

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,



### School open to all children on Monday 8th March 2021

All primary school children will be in school on Monday 8th March and we very much look forward to seeing them all. I appreciate that for many parents/carers the government's expectation of all children returning to school may be great news and for others there may be some trepidation. In my experience as a mother and as a headteacher, the vast majority of children are very happy once back with their friends and settled into school routines. This fact in itself usually allays the fears of many grown-ups. Of course, as I said in July, our children take their lead from us. I think that if we tell our children now that they will have a positive experience next week, they are more likely to do so. For in the words of Anne of Green Gables (L.M. Montgomery), *'It's been my experience that you can nearly always enjoy things if you make up your mind firmly that you will. Of course, you must make it up firmly.'*

In supporting children's transition back into school, we are clear that we will need to balance the need to nurture children's emotional well-being with the need to identify any gaps in children's learning. Next week, our focus will be on re-establishing routines and settling children in. We need to do all of this within the context of making school as safe as possible for all members of our community.

Whilst we cannot eliminate risk, we can mitigate against it. To this end, we have reviewed our risk assessment and updated our 'Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs). I would like to draw your attention to three key changes - **our reviewed drop-off and pick-up times, the wearing of face coverings for parents/carers in the playground and information about lateral flow testing.**

#### 1. Drop-off and Pick-up times

We are mindful that previous drop-off and pick-up times led to waiting times for some families, and RBG have asked schools to do all they can to avoid families congregating outside the school gates. We have therefore reviewed our routines.

From 8th March, each family will have only one drop-off time and one pick-up time. If you have children in more than one year group...

- you will drop off all your children at the earliest time given. For example, if you have children in Reception, Y2 and Y3, you will drop off all your children at 8.50am.
- you will pick up all your children at the latest time given. For example, if you have children in Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5, you will pick up all your children at 3.15pm.

#### Drop-off times from Monday 8th March 2021

Nursery and Reception	9.00am - Children will line up on the playground with their teacher
Year 1 and Year 2	8.50am - Children will line up on the playground with their teacher
Year 3 and Year 4	9.10am - Y3 children will line up in the ball court and Y4 children will line up in the green garden (children arriving earlier with younger siblings will go straight to these areas)
Year 5 and Year 6	9.15am - Children will line up on the playground with their teacher (children arriving earlier with younger siblings will go straight up to class)
Families with more than one child	<b>If you have children in more than one year group, please drop off all your children at the earliest time given.</b>

## Pick-up times from Monday 8th March 2021

Nursery and Reception	3.00pm from the playground <i>(Morning Nursery children who are picked up at 12pm will be collected from the Nursery gate on Old Woolwich Road.)</i>
Year 1 and Year 2	2.50pm from the playground
Year 3 and Year 4	3.10pm from the playground
Year 5 and Year 6	3.15pm from the playground
Families with more than one child	<b>If you have children in more than one year group, please pick up all your children at the latest time given.</b>

With these new arrangements there will be no (or very short) waiting times between siblings, and parents/carers should therefore wait in the playground until they have collected all their children (rather than leaving the playground, waiting in the street and coming back in again). Children who are being picked up later than their classmates will enjoy time in the classroom with staff before being brought out to the playground.

To ensure drop-off and pick-up runs smoothly and swiftly, please leave the playground as soon as you have dropped off or picked up your child(ren) rather than waiting to watch the line go into school or chatting to other families. Please do not congregate outside the school gates or stand in front of them. We are sorry that we cannot accommodate a more sociable environment for parents/carers at the moment but safety is paramount, and I can assure you that there are lots of opportunities for the children to socialise once in school!

### 2. Face-coverings

As recommended by Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG), from Monday 8th March, we request that **parents/carers** and secondary-age siblings **wear face coverings** when dropping off or collecting children from school unless they are exempt.

There is no change for Meridian children - whilst secondary school children are expected to wear masks in some circumstances, the government guidance states that masks are not required for primary school children. Children should not wear face coverings in Meridian.



### 3. Testing

Primary aged children will not be tested in school.

Anyone showing one or more Covid-19 symptoms in your household, however mild, should arrange a test and can book this by telephoning 119 or following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

While you are waiting for a test result, your whole household must stay at home. **Please inform the school straight away if you or your child has a positive test result for coronavirus.**

Public Health England say that about 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people with no symptoms helps to break the chain of transmission by identifying a high percentage of asymptomatic cases. A lateral flow test gives results in 30 minutes.

Staff are taking part in twice-weekly lateral flow testing.

The government is encouraging all households with school age children (and their support/childcare bubbles) to start twice-weekly lateral flow testing from 8th March; **RBG are strongly encouraging the testing of primary school children and their families.**

The easiest way for families to arrange a lateral flow test is to go to their local testing centre, e.g. Daniel Defoe Hall (10 Lovibond Lane, Greenwich, London SE10 9FY) or Charlton Athletic Football Club (The Valley, Floyd Rd, London SE7 8BL). You can find your nearest test site here: [Rapid tests for people without symptoms | Test and Trace](#). (RBG has said that a temporary site is being set up at Cutty Sark Gardens soon.)

Other ways in which you can get a twice-weekly lateral flow test are:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site ([Find a test centre](#))
- by ordering a home test kit online ([Schools testing: Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kit](#)).

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone in our community as safe as possible.

### **Play Club and Breakfast Club**

Play Club and Breakfast Club will be running as before Christmas - if your child was previously booked in, we are expecting them so please do tell us if you no longer need the place; if you wish to make a new booking, please contact the school office.

### **Further information for parents/carers**

Government guidance for parents/carers can be found here: [Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Our full FAQs have been emailed to parents/carers and are on the school website.

**And finally...** When your child comes into school next week, please send them in warm clothes (as we are maintaining good ventilation in school and the weather is still chilly), with a refillable water bottle and any reading books or school laptops you may have on loan.

Thank you for supporting us in checking your child's drop-off and pick-up times, remembering your face covering for the playground and considering lateral flow testing for your family. We very much look forward to seeing you next week...

My very best wishes,  
Jo  
Jo Graham - Headteacher