

Dear **Parents and Carers**,

As you will be aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to **all** pupils on **8th March 2021**. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all pupils to face-to-face education.

Attendance

From 8th March, school attendance will be mandatory which will mean that our usual attendance systems and rules will once again apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct, non-attendance without due reason will result in unauthorised absence.

Any absences should to be reported by calling the school office before 8.55am. First day calling will take place to ensure the safeguarding of all pupils.

Our safety measures

You will have read in previous correspondence how the school has used risk assessments to put into place a series of robust health and safety measures. These have helped reduce contact between staff and pupils, as well as prioritising high levels of personal hygiene. It is very important that we remain vigilant in ensuring that all these practices are kept at the forefront as we now upscale our operating arrangements to welcome back all pupils. These include:

- **Start and Finish Times**

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time	Entrance / Exit
Nursery	8:55am	3:30pm	Ivy Street Electronic Gate
Reception	8:55am	3:30pm	Ivy Street Electronic Gate
Year 1	8:55am	3:30pm	Hemsworth Street Gate
Year 2	8:55am	3:30pm	Hemsworth Street Gate
Year 3	8:55am	3:30pm	Main Playground
Year 4	8:55am	3:30pm	Main Playground
Year 5	8:55am	3:30pm	Main Playground
Year 6	8:55am	3:30pm	Main Playground

A one-way system will operate for entry and exit from school site. Please arrive one or two minutes before the designated start or collection time to ensure minimal waiting times.

- **Hygiene**

Time will be allocated for regular washing of hands upon arrival, after breaks, lunch and before home time. Class hygiene boxes continue to be available and will include tissues, hand sanitiser and cleaning wipes. Pupils will be provided with their own named equipment for use in school. No personal equipment is to be brought in from home.

The school will have enhanced cleaning each day including toilets, equipment, resources and classrooms.

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- **Ventilation**

Doors and windows will be left open so that classrooms are well ventilated. Please ensure your child has a school jumper in cooler days.

- **Parents on school site**

As was the case in September, we are requesting **one** adult per family drop off and pick up children in order to minimise the number of adults on the school site, we also request that the designated adult **wears a face covering**. Where possible we would ask that you **drop off at the school gate**. Admittance into the school buildings will be by appointment only.

- **Classroom Organisation**

Each class will stay in their own bubble throughout the day including arrival at school, during teaching time and departure at the end of the day. This means that they will have minimal contact with other pupils in the school. Each class will stay in their year group bubble during break and lunchtimes, which will be separated from other year groups. Desks in classrooms will be front facing rather than set up in groups to minimise face to face contact. Assemblies will continue through a live video link to each classroom.

- **Staffing**

Staff will be following the 2m social distancing rule from other staff and safe distances from pupils when possible. Staff will be mindful of the needs of younger children in situations where social distancing will be challenging. Staff are allowed to work with different groups of children although this will be kept to a minimum. Pupils will still have Spanish lessons, Music lessons and interventions from other staff to support their well-being and academic needs.

- **School Uniform and Book Bags**

Full school uniform is to be worn by all pupils. On days that children have PE, children will be expected to bring their PE kit to school and it will be taken home again at the end of the day. PE days and times are as follows:

Year Group	Day
Nursery	Friday
Reception	Friday
Year 1	Thursday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 3	Wednesday
Year 4	Tuesday
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Friday

In order to manage classroom space, school approved book bags are expected for all pupils. These can be purchased from the school office (please ring for an appointment time first) or from Mapac for a cost of

£5.

- **Lunchtimes**

Catering will operate as normal. Lunch times will be staggered to ensure social distancing limits contact between bubbles. Pupils who are entitled to a free school meal and those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Universal Free School Meal programme) will receive a hot dinner. For payment for dinners, the school accepts online payments through www.scopay.com. Pupils must bring a named water bottle to school each day.

- **Medical / Safeguarding**

Please do not send your child to school if they display any of the symptoms associated with the virus. These include a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell.

Any household member or pupil displaying symptoms should be tested as soon as possible with the result made known to the school.

Any pupil who displays symptoms of the virus during the school day will be isolated, parents will then be contacted to collect their child and told to self-isolate in accordance with medical advice.

In the event of a staff member or a pupil testing positive for Covid 19, the school will contact the local health protection team. They will carry out a risk assessment to determine which people the infected person has come into contact with, and will advise the school on what action to take.

- **Extended Day Care and School Clubs**

Breakfast Club and extended day after school care will be running for priority pupils only. This will include priority for families who previously and consistently accessed 5 day a week child care (over the last school year) and vulnerable pupils. Parents will be contacted directly by the school if eligible. No bookings will be taken over the telephone or in person and no exceptions will be made. This is in order to avoid unnecessary mixing of groups and to keep pupils and staff safe.

As per the Autumn Term, additional homework catch-up clubs will run after school for each year group for priority pupils by invitation only.

There will be no other school clubs during the remainder of the Spring Term. The school is aiming to restart some clubs in the Summer Term and information will be shared in due course.

School Street

Hoxton Garden School Street, which was suspended during the most recent lockdown, will be reinstated from Monday 8 March 2021. The 'Pedestrian and Cycle Zone' signs will be reopened and enforcement will recommence from this date. The School Street operates in Ivy Street, from the junction with Pitfield Street, between 8:30-9:30am and 3:00-4:00pm on school days only. Vehicles are not permitted to enter the zone between these times unless they have been granted an exemption. If you have already been granted an exemption, you are not required to reapply. To find out more about exemption eligibility, including how to apply for a special exemption, please visit: <https://hackney.gov.uk/school-streets>

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The Curriculum

A second period of extended time spent out of school will have caused parents concern regarding their child's academic progress. While the school has maintained a broad and balanced home learning timetable, we are aware that many pupils have been away from their usual classroom environment for an additional three months. Pupils most in need will be given additional support if they are deemed to have fallen behind.

As a result of the high level of personal contact with individual families weekly and the challenges of accurately measuring pupil progress until all children are back in school full time, Spring Term reports and the parent consultation evening due to take place on the 25th March will not go ahead. This means that the next parents evening consultation and report date will be the 8th July. We encourage you to call the school office and book a telephone appointment with the classteacher if you would like to discuss your child's needs this half term.

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we would like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. We would also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We will continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Kind regards,

Ms Rachel Adams
Headteacher