



Re-created art – amazing!

THIS IS A LONG AND VERY IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER – PLEASE READ IT ALL CAREFULLY!

Thursday 21st May

Dear everyone,

Thank you to those of you who ‘thanked a teacher’ yesterday. Cards arrived in in-boxes – as yet anonymous and instead signed by Gavin Williamson (?!) Several parents also sent lovely emails. Thank you from all our staff. Much appreciated.

We were sad in school yesterday as it should have been our Day for Change, one of our favourite days of the year. We were to have had a ‘Reading Festival’ (pun intended) and had storytellers, musicians and artists booked with the intent of raising money to support world literacy. It is one of many events that we WILL do some time in the future.

Next week is half term and school is CLOSED. There will be no work set on google classrooms. If you’d like an idea, why not make a contribution to the second edition of the Palmer Press? Email articles (and re-created paintings) to Miss T on rosie@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk.

Another week has gone by and we have continued with our plans for a safe return to school life. As last week, this comes with the huge and important caveat that our plans are, of course, **dependent upon the continued reduced transmission of Covid-19 and the science indicating that it is safe for us to do so.** Our understanding is that the final government decision will be taken on May 28th. We have undertaken a thorough risk assessment that was discussed and approved by our Governing Body last night and that has now been returned to Camden.



Return to school

We will take June 1st as an INSET day as planned, so that we are all finally altogether as a staff and can make sure everyone understands their role in the new routines that ensure safety for themselves and for the children.

Year 6 and Year 1 will return on Tuesday 2nd June.

Reception will return on Wednesday 3rd June

Nursery will return on Thursday 4th June.

Years 2,3,4,5 will not return yet. Their remote google classrooms will continue for now.

Each class will be split into group A or B. This will be done by alphabetical order (so the register splits at number 15) with switches made to accommodate keyworkers and enable siblings to be in the same group if they ended up in opposite halves. I'm not accepting any requests/swaps otherwise! Apologies.

We will review groupings weekly and may consider swaps if groups are imbalanced.

This is not a 'one chance only' return date. We understand that some families may need a little more time to feel re-assured.

Each group must attend every day but only for half a day, either 9-12 or 12.30-3.30. If you are in one of the returning years please **look for an email and/or text letting you know your 'shift'**.

We realise this isn't perfect and doesn't make a full return to work easy, but it gives children a routine, some continuity in their learning and will provide *some* space for you! It also allows us to grow. Models of week on/week off, or days on, days off did not, we felt, enable the same safety constraints on numbers or the best model for effective teaching and learning or leave any space for Years 2,3,4 and 5 to return!

Lunch will not be provided for these children. Voucher support for families in returning year groups in receipt of free school meals will cease. Please contact Tania to discuss alternatives.

The current all-day provision for those already in school (coined 'small school') with us will continue with the caveat that many will move into the half day provision.

I'm sure you all have lots of questions so, in time honoured tradition (and hopefully more useful than 'what if my luggage is lost?'), please see below! Please email if anything remains unanswered. We want to gain your full confidence in how we have prepared

Before you read the following, can I re-assure you that EP will not, as some schools featured by the media, become a sterile and hostile environment. That is impossible with our warm and positive staff and we are all well aware of the need to re-assure and relax the children (and you) as school re-starts and to make it as 'normal' as we can.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will you manage drop off and pick up?

The morning group will arrive from 8.50-9 and must be collected at 12. Please collect promptly.

The afternoon group will arrive from 12.20-12.30 and will be collected at 3.30



We will be opening the Raveley St entrance (the blue gates); Nursery and Reception will use this entrance. Year 6, Year 1 and 'small school' will use our main gates.

Smiley staff members will be dotted around the Home Zone and in Raveley Street wearing 'high viz' blue jackets. Staff will also be at the gate. We will gather children and guide them into school. Staff will ensure everyone then washes their hands.

Will parents be allowed on site?

I'm afraid not. Staff, including office staff, will be outside at drop off and pick up and will be available to talk. All staff will continue with their openness to email communication too.

Will my child have their own teacher?

Absolutely. Each class will have their own team and all our support team are here too so music, art and PE will happen within all these constraints. We are extremely lucky that all of Team EP are able and willing to work. Classes of 15 – wow! What a chance for some great learning.

How will you manage social distancing?

- Each class will be in their consistent group of 15, coined a 'bubble'.;
- These bubbles will stay together for the day in their own classroom;
- Playtimes will be staggered and different 'bubbles' will use different play areas;
- Classrooms will be re-organised to create a distance between children;
- We will not be having any school gatherings; assemblies, concerts, shows etc;
- As I said in a previous newsletter, whilst adults in schools are retaining a distance from each other and from parents, it really is impossible to expect our youngest children to sustain a distance from each other and from us if they need comfort or re-assurance or indeed support with their work. It is important parents accept the realities of this. The SAGE science advice on schools returning accepts this reality.

How will lunchtimes work?

Because of the constraints of the above, we will not be offering lunch at the moment other than for those 'small school' children staying all day.

Will the children change for PE?

Each 'bubble' will of course have Coach Martin PE and on their set day, we'd ask children come to school in their PE kit as they do already.

Will you be taking temperatures on arrival?

No we won't. We will however be vigilant about signs of illness. See below.

Will the staff or children be wearing masks and other PPE?

No. The advice from Public Health England is that this is not necessary or indeed desirable in a school setting.

Staff will follow their normal practice when dealing with 'accidents' provided the child is not showing symptoms of coronavirus. PPE will be worn if anyone displays symptoms of suspected Covid.

**Will there be trips?**

Sadly no, no trips until further notice. We are in touch with Wick Court and Sayers Croft and very much hope these residentials might happen in the Autumn.

Will there be any wraparound care?

Not in this first phase. As we progress, and if guidance indicates it is ok to do so, we will return to our extended day.

Will remote learning continue if my child is unable to attend school?

Our google classroom provision for Years 2,3,4, and 5 will continue. However there will be a much reduced provision for Years 1 and 6, Reception and Nursery. The platform may be used to link work in school and suggested follow up or preparation tasks for the next day in school.

Will staff still phone home?

We too have loved this contact! Phone calls will cease for any child back at school – and continue for those still at home. It might be a different grown up who calls.

Will there be clubs?

There will be no clubs in this first phase.

What other measures are in place to help keep our children safe?

- We will supervise proper handwashing on arrival and regularly thereafter. We think this is key. We have installed additional handwashing facilities outside.;
- All water fountains have been shut off – we are asking children to bring their own NAMED water bottle;
- We have a tight cleaning schedule of all shared areas in the lunchtime turnaround – we will have additional cleaners and all our lovely staff will have key cleaning roles too;
- Certain items of play equipment have been removed (e.g. playdough, soft toys);
- More learning will happen outside.

What measure does EP have in place if a child develops Covid like symptoms?

If the child is in school, they will be immediately isolated and full PPE provided to the socially distanced adult who is supervising the child or symptomatic adult. Parents will be asked to collect the child without delay and the member of staff will leave immediately

Parents will be asked to **arrange a test immediately**. If the test is positive, the child must self-isolate for 7 days and the rest of the household for 14 days. Likewise members of staff will do the same.

The following measures will apply (taken from Government guidance 20 May 2020):

Should the test be positive, other children and adults from ‘the bubble’ the person belongs to, will be immediately notified and asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days. The rest of their family does not have to unless symptoms develop. **If it is negative** the bubble stays at school and the child returns once better.



As part of the national track and trace programme, if there are other cases detected at school there will be a rapid investigation and it is likely we may be shut to control the spread of re-infection.

Can our children be tested?

COVID-19 testing is now available to anyone over 5 who develops new coronavirus symptoms.

To book a test, go to the [national coronavirus testing website](#) or phone 119.

Testing is most effective within the **first three days** of a person experiencing symptoms. If you have any questions about coronavirus testing, please contact covid-19queries@camden.gov.uk.

Phew!

You will know from the news and national press that parents are not compelled to send their child into school and clearly this must be your considered choice. We hope that having this further detail will offer re-assurance about our meticulous planning. Again, please do not anticipate an unfriendly or dull environment.

And what we ask of you!!

- Please do not gather at the gate; use the whole Home Zone to wait with your child until you see a blue jacket!
- As children leave, we will support a safe exit into your arms too – please do not wait right at the gate. Why not have a set waiting place that we can get to know?
- Year 6 can walk home alone. Please let us know if this is your preferred arrangement.
- Please do not drive up to the top of the Raveley/Lupton St junction. We will be blocking some of this area for safe drop off.
- Cheery goodbyes please! It will be hard saying goodbye outside and not having that daily classroom interaction. But remember those early days of Nursery – they're fine once you've gone!!!
- Please send your child to school with a named water bottle and remind them to bring it home each day for a wash. Feel free to pack a simple healthy wrapped snack bar for break too;
- Wash hands before leaving and on arriving home. We really think this is key and it is a well - established routine in small school. We have had no infections of any sort in the last 8 weeks;
- We have a duty of care to our staff and so trust that you are 'staying alert'; observing social distancing , washing hands and limiting larger gatherings at home etc;
- Let us know if your child has hay fever and send in medication;
- Please apply sun cream to your child before school;
- Please do not give your child medicine before school that could mask potential Covid symptoms (e.g. Calpol). If they needed Calpol at 8am, they should stay off school.

And critically: YOU MUST keep your child off if they (or any of you) show any of the following symptoms:

- **a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature). Your child might seem fatigued.**
- **a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)**
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal**



Golden Book Assembly

In the absence of our Friday celebratory assembly, we nominate a home learning superstar from each class each week. Book Bingo chocolate stocks will be delivered to your door by Miss Frood tomorrow. So, this week they are:

Kara in Year 6. Miss Mac just loves your enthusiasm and diligence for everything.

Tawana in Year 5. Great work consistently and a brilliant 'blood smoothie' film say Team 5;

Lewis in Year 4. Miss Cousins is so impressed with your writing

Lila in Year 3. Consistently fantastic work and Miss T especially loved your tiger poem;

Milla has been a Year 2 star! Mr Cairns loved your James and the Giant Peach café and menu;

Renee in Year 1 has worked so hard. Mrs Stokes is very proud;

Mia's reading has progressed so much! Helen is so pleased;

Juliet (and family) in Nursery. What fantastic creativity especially your re-created paintings.

And Miss Fair has run an extra classroom and wanted to choose **Alana** for all her hard work!

We will continue to watch the data, the progression of this virus and consider advice from the Government, Camden and Public Health England over the next week. We will update you about our plan if anything changes.

Have a lovely half term and enjoy the sunshine.

With love from all the staff at EP,

Kate Frood