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Tuesday 2 June

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your patience over the last few weeks as we have been planning and preparing for our phased return to school. We are very much looking forward to seeing our children again and I would like to reassure you, once again, that the safety of our school community is our biggest priority.

All staff that are available for work attended an inset day yesterday and are now familiar with all the guidelines, risk assessments and information needed to ensure the safety of the adults and children when working on the school site.

We are not yet be able 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. But we will endeavour to ensure that the offer for children and families is fair to all.

Our arrangements for a phased return to school have been put into place following a full risk assessment process and are in line with guidance from the Department for Education and the Local Authority. We are taking into account the current staffing capacity and limitations as well as the size and layout of the school.

We have tried to include all of the information you will need in this letter to help you to make an informed decision about sending your child back to school. Please do read the letter in full (including the social distancing information at the end).

### Which children are invited to return to school?

The Government has asked schools to open schools for the return of nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. The Governors and staff at our school have decided that the safest way to implement this is to bring groups back slowly and to regularly review the safety measures we have put in place.

Thank you to those parents who completed the survey in time to be invited in this week for children in years 1 & 6, and for our nursery and reception children, next week. This enabled us to



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plan for the number of children we could have on site. You will be asked to complete the 'return to school form' when your child arrives at school for the first time and there will be a member of staff to go through this with you.

The next survey link registering your interest in sending your child to school will be open from 9am Wednesday 3 June to 3pm Monday 8 June. Please use this link to inform us whether or not you would like your child to be invited to attend school in the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, subject to availability.

Parents who have not confirmed a place at school must not send their children in until they have received confirmation that a place has been made available for them.

We would like to remind you that this is not compulsory. If you have decided to keep your child at home then we will continue to support learning with Home Learning activities and children's class teachers will call to 'check in' on a regular basis.

### Which children should not to return to school?

The following groups of children in nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 **should not return** to school if we are open:

- Those who are clinically vulnerable. Including those who have underlying health conditions such as asthma, kidney disease, heart disease, liver disease, a weakened immune system or chronic neurological conditions. You must read the full list on gov.uk to ensure that your child does not have needs that would mean they should continue to stay at home (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>)
- Children who are extremely clinically vulnerable. These children should have received a shielding letter. Please read the full list of medical conditions on the gov.uk website to find out whether your child is extremely clinically vulnerable (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>)
- Children who live with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable (this is because children will be unable to socially distance from this person in their home).
- Children who will not be able to follow the measures that the school has put in place to safeguard the risk to themselves and others. Where children are not able to follow the guidelines the school has put in place, the school will need to carry out a risk assessment and then make a decision as to whether it is safe for a child to return to school. This is necessary to protect every child and staff member from the risk of transmission of COVID-19. When you have fully read the social distancing measures in this letter you should consider whether your child will be able to follow these measures in school.

Families who need to use public transport to come to school are encouraged to stay at home in order to limit the social contact they are having. We strongly encourage all families to walk, cycle or drive (where there is not another option).

At this time, the Government has instructed schools **not to take children in other year groups** unless their parents are key workers or fall into the category of vulnerable children. However we have agreed to manage, as part of keyworker group, the siblings of children who are in the age groups above.

### **Key Worker Children:**

Key worker children will continue to attend on the days arranged. Key worker parents will also need to complete the information form that the school will email to them.

If you are a key worker and you want your child to attend school, please email the office a request for a place and a copy of a letter from your employer. You need to include the days that you need childcare. The office will then confirm the place and a start date. You will need to wait for confirmation before your child can return.

### **Part time places**

The Government has issued guidance for schools to have no more than 15 pupils in a group however the Local Authority has recommend that children in nursery should be in groups of no greater than 8 and those in Reception should be in groups of no greater than 10. For this reason children will return on a part time basis.

The school has grouped days and children and unfortunately will not be able to offer alternative days due to group sizes and staff availability (unless you are a key worker as these children will be in a different group).

### **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
- Social distanced spaces are signposted outside the gates to support your social distancing.
- Children will be met at the gate by designated staff.
  - Year 6 – Brewery Road Gate
  - Year 1 – Blundell Street Main gate
  - Reception & Nursery – Reception area Gate on Blundell Street.
- All children will wash their hands as they arrive at school and change their shoes.

### **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
- There is a signposted one way system in operation
- Clear signal & distancing signage has been posted both inside and outside the school.
- 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 sanitises all furniture, including soft furnishings).
- PPE will be used by staff when providing intimate care for the younger children

### **If a child or adult becomes unwell**

In line with the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child at home if they develop Coronavirus symptoms for a period of seven days, unless they test negative for Coronavirus.

Symptoms include:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of taste or smell
- a noticeable change in the ability to taste or smell

Where symptoms continue after seven days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of Coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. To access testing, parents will be able to use the 111 online Coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5. Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has Coronavirus, or if your child receives a positive test result for Coronavirus, please contact the school on 020 7607 4115 at the earliest opportunity.

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.

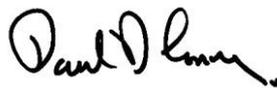
We recognise that some of you may have some concerns about your child returning to school and that for some children another change may be unsettling. We also understand that the past weeks will have been challenging for many families. If you would like to talk to us about your child and any concerns 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](mailto:ayapp@robertblair.islington.sch.uk).

If you have any questions, please email the office [admin@robertblair.islington.sch.uk](mailto:admin@robertblair.islington.sch.uk) and we will endeavour to get back to you quickly.

Best wishes



Michelle Bahn  
Headteacher



Paul Convery  
Chair of Governors