



9th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is lovely seeing the children back at school! They seemed to have settled well into the 'new normal' and are happy to be back at school. Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to improve our new Covid safe school systems.

Closure of Years 3 and 4 classes

As you may be aware we have had to close the year 3 and 4 classes as we have had a confirmed case of Covid-19. We have been in contact with Public Health England who have advised that we close the year 3 and 4 bubble; however, the rest of the school is safe to remain open. Advice has been sent out to parents with children in year 3 and 4 and we look forward to those children returning to school after their 14-day quarantine.

Members of your child's household are advised to continue normal activities provided that no one develops symptoms during this 14-day quarantine period, therefore siblings of children in years 3 and 4 can attend school as normal.

Just a reminder that you should not enter the school premises if you or a member of your household are showing symptoms of coronavirus; this includes if you are waiting for a test result. The most common symptoms of coronavirus are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature and/or
- a loss, or change in, your normal sense of test of smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms at any point during the school year you should seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/or-by-phoning-111>.

Please ensure that you are practicing social distancing at the gate in the morning and for pick up at the end of the day.

Recovery/Catch up Curriculum

We have begun the recovery curriculum with the children. We are focusing on 5 key levers to help transition the children back into school. We will be exploring these levers through books, art, role play, etc. We hope that this will support the children to feel more confident and develop their resilience.

Lever 1: Relationships - we can't expect our students to return joyfully, and many of the relationships that were thriving, may need to be invested in and restored. We need to plan for this to happen, not assume that it will. Reach out to greet them, use the relationships we build to cushion the discomfort of returning.

Lever 2: Community - we must recognise that the curriculum will have been based in the community for a long period of time. We need to listen to what has happened in this time, understand the needs of our community and engage them in the transitioning of learning back into school.

Lever 3: Transparent Curriculum - all of our students will feel like they have lost time in learning and we must show them how we are addressing these gaps, consulting and co-constructing with our students to heal this sense of loss.

Lever 4: Metacognition - in different environments, students will have been learning in different ways. It is vital that we make the skills for learning in a school environment explicit to our students to reskill and rebuild their confidence as learners.

Lever 5: Space - to be, to rediscover self, and to find their voice on learning in this issue. It is only natural that we all work at an incredible pace to make sure this group of learners are not disadvantaged against their peers, providing opportunity and exploration alongside the intensity of our expectations.

Dealing with anxiety/worry

We know that most children have been out of school since March, many are excited to return to school in order to get back into a routine, see their friends and teachers, as well as continue learning in the way that they are most familiar with. However, it is perfectly reasonable that some children may be anxious or worried about returning to school. As a school, we will be very mindful of the children's varying needs and have built in lots of time for children to talk about their lockdown experiences and concerns with their teacher or other trusted adults in the school. However, it is important that you begin to talk to your child about their return to school. Below are links to some useful resources from the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families to support your conversation with your child:

https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/images/preparing_your_child_for_the_return_to_school.jpg

<https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/uploads/Files/PDFs/Resilience%20Activities/Going%20back%20to%20school.pdf>

<https://nipinthebud.org/information-films/tips-for-returning-to-school/>

<https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/uploads/Files/PDFs/Resilience%20Activities/Letting%20Go%20and%20Future%20plans.pdf>

Travelling to School

The latest advice from TfL is where possible please walk, cycle or scooter to school to help free up more space on public transport for others. More travel advice information can be found at:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/schools-and-young-people/travel-guidance-for-schools?cid=reopeningeducation>

Newham Test & Trace Mobile App

Those of you that are Newham residents will know that Newham has been asked to trail the new Covid-19 NHS Test & Trace mobile phone app. The app has been developed by leading NHS

medical experts working alongside Google and Apple. As you know Newham has experienced some of the most significant effects of coronavirus because of the health inequalities and vulnerabilities in the borough. That's why it's important that you download the app and help test it.

You should have received letters, emails, or texts, with a unique quick response (QR) code to allow you to easily install the app on your SMART phone. Please don't ignore them. The more people that use the app the better we will be able to stop the spread of this virus.

We ask that any child/parent displaying symptoms of coronavirus should not enter the school premises. If you have indicated that you or your child have symptoms of coronavirus we will ask that you arrange for a test and share a negative result with us before your child returns to school.

God Bless,



N. Scott

Executive Head Teacher