

*Resilience | Excellence | Determination*

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23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Families,

Firstly, I hope you are continuing to stay well, and that you enjoyed a peaceful and safe half term break.

Last night the PM made his announcement that all schools will be returning on the 8<sup>th</sup> March so I wanted to write to update you on Redbridge Primary School's re-opening plans. We are determined as our first priority to continue to keep our school community as safe as possible. With this in mind, I have set out a reminder of our safety protocols which are similar to those we introduced in September, and which played a huge part in keeping everybody as safe as possible during the Autumn Term. These remain non-negotiable as we strive to continue to keep you and all the children and staff safe.

**Safety protocols which must be adhered to by all who enter the school site:**

- *The one-way system for dropping and collecting children will remain in place*
- *Face coverings are compulsory and we reserve the right to deny access to the school premises to anyone who does not comply with this requirement unless you have proof of exemption because of a medical condition.*
- *Staggered drop off and collection times as for the autumn term*
- *Keep your distance from others at all times and do not stop to talk in the playground to other parents*
- *Please observe the safety distance areas we have in place when dropping or collecting your children eg those demarcated by painted lines on the floor or with cones*
- *Use the sanitising gels that are available at both the entrance and exit areas of the school*
- *Only 1 adult to drop off and collect*
- *Only come on site to drop off or collect your child and only visit the office if it is urgent*

**In-school measures we will be continuing to implement to ensure safety for all staff and pupils:**

- *Classes remain in their safety bubbles with their dedicated adults*
- *All staff are expected to wear face coverings around the school and have been given access to face visors for when they are in the classroom*
- *All children will be asked to wash their hands at various points throughout the day*
- *Adults will wipe down work surfaces in the classroom using sanitising sprays after each lesson*
- *Children will play in their safety zones and will go to break and lunch at staggered times to prevent contact with children from other year group bubbles*
- *All toilet areas will be cleaned three times a day*
- *The lunch halls will be cleaned and sanitised between sittings*
- *At the end of each day all classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised and the use of communal spaces such as the library and IT suites is still restricted*



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**New enhanced measures we are introducing:**

- *Packed lunches will be eaten in classrooms and children who require a school dinner will go to lunch on a staggered basis and within their class/year groups*
- *Twice weekly lateral flow tests for all staff in school will continue and these are intended to detect signs of the virus in people who are showing no symptoms so we can address this early and hopefully prevent further transmission.*
- *No mixing of children across bubbles for interventions or group work*
- *Robust engagement with track and trace and isolation procedures following any confirmed cases*
- *All staff group meetings will be held on line*
- *Dedicated staff areas, no large meeting areas*
- *School will close early every Friday afternoon to enable the teachers to receive their Planning, Preparation and assessment time which is a legal requirement. We are still not able to compromise bubbles so this means our PPA cover teachers cannot be used across year groups. Work for Friday afternoons will be planned by the teachers and uploaded via Google Classroom so the children will not miss out any further on their learning. Timings for collection on a Friday afternoon are as follows:*

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Open as usual</b>
<b>Reception, Year 1 and Year 2</b>	<b>12.45pm pick up</b>
<b>Year 3-6</b>	<b>12.55pm pick up</b>

*(NB: This will be continually reviewed with the first review of all measures taking place before the summer term)*

**Catch up learning plans:**

We plan to continue our excellent PSHE focus upon returning as this was impacting before the closure on the emotional resilience of the children and we will continue to offer anxiety and bereavement support where needed . Please let us know if you think your child would benefit from this.

We are more than aware that the school closure will have had an impact on children's learning as well as their well-being and even though the Google Classroom programme was hugely successful there is no replacing face to face teaching and learning, or indeed the social importance of children being with their peers in the school setting. We also learned much about the level of lost learning from the last lockdown and our reopening in the autumn term, so we have already been planning for this latest return with this in mind. The first thing we will do again is to quickly assess where the children are currently at in their learning. In the initial weeks we will assess them and will then use this assessment data to plan the learning accordingly. Whilst quality first teaching is something we know works well at RBPS because of the quality of the teaching staff, we will also use the catch-up monies that central government have given us, to set catch up groups within each class and year group for those children who have fallen behind where they should be for their age group and for this time in the academic year. Additionally, we are planning a thorough end of year handover which will ensure any outstanding learning gaps can be highlighted and picked up immediately upon returning in September.

When the children returned in the autumn we very soon realised that the main issue was that they had simply got out of the habit of being in school and so rules and routines in the classroom had to be re-established especially with some of the younger children, so this will be something we will address again. In addition to this, gaps in the core subjects were identified and again this will need to be a focus for us as the children come back on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We will be sharing some resources to support your conversations with your children as you begin to prepare them for the return to school. Class teachers will also be considering this transition in the work they are setting on Google Classroom in the coming weeks.

I do want to say a huge thank you to all those parents who completed and returned our well-being survey before half term. We received just over 300 responses which is excellent. This has given us a good picture of how you are all doing and what we can do as a school moving forward to help with any issues or concerns that may have arisen during this latest lock

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down period. We are still busily collating and analysing the responses and will write with the findings by the end of this week.

Finally, thank you so much for all that you have been doing in terms of home schooling and for your support for the school during this most recent difficult situation. I am delighted that we now have a definitive date to welcome the children back to our school and I am very much looking forward to seeing them and all of you, again in person. Hopefully this is the beginning of the end of what has been a horrendous period in our history.

For now, please keep safe and well, and I cannot wait to welcome you all back safely on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Very best wishes,

Steve Davies (Head Teacher)

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