

## **Return to school in September 2020**

Dear Parent carers,

This will be my last letter of the academic year prior to me taking early retirement. This envelope contains your child's end of school year report, a transition booklet that can be used in discussion with your children to help them prepare for moving to their next class or school (this booklet will be online as well) and this letter outlining the return for September. (This is also available on the website).

All transition between high schools and class teachers within school has occurred. Records to high schools have been hand delivered and Zoom meetings held between teachers. A message to all children – I know you are going to continue to try your best, continue to reach for the stars and remember that if you make a mistake, it shows that you are trying. I will miss you all greatly.

I have tried to prepare as much information as possible below, so as to keep you informed and reassure you that school is as safe as it possibly can be. This follows the advice given by the Department of Education (DfE). Below is a link to the guidance for parents for this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

The bullet points below have been adapted and extracted from the original DfE guidance so as to hopefully provide you with a clear overview of what steps we are taking in preparation for September.

### **1. Minimise the risk of coronavirus transmission**

- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- Ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly – arrival, breaks etc...
- Promoting the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach
- No face coverings in school, unless children in year 6, who are over 11, use public transport
- Enhanced cleaning of areas in school throughout the day
- PPE only to be used when a suspected case of Covid is in school by the member of staff supporting that child or if a member of staff is providing intimate care – such as changing a child in the EYFS – and this is normal practice for that child's care plan

## **Bubbles and Social distancing to be used together to minimise risk in school**

- Teachers should stay at the front of class and adults should maintain a 2m distance from each other and pupils as far as possible. However, children's needs will be addressed as a priority and where an adult does work with a child, they will work side by side and not face to face.
- Tables should be facing the front with children seated side by side, with unnecessary furniture removed
- Children will not mix with other classes – they will remain with only their class during lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes
- No assemblies or collective worship in large groups, but will be held in class bubbles
- Movement around reduced to a minimum – busy corridors, entrances and exits should be avoided.
- Staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes – with cleaning time for surfaces
- Class bubbles will eat in their classrooms – and these will be thoroughly cleaned before and after
- Staggered start and finishing times will continue, to keep groups apart – further details for how this will work for each class will be published on the school website and Class Dojo
- Parents and carers to observe the rules for social distancing with each other and with staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household
- Parents will be asked not to enter the school building. If you wish to speak to a member of the office staff or the Senior Leadership Team this can be done over the phone. You will be able to speak with the teacher, at an appropriate social distance, in the playground, when you drop off/pick up your child(ren)
- Individual equipment (e.g. pencils, pens, rulers etc...) for both children and staff will be provided by school.
- Learning resources, books and games used within bubble can be shared
- Shared equipment and surfaces will be cleaned regularly
- Children's work and working walls will be displayed, but directly on the display board (children will not be allowed to touch the displays)
- Limit what children bring in – lunch boxes, coats, books, and, for those walking home alone, mobile phones
- Current arrangements, with regards to the bathrooms, will continue so that no children from different groups mix – although this will mean that boys and girls may use the same bathroom, at no time will children of different genders be in the bathroom at the same time

## **Potential cases**

- School has details of how to contact their local Public Health England health protection team and understands the NHS Test and Trace process
- If schools have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where the coronavirus (Covid-19) is suspected, they may have an outbreak, and must continue to work with their local health protection team, who will be able to advise if additional action is required. In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole school or classes.

## **2: School operations**

### **Transport**

- Use of public transport by children kept to a minimum
- Parents, staff and pupils encouraged to walk or cycle to school if at all possible

### **Attendance and fines**

- All children, even those in the extremely vulnerable group for whom shielding is paused on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020, are expected to return to school.
- All children are expected to attend school and parents may be issued sanctions from September, including fines.
- If you have received public health advice to self-isolate, have symptoms or a positive test result, or have been in contact with someone who has Covid-19, you are expected to follow this advice and not attend school
- If a pupil or parent is reluctant or anxious, please be open and honest with the school and we will try to support with this

### **Catering**

- The school kitchens will continue as they do now, and will be expected to comply with guidance for food businesses on Covid-19
- At the moment as it stands, these meals will be provided as packed lunches, rather than hot meals
- At the moment the school can not reintroduce the breakfast club or after school provision

### **Buildings**

- No additional temporary classrooms on site, or use of external sites, will be required
- There will be improved ventilation throughout school, through the opening of windows – air conditioning in the upstairs classrooms will not be used.

### **School trips**

- Non-overnight school trips will resume in September and schools where possible should make use of outdoor spaces in the local area
- Overnight trips, such as PGL, are currently advised against (further information with regards to our planned year 6 visit will come out later)

### **School uniform**

- School uniform policy will be in place as normal, however please speak to the school with regard to any financial pressures that may impact this.

## **3: Curriculum, behaviour and pastoral support**

- From September school will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, however there will be increased flexibility to cover missed content through interventions or through a focus on developing maths and English skills through foundation subjects
- Curriculum planning will be informed by an assessment of the children's starting points and address gaps in their knowledge and skills – this will be assessed through regular quizzes, observations in class, teacher/pupil feedback and marking of work – we do not plan on doing any additional formal assessments, other than those outlined in the schools assessment policy
- Some subjects, such as PE and music, will need to be adapted to ensure that they can be taught in a way that is as safe as possible
- In music, peripatetic music lessons involving trombones will not occur in the autumn term initially, and staff will not use wind instruments with children in their music lessons
- Where possible music lessons involving singing will be held outside
- Outdoor sports will be prioritised over indoor sports, and equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between use by different groups and contact sports will be avoided – we will focus on individual skills rather than playing in a team – this will include there being no games of football or other contact sports during break or lunchtimes
- There will be an increased focus on pupil wellbeing and pastoral support through the teaching of PSHE and wellbeing lessons
- Those children who we assess as requiring further pastoral support, a number of additional provisions, such as nurture groups, Boxall profile, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Educational Psychologist will be implemented where possible.

### **Behaviour expectations**

- The schools Covid-19 Behaviour Addendum and Covid-19 Home school Agreement will still be in force next year, to support with the expectations required from the guidance received from the DfE

#### **4. Assessment and accountability**

- Ofsted inspections will remain suspended for the Autumn term, however a sample of schools will be visited to discuss how they are managing the return to education of pupils. It is expected that inspections will restart in January 2021, but this will be kept under review
- All existing statutory EYFS, KS1 and KS2 assessments should return in 2020-2021 in line with their usual timetables. This includes:
  - EYFS Profile
  - The phonics screening test
  - Key Stage 1 tests and teacher assessment
  - The Year 4 multiplications check
  - KS2 test and teacher assessment
  - Statutory trialling
- The requirement for the phonics screening check in Year 2 is under review and updates will be provided as and when we receive them from the DfE
- No performance tables will be produced for the 2019-2020 academic year

#### **5: Contingency planning for outbreaks**

- For individuals or groups of children who are asked to self-isolate remote education plans will be put in place
- As a school, we are rolling out in September a new online system that will allow children to access learning from home – this will be through Microsoft Teams and RM Unify
- This will allow the school to provide remote education through high quality resources and/or videos, as well as content delivered by the teachers in school or from the Oak National Academy.
- Further details will be sent out in September
- Where families have no suitable online access, school will provide printed resources such as textbooks, workbooks and exercise books

I would like to thank all my families and all of the wonderful children at Peel Hall for their support and hard work. I wish them every success in future years and hope that you will remain safe and happy.

Kind regards,

Mr M. D. Hallam  
Head Teacher