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Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that you have all settled well into the summer term and have been able to make the most of the lovely weather in the outdoors. I fully appreciate what a challenging time this is, and will continue to be for everyone. I can't thank the staff and you all enough for doing your very best to ensure that together we have been able to meet your child's needs as best we can. Thank you to everyone who collected their new learning pack this week. If you have not already had the opportunity to do so they will be available for you to collect between 10am & 2pm from the school office when we reopen from Monday the 1st of June. If you are shielding please let us know and we can arrange for it to be dropped off.

You will be aware that recently the government announced plans asking schools to open to some pupils (Nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6) on the 1st June. Myself, the governing body, staff felt very concerned and have worked hard over the short time since that announcement to consider if this might be possible for us.

I would like to reassure you that my first priority will always be the safeguarding of all members of our school community at all times. Thank you to all those parents who have responded to our survey and phone calls to support us to complete arrangements for a safe return to school. Our leadership team worked on a safe and practical return to school for some children.

We are very much looking forward to seeing our children once again and I would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community is our priority. However, I would like to stress that, we may be unable to operate a full service for children and families from the beginning of June as we need to match small groups of children to staff available to keep adults and children safe. While it will not be business as usual, we will endeavour to ensure that the offer for children and families is equitable.

The following arrangements have been implemented with a view to ensure the safety of all staff, pupils and parents and have been put in place following a full risk assessment and are in line with guidance from the Department for Education.



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If you have indicated to the school, via our survey or phone call, that you would like your child to attend school **you will receive more detailed information about this process** from your phase leader and/or class teacher on **Monday 1st June 2020**.

- ✓ **Year 6 children attending will begin on the Wednesday 3rd June**
- ✓ **Year 1- two teams will be in operation with a transition day on either Thurs 4th or Friday 5th June.**
- ✓ **Nursery and Reception – will begin on Monday 8th June.**

We will continue to operate a childcare facility for the Children who are currently using this service.

Maintaining a safe school environment

The school has put in place a wide range of preventative measures in order to minimise the risk and spread of infection.

In line with government advice the following actions for infection control remain in place:

- Displaying coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - ✓ Before leaving home
 - ✓ On arrival at school
 - ✓ At regular intervals throughout the day
 - ✓ After and after using non-personal equipment
 - ✓ After using the toilet
 - ✓ After breaks and physical activities
 - ✓ Before food preparation
 - ✓ Before eating any food, including snacks
 - ✓ Before leaving school
- Installation of wash stations entrances, exits & in the school playground
- Installing alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol throughout the school
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected daily
- Weekly sanitisation using 'misting' across the school.
- Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell, isolating any unwell people in a separate room, and providing a separate bathroom, where possible
- Telling staff to stay at home for seven days if they develop symptoms of coronavirus or until a test result is negative for coronavirus
- Providing staff training on PPE, rubbish disposal, mental health and well-being
- creating a 'One way traffic' system of moving about the school to promote social distancing
- whole school sterilisation every week
- strict limits on who may access the school site to promote hygiene and reduce contact

If attending school your child does not need to wear uniform every day as it is more important that they wear a fresh set of clothing each day. We would recommend that children change clothes as soon as they return home from school.

Arrangements for the start and end of the school day

The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place and maintaining safe distances within normal arrangements can be a challenge. We have implemented the following measures for when pupils return to school:

- Children and staff have been organised in 'Bubble' (small group) and will have their own designated entrance
- Start times will be staggered to prevent pinch points forming at the start or end of the day
- Parents are asked not to enter the school grounds in order to maintain social distancing guidance
- children will be met at the gate by designated staff
- all children will wash their hands as they arrive at school and regularly throughout the day

The school day

To minimise the number of pupils and staff assembling for periods of time, we have made the following changes to the school day:

- Staff and children will operate in bubbles
- Classrooms have been organised to ensure social distancing as much as is practicable
- Pupils will be provided with their individual tools for the day which only they alone will be using and touching
- Learning spaces have been cleared of all equipment and furniture that is not in use
- The school is deep cleaned daily and 'misted' weekly (misting sanitised all furniture, including soft furnishings).
- PPE will be used by staff when providing intimate care for the younger children

Transition from Year 6 to Year 7

We recognise that this is a really important time for our Year 6 pupils as they are preparing for secondary school in September. Whilst we will not be conducting any on-site visits to secondary schools we will still be doing everything that we can to support these pupils to be ready. This includes:

Liaising closely with our secondary schools to make sure they know all of the important information about your child.

Providing bespoke lessons and guidance for year 6 pupils about transferring to secondary school.

We will answer any questions that they have and support them with any anxieties so that they can make the best possible start.

As with all other arrangements we will keep this under constant review and we will not open the school to any year group unless we are satisfied that it is safe to do so.

We recognise that some of you may have some concerns about your child returning to school and that for some children another change may be unsettling. We also understand that the past weeks will have been challenging for many families. If you would like to talk to us about your child and any concerns you have about their return to school, please contact Arabella Yapp, our Inclusion Lead, who will be able to support you with any questions or concerns you may have. Ph. 0790 2308 100 or ayapp@robertblair.islington.sch.uk.

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent weeks have been for us all and we all will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic.

Parents may wish to seek support for themselves from the following support agencies:

- **For psychological support for adults contact Islington iCope on 0203 317 7252 or look at <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>**
- *An example resource to help younger children understand about the virus is <https://matzav.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CoronaVirus-Slide-for-kids.pdf.pdf.pdf>*
- **Food Distribution**
- The council's ***We Are Islington*** helpline enables residents who are experiencing difficulties to access a broad range of support, including accessing food. Contact details for ***We Are Islington***: 020 7527 8222 or weareislington@islington.gov.uk
- **Financial Difficulty**
- The Council's Resident Support Scheme provides temporary financial support to residents facing severe difficulties or those who find themselves in crisis. <https://www.islington.gov.uk/advice/resident-support-scheme> The ***We Are Islington*** helpline can refer residents if necessary.
- Families on certain benefits can access Healthy Start Vouchers to spend on milk, fruit and veg, and infant formula.
- **Samaritans – call free 24 hours a day on 116 123**
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline – call for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247**
- Shelter provide free confidential information, support and legal advice on all housing and homelessness issues if you call 0330 0536 083 (please note, this is not a free phone number and your call will be charged). A free webchat is available at https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/webchat

As we begin our journey back to what will be a new normal for everyone. I thank you in advance for your patience as we ensure a safe and secure environment for us all in these unusual and unpredictable times. Please take the time to view a message from us all, we are here for you all and still standing. [Happy FriYay from Robert Blair Staff](#)

I miss you all and am very much looking forward to seeing everyone in the near future.

Best Wishes



Michelle Bahn – Headteacher & Senior Leadership team;
Janet Colbourne – Deputy Headteacher
Melanie Burrows - School Business Manager

