



Brunswick Park Primary School

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Learning for living through respect, support and challenge

To All Parents and Carers

26 February 2021

Plans for the Full Reopening of Brunswick Park Primary School on 8 March 2021: Information for Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well, and managing at this difficult time as best you can. Following the Prime Minister's announcement earlier this week stating that all primary aged children are expected to return to school on Monday 8 March, I am writing to you today to share with you Brunswick's plans to reopen fully once again to allow you time to prepare for your children's return. The letter is once again long and detailed, but it contains all the information you need to return your children to school with confidence, so persevering to the end is necessary.

The Government has made it clear that all children should come back to school, and has provided updated guidance for school leaders to follow to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus to keep children and staff as safe as possible. The Guidance is still based on 3 clear principles:

1. Maintaining high standards of hygiene, particularly respiratory hygiene;
2. Maintaining social distance where possible and appropriate and taking additional precautions if it is not;
3. Keeping children in consistent groups.

These principles have not changed since September 2020, when schools last reopened fully after a period of lockdown. We have updated our Full Risk Assessment again to take updated guidance into account. For your information the Full Risk Assessment is available to view on the school website.

What will consistent groups look like at Brunswick Park?

They will look the same as they did in the Autumn Term. Children will be kept in consistent Phase Groups and will be taught and supported by consistent teams of staff. To enable our children to recover socially, emotionally and academically from the latest lockdown, our consistent groups will be planned on 3 levels; classes, Year Groups and Phases:

- EYFS – Nursery and Reception
- Years 1 and 2
- Years 3 and 4
- Years 5 and 6

Operating in this way means staff including specialist teachers and support staff can be deployed where possible according to need, children can be grouped where possible according to need and the school's wider functions – break times, lunch times, wrap-around care – can take place safely. To work this way we have to be mindful of and manage 'close contact'.



According to latest Government Guidance (12 February 2021), 'Close contact' means:

- *anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19*
- *anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:*
 - *face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre*
 - *been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact*
 - *been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)*
 - *travelled in the same vehicle or a plane*

Local Health Protection Teams still advise on who to send for a period of self-isolation, and as far as is possible we will minimise 'close contact' between staff, and where age-appropriate we will minimise it with children, to avoid the need to send groups home if an infection is reported. Please remember that young children are not expected to keep social distance, and older children are expected to try their best.

All children will still be taught in groups the size of a full class. Classrooms for those pupils from Years 2-6 will remain set up with desks in rows, with all children facing the front of the classroom in the same direction. Pupils with complex SEND and who are Resource Based are already taught in small groups, so the layout of their furniture and classrooms will not change.

Breakfast Club and the Play Shelter After School Club will still run as consistent groups. Specialist PE teaching from Andrew Payne and specialist music teaching from Paula Hales will continue, and will take place whilst teachers have their PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time. PE will continue to be taught outdoors and in the Sports Hall as guidance permits, and music will be continue to be taught in the Middle Hall to allow for distancing in accordance with guidance. Children will continue to receive a 'full educational experience'.

What will social distancing look like at Brunswick Park?

To maintain social distancing where possible, Consistent Phase Groups will still have different start and finish times. Picton Street will remain closed to traffic between 8.30 and 9.15am and 3.00 and 4.00pm to turn it into a pedestrian and cycle zone to enable social distancing as the children arrive and leave. **Please be aware that Southwark Council cameras now operate to police this.**



If you use a car to take your child to and from school, you will not be able to access Picton Street during these times so will need to make alternative arrangements to ensure your child arrives at school and returns home safely. **We continue to ask that only one adult per child takes them to and collects them from school.**

Every full-time child at Brunswick Park receives the same amount of direct teaching time: 5 hours per day. From 8 March, the following timetables will resume. Please note the different start and finish times to reduce the number of people on site at any one time, the entrances/exits that should be used and staggered break and lunch times:



Time	EYFS: Nursery and Reception To classrooms	Years 1 and 2 Year 1 to classrooms Year 2 use 5/6 stairs	Years 3 and 4 and Resource Base Resource Base to Classrooms Years 3 and 4 use back stairs	Years 5 and 6 Use Year 5/6 stairs
Arrival on Bantry Street	09:00 – 09:15 through the Nursery Gate	08:45 – 09:00 through the KS1 Gate	08:45 – 09:00 through the Main Gate	08:30 – 08:45 through the big Fire Gates
Morning session: Direct teaching time begins at	09:15	09:00	09:00	09:00
Break		10:15 – 10:30 KS1 Playground	10:30 – 10:45 KS2 Playground	11:15 – 11:30 KS2 Playground
Nursery session ends	12:00 – parents/carers collect from Nursery Gate			
Lunch in the Dining Hall	11:30 – 12:00	12:00 – 12:30 Year 1	12:30 – 13:00 Year 3	13:00 – 13:30 Year 5
Packed lunches in classrooms: alternate weeks in Years 1-6		12:00 – 12:30 Year 2	12:30 – 13:00 Year 4	13:00 – 13:30 Year 6
Lunchtime Play	12:00 – 12:30 Reception Playground/ Nursery Playground	12:30 – 13:00 KS1 Playground	13:00 – 13:30 KS2 Playground	13:30 – 14:00 KS2 Playground
Afternoon Session	12:30	13:00	13:30	14:00
Break		14:15 – 14:30 KS1 Playground	14:15 – 14:30 KS2 Playground	
Finish	15:15	15:30	15:30	15:15
Direct Teacher Contact Time	5 hours	5 hours	5 hours	5 hours

Spaces are kept separate where possible, and use of space is staggered where it is not. Our kitchen will continue to provide hot lunches to all children. Capacity is limited in our Dining Hall to allow for social distancing and the Caterer's COVID-19 serving policy. Nursery children will have a daily mid-morning snack. Reception children will eat a hot lunch in the Dining Hall every day. Years 1-6 will eat a hot lunch in the Dining Hall and a packed lunch in their classrooms on alternate weeks. All food is free and provided by the school.

What will maintaining high standards of hygiene, particularly respiratory hygiene, look like at Brunswick Park?

The school's stringent hygiene measures are well-established: sanitising hands on arrival in school, regular handwashing, regular additional cleaning and disinfection, the removal of drinking fountains, the implementation of one-way systems and operating a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' policy for coughing and sneezing. Additional cleaners remain on site to clean the school throughout the day, and all classrooms have lidded bins, ample supplies of tissue, disinfectant spray and hand sanitiser stations. Doors and windows will be kept open for ventilation if appropriate and safe to do so.

Shared equipment will still be kept to a minimum and cleaned and disinfected regularly, and all children from Years 2-6 will keep their named pencil case containing all the equipment they need. Children are allowed to bring a coat, Book Bag, PE Kit and their reading books and records. Children in Years 5 and 6 who go home on their own are allowed to bring a mobile phone, which will be collected by an adult in the morning, sanitised and kept securely in the School Office until it is returned directly to the child in the afternoon. **Please do not bring water bottles.** Water will be provided throughout the day in named beakers at school.



All children are expected to wear school uniform daily. Updated guidance states that school uniform does not need to be washed more often than other clothing.

Attendance at school:

All children are expected to return to school on Monday 8 March, when attendance at school becomes mandatory once again. We understand that some people may still be anxious about returning their children to school (though I know many are delighted). However, with robust infection control measures and age-appropriate social distancing, all but the clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are able to return to school. Brunswick has been open to children and adults both fully and partially since the first lockdown in March 2020, and we have a set of well-established measures to keep children and adults as safe as possible. If your child is absent from school we will continue making first day absence calls. Home Learning will only be offered to children who cannot attend school for clinical or public health reasons. If you choose not to send your child to school we will happily discuss this with you to reassure you, but please be aware that non-attendance may result in further action in line with our Whole School Attendance Policy.

General Guidance:

- Children who are not well and are showing symptoms of COVID-19 must not attend school.
- Children who are well but are part of a household that is self-isolating must not attend school during the self-isolation period.
- If a child starts to feel unwell at school showing COVID-19 symptoms they will be isolated from everyone else and we will expect them to be collected immediately and tested as a matter of urgency.
- If a child is tested for COVID-19 and the result is positive, parents must contact the school immediately as the rest of the child's consistent group may also have to self-isolate. Public Health Southwark will advise action on this.
- Stringent handwashing and hygiene practices ('Catch it, bin it kill it!') are in place throughout the day. Staff clean down surfaces and door handles regularly throughout the day in addition to normal daily cleaning.
- Although you may choose for your child to wear PPE on the way to school, the Government is not recommending its use in school by primary aged children. Children will not wear face coverings in school.
- Parents must not drop off or collect children at times other than those detailed in the plan above.
- Because the number of children on site will increase and we have to keep consistent groups separate, siblings from different classes will have to stick to their designated Year Group times.
- The Breakfast Club and the Play Shelter After School Club will resume on Monday 8 March. Please contact the School Office for more information and to pay for Breakfast Club in advance. After school sports clubs will also resume from Monday 8 March and can be booked through www.bookwhen.com/brunswick. If you have difficulties booking, please contact the School Office to be directed to Andrew Payne, or see him in the playground from 8 March.
- Parents and carers should be on site for as short a time as possible and maintain social distancing.
- We will continue to send reading books home and hope that you will continue to hear your children read regularly.
- The majority of our children have been learning well at home since January, but we all know this is not the same as learning in school. They will have lots of opportunity to catch up on missed learning time. We will assess them very early on to find out what gaps there are and then work to close them using a recovery approach focusing on improving basic skills. We have planned carefully for the use of the Government's catch up support package.

As you can see, almost nothing has changed **for children** since the Autumn Term when schools last reopened. The updated guidance changes at primary school apply mostly to adults and have been introduced as a result of the new Coronavirus variants' increased transmissibility, whether or not you have had the vaccine. **They apply to all adults on the school site as follows:**

When working with children in classrooms and teaching spaces, school staff will not wear face coverings. **From 8 March until the end of term on 31 March when Government next reviews its guidance, school staff will wear face coverings in all communal spaces and outdoors where social distancing between adults cannot be maintained. Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth. Plastic visors or shields can be worn in addition to, but not instead of, a face covering.**



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All school staff have access to Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Coronavirus Home Testing Kits for use twice a week to provide reassurance and to help monitor, manage and reduce virus transmission.

All parents, carers and visitors need to wear a face covering from 8 March in all areas of the school premises including playgrounds. Unless you have evidence of exemption, please ensure your face covering is in place over your nose and mouth before coming through the school gates. Plastic visors or shields can be worn in addition to, but not instead of, a face covering.

Finally:

Thank you for persevering to the end of this letter. As always, our plans remain subject to change at short notice in response to advice and guidance. We need you to support and accept any changes that are made, which will always be in the interests of everyone's safety and wellbeing and following national guidelines. I and the entire staff look forward very much to having *everyone* who is able to be back in school again from 8 March, and wish you well.

Kind regards

Susannah Bellingham
Head Teacher

