

**Headteacher**

Norma Marshall BSc (Hons) NPQH

Telephone: 020 8864 5546ARUNDEL DRIVE
SOUTH HARROW
MIDDLESEX
HA2 8PW**Email:** office@earlsmead.harrow.sch.uk<http://www.earlsmeadprimaryschool.co.uk>2nd March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Re: Reopening of school

Staff at Earlsmead Primary School is really looking forward to pupils returning and I am sure that your sons and daughters are keen to return to school to see friends and re-engage with face to face learning.

I am writing to let you know that we are working hard to ensure that absolutely everything is in place to make sure the school continues to be as safe as possible in readiness for the return of pupils and staff.

To help parents and families understand the actions we are taking to continue to keep everyone safe and our expectations of everyone, the information below summarises the main points in the risk assessment. Many of the systems we had in place in Autumn Term will continue. We hope you find this information useful:

When will the children start back at school?

- All children will start back at school on Monday 8th March. We will continue the staggered dropping off and collecting of children.

Reception & Year 4	3:00pm
KS1 & Year 5	3:05pm
Year 3 & Year 6	3:15pm

- Attendance at school is mandatory from 8th March and we expect all pupils to attend school and arrive on time.

What do you need to do if you borrowed an iPad or laptop device from school?

- All devices that have been lent by school to families need to be returned to school on Monday 8th March. They belong to the school and will be needed by the teachers and children.

What are the arrangements for uniform?

- We always expect all children to wear full uniform. Black school shoes only, no black trainers.
- Children will be expected to wear their PE Kit to school on the days they that they will have PE; this is to reduce the amount of items coming in from home and to ensure we can maximise the amount of time the children have for physical activity. Please remember that PE Kits are part of our school uniform. No branded track bottoms.
- Children are permitted to bring a book bag to school; no rucksacks. They must only bring a water bottle, school reading book and lunch, if not taking school dinner.
- All our children will have their own equipment; do not bring any from home.

What hygiene measures are in place?

We will continue with the same hygiene and safety measures that we had in place in Autumn Term, including:

- Hygiene kits in each classroom
- Surfaces are cleaned regularly and all equipment is cleaned in between use.
- We have removed lots of the equipment and items from the rooms to ensure surfaces are easily cleaned.

- Most soft furnishings have been removed from classrooms.
- Children will continue to wash their hands multiple times throughout the day; members of staff will continue to support and supervise handwashing where it is appropriate, and we have visual reminders in all the toilets and sink areas about good handwashing.
- We have plenty of tissues and remind children about good nasal hygiene.
- We have supplies of hand-gel throughout the school and children will continue to use this regularly (in addition to handwashing).

How will we maintain good social distancing?

- Children will continue to be organised into their class and year group bubbles. Staff will continue to maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible. Our staffroom will not be used for staff to congregate and our school office is out of bounds to all but a few members of our team.
- We will not allow visitors or parents into the school building; however, school staff are still available to talk to parents either over the phone, email or online meetings such as Zoom. We are very accessible and want to continue to have very positive relationships and communication with families.
- Our school office will not be available for parents to 'drop in' at all; parents and families can communicate with our staff team through emails, phone calls and online meetings.
- A face covering (mask or shield) must be worn when coming on site to drop off or pick up children.
You are not allowed on site without this.

What will we do to help the children transition back into school?

- When the children return, we will focus on supporting them to reconnect with Earlsmead's vision of 'Success For All'; reengage with rules and expectations and a more formal approach to their learning.
- Their physical and mental wellbeing will be prioritised and teachers will focus on assessing the gaps in children's learning so that they can be supported to get back on track if they need to.
- We know that most of our children have engaged brilliantly with remote learning so we are confident that children who have had good learning routines during the lockdown will adjust well to being back in school.
- There is a lot of talk about a quick 'catch-up' in the media; we firmly believe that the first step in children recovering from the interruptions to their education over the last year is to ensure they have the time and support to adjust to the changes that have taken place.
- At Earlsmead, we have high academic expectations for all children and we are very ambitious for them so we will continue to focus on children's progress and attainment in a way that does not cause unnecessary pressure.
- We have very high expectations for behaviour and attitude at Earlsmead and we expect all children to meet our expectations. Some children may need additional support and guidance to meet the expectations and we have a team of staff who can provide this.
- The government guidance states that no trips or visits can take place for the rest of the term; this will be reviewed at the end of March.

What happens if a child gets ill in my child's group?

- No child or adult showing signs of infection are allowed on the premises.
- Staff and pupils are required to have immediate tests if they show symptoms. If a child is sent home with symptoms, we expect parents to arrange a test for the child.
- We will request evidence of a negative test result (i.e. the text message from the NHS) before the child is allowed back to school.
- Any child who displays any symptoms of Covid must be collected immediately and we expect parents and families to make provision if they are not based in the local area during the school day.
- When the child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door.
- The adult supervising the child will wear full PPE clothing when dealing with a suspected case; this includes a face mask, face shield/ visor, apron and gloves.
- Staff are using lateral flow covid tests twice per week so we are confident we can identify any asymptomatic cases in the staff team.

What if my child, or one of our family members, becomes ill?

- If any child in school tests positive for Covid, every child and member of staff in their group will be required to self-isolate in line with the NHS Guidance.
- If a member of a child's household tests positive for Covid or shows symptoms, the child and the household members must self-isolate too.

What if I live with an extremely clinically vulnerable household member? What if my child is still shielding?

- The government guidance states that all children will be expected to attend school from 8th March unless they are extremely clinically vulnerable and we have the NHS letter as proof of shielding.

I would like to reassure you that the safety and welfare of our school community is an absolute priority and this priority is coupled with a drive to start in person learning as safely possible. Our aim is to return, in the safest of manners, to exceptional teaching, learning and pupil progress and providing pupils with the academic and pastoral support and security they deserve after a very challenging year.

Warm Regards

Ms N Marshall
Headteacher