



Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Re: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March return for all children**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to be welcoming all of our Hamleteers back to school on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, on a full-time basis**. We are all well-drilled in our safety measures now and be assured that we will continue to enact our risk assessment in full.



### **Wellbeing:**

- **Good Mental Health** will be our theme for assemblies for the rest of term and you can help too: please talk to your children about **what makes them special**; support them to **look for the positives**, even in the face of adversity; teach your child the link between **physical wellbeing, sleep** and good mental health and support them to feel confident to **talking** to someone if they don't feel quite right.
- This will be supported by our in-class PSHE theme 'Healthy Me', which includes our usual drug and alcohol teaching.



### **Academics:**

- Our staff will be focusing on doing what they do best: high-quality classroom practice to ensure your children continue to achieve '**outstanding learning**'.
- We do not believe that 'catch-up' is a meaningful phrase. If there were a silver bullet to accelerate children's learning we would already be doing it. Intensive additional groups/tutors can achieve small gains in learning attainment but can also damage a child's independent learning skills, self-esteem and wellbeing. We will use these with caution and encourage you to do the same.
- Teachers and subject leaders will work together to prioritise **the key progression objectives** to ensure that every child makes excellent progress this year whilst retaining access to our **broad and balanced curriculum**. Please do talk to the class teacher if you have concerns about an area of weakness identified during home-learning.



### **Safety Measures:**

- Children will be working in **year group bubbles**, with **staggered start and finish times** to the school day, and a separate playtime and lunchtime for each year group.
- While children will be able to benefit from our specialised spaces eg, the music room, we will timetable lessons to minimise movement of children around the school site and the crossing of year group bubbles
- For most of the core day, classes will be with their teacher, but will have all their usual lessons with specialist staff: P.E., Music and Dance

- We will continue with multiple hand-washing opportunities planned in throughout the day, including first thing in the morning on arrival
- Enhanced cleaning regimes are already in place and well-established, and will continue in to the new term
- Water bottle stations have been installed in the playgrounds, water fountains have been removed
- Individual equipment provided where appropriate
- We will not come together in person as a school community for whole school assemblies and other school gatherings/activities
- We are able to provide Before and After School Care – further details to follow to families as appropriate
- We plan to begin after school clubs again in the Summer Term.



**Drop off and Pick-up:** We will be unable to allow parents onto the school site. This will mean that you will need to drop-off at the school gates. At pick-up time, parents will be able to wait in a designated area for their class.

- **Year 3:** Use **Village** entrance.
  - Arrive: 8:45-8:55am (register closes at 9am)
  - Leave: 3:30pm
- **Year 4:** Use **Village** entrance.
  - Arrive: 8:30-8:40am (register closes at 8:45am)
  - Leave: 3:15pm
- **Year 5:** Use **Turney** entrance.
  - Arrive: 8:45-8:55am (register closes at 9am)
  - Leave: 3:30pm
- **Year 6:** Use **Turney** entrance.
  - Arrive: 8:30-8:40am (register closes at 8:45am)
  - Leave: 3:15pm

Late arrivals at Turney gate will need to go around to the front of the school so that they can sign in.



**Entrances and exits** will inevitably be crowded, so if you are able to walk rather than scoot or cycle, or if you could take your child's bike or scooter home with you rather than leaving it on site, we would really appreciate it. We kindly ask that once you have dropped-off/collected your child, that you move promptly away from the school entrances, avoiding congregating and pinch-points in the Village.



**Social Distancing and Masks:** please consider others when collecting and dropping off - we know that many of our parents are now choosing to wear masks outside in the community, and feel uncomfortable with adults congregating without masks. In addition, we need to work together as a community to keep transmission rates low.



**PE:** We are asking that the children **come to school in their PE kit** on their PE day to avoid the need for changing. These are:

Year 3: Wednesday

Year 4: Tuesday

Year 5: Thursday

Year 6: Monday

Additionally, the children will be running the daily mile at least three times a week, so will need a pair of trainers to keep in school.



**Equipment:** Please do not bring large rucksacks into school, however, school book bags are fine. Children will only need a water bottle and reading book each day. **Everything else (except packed lunch boxes/musical instruments) should be left at home.** We will continue to offer free hot meals for every child, and hope that the majority of children will take advantage of this.

We will be providing all the children with a pencil case and the equipment that they need so that it is not shared amongst them

**Attendance: It is expected that all children will return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. School attendance will be mandatory, and our usual rules on attendance and punctuality will apply.** If you have any concerns about this, you will need to contact the Core Leadership Team, via the school office: [office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk](mailto:office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk) in advance of 8<sup>th</sup> March.

As a reminder, your child should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

We would like to thank all of you for your fantastic efforts during lock-down and your continued support of our wonderful school. We are delighted to be returning to face to face teaching which we know is the most effective way of ensuring happy, learning children.

Yours sincerely,

The Core Leadership Team