced out along the bushes at a 1m distance and collect their child, then leave through the green gate by the Key Stage One (KS1) play area. If parents are early, we ask that they please wait on the opposite side of the road or preferably in their car. We understand some people will need to wait as siblings will be leaving at different times, but I am afraid this is unavoidable. We will all have to be patient during these changes as they will take some adjusting to. We are all trying our best, and things will not always run smoothly but by being supportive to one another and kind, these changes will be easier.

Curriculum

All children around the country will have gaps in their knowledge as a result of schools closure, so all children are in the same boat. We will be assessing the children in September to get a good gauge of current attainment levels and we will adjust the curriculum accordingly. A separate letter regarding the changes to the curriculum will be shared with you soon, as well a full staffing list for September.

Breakfast Club, Stay and Play and after school clubs:

Safety of all children and staff is our main priority, so from September, Park will not be running Breakfast Club and Stay and Play sessions as the sessions would involve children from different bubbles be mixing which is against Government guidelines. For this same reason, we will not be running other after school clubs for autumn term one. Every week, we will review this situation, and follow Government guidelines to see how this can change. I really hope we can resume the normal wrap-around provision as soon as possible. I do understand and appreciate this is going to be a significant challenge to all working parents and I sincerely apologise for the inconvenience but I hope you can understand that this decision has your child's safety at heart.

Office appointments:

For now, parents and carers cannot enter the school building due to the small size of the office and the fact that we do not have the safety screens in place yet. Instead, if you need a form or if you have a question, we ask that you email office@park-academy.org or call 020 8542 3365 between 8am and 3:30. Gemma will respond and help you with your query. The toilet is out of bounds for the foreseeable future.

Uniform:

Please remember that children can still wear the own school uniform until Friday 18th December, however you can collect the new free items you have requested at the times below:

1. 10 – 2 via Gemma at the main office (you will be asked to wait outside the main school door)
2. 8:30 – 9:00 or 3:00 until 3:30 in the school front playground today, tomorrow and Friday.
3. Wednesday 2nd September onwards from 10 – 2

If there is anything within this letter that you would like clarified or if there are any other questions that you may have, please feel free to contact a member of staff and we will happily talk with you.

I have attached below the link to the government guidance that we have used for making the decisions that we have made.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-and-colleges-to-reopen-in-full-in-september>

Finally, we look forward to welcoming all children from back to school on the first day – Thursday 3rd September 2020. Please note that school is compulsory in September.

You will have received the home learning letter, which is now available on the website.

I hope you all have a good break.

Keep safe

Bella Street
Headteacher