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Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Sonia Case Head of School: Mrs Claire Purcell

Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Re. September return for all children

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families have had a restful and refreshing summer break. We are excited to be welcoming all of our Hamleteers back to school on **Monday 7th September, on a full-time basis**, confident in the knowledge that our measures will keep both children and adults as safe as practically possible, whilst providing outstanding teaching and learning.

We know that many of the children may be feeling a bit nervous or anxious about their return, however, school will not look or feel very different and almost all of the exciting activities and learning that they love will continue. Within a few days everything will seem completely normal for them, so do please give it a bit of time if you have questions or concerns as many of these will be quickly resolved and addressed. We will be working extensively on well-being and re-adjustment and are sensitive to the different experiences of the children during the period of closure. Over the first few weeks the emphasis will be on helping the children to readjust to the routines and structures of the school day and on re-establishing friendships and relationships. We will obviously also be assessing how the children have fared academically and will be putting in support as necessary to ensure that everyone catches up and maintains progress.

A lot of the measures that we had already put in place during lockdown will remain, as they proved so successful with the wider-opening to Y6 pupils back in June, when over 90% of the cohort returned, alongside a large Key Worker school. However, there will be some further changes for September, specifically in the light of 360 children returning.

Below, we have summarised some of our key headlines and messages that will ensure we are reopening safely for our full school community. Do please keep this letter for reference as there are lots of changes that we will all have to get used to!



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, split into two groups: upper and lower school – further details to follow to families as appropriate
- There will not be after-school clubs for the autumn 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.



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 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) 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

It is expected that all children will return to school this September. If you have any concerns about this, you will need to contact the Core Leadership Team, via the school office: office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk in advance of 7th September.

We would like to thank all of you for your fantastic efforts during lock-down and your continued support of our wonderful school. We look forward to a happy and productive 2020/2021, working in partnership with you and your children.

Yours sincerely,

C. C. Purcell

Claire Purcell
Head of School

Nikki Thomson
Assistant Head

Rachel Evans
Assistant Head

Tom Salomonson
Assistant Head

The Core Leadership Team