



Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear everyone,



What a delight to have almost everyone back – we have had over 90% attendance this week and the children have settled back so well. Well done Year 3 – the first class to make 100%!

As you can see, Coach Martin has a run for his money with hair growth.

We have now installed three more of our famous hand-washing troughs (see article from the Times 19.06.20 at the end of this newsletter. I think that is an artist's impression of EP!) and children are in the routine of using their own trough. Who'd have thought, back in September, that we'd be taking such pride in troughs.

### Parents' Evening

We are trying to get the balance of virtual and real human contact. Teachers agreed they'd really value face to face contact and so, through our new online booking system - **alert coming tonight via text** - you can make an appointment for either the **7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> July between 3.45 and 7**. We will set up physically distanced class 'stations' around the playground and I will ring a bell every 10 minutes for hand-over. We might actually keep to time! Sally Hill and I will be on hand at the gate to give out reports ahead of your appointments; we will put chairs out in the Home Zone so you can sit and read. Here's hoping for decent weather.



### **Last day of term**

So we end 'fairly' given our half day model, we will end **this school year at 3.30pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July** rather than at lunchtime on the 17<sup>th</sup> as planned.

I always want this to be a thank you to our amazing staff who worked right through Easter and who have been universally supportive and positive about our extended opening to all year groups since 22<sup>nd</sup> June. They have, for example, had almost no lunch-break during the fast clean and turnaround between groups.

I hope you agree!

### **Summer camps at EP! Booking now OPEN!!**

We are delighted to announce that Coach Martin and his best friend Coach Steve (a coach at Holy Trinity and St Silas School) will once again be running their Summer Football and Multi Activity Camps .

Martin has set up the camp with all the same health and safety guidance as we are operating under: two bubble groups of 15, good hand hygiene and LOTS of fresh air!

**Week 1: Mon 20th - Fri 24th July**

**Week 2: Mon 27th - Fri 31st July**

Venue: Eleanor Palmer Primary School, Lupton St, Kentish Town, NW5 2JA

Time: 9:00-3:00pm

Age: 5-11 yrs (Reception to Yr 6)

Cost: Full Week = £100. To keep their 'bubble' intact, they are not taking single day bookings this year.

Concession rate = £65

Sibling discount = 20% off for second child.

To book a place email: [prorevolution.development@gmail.com](mailto:prorevolution.development@gmail.com) or phone: 07540 613539. This was SOOO popular last year! Don't delay in booking your place.

### **New Nursery and Reception visits**

Sophie and Susie are giving up a Saturday (4<sup>th</sup> July) to meet our new Nursery and New to EP Reception families. We will welcome families in very small groups to see the environment and meet the team. I'll be on hand to answer any questions. Look out for an email if this affects you. Those children already in EP Nursery and moving up with Sophie need not attend the Reception visit.

### **Palmer Paper**

Edition 2 is coming on apace! As Year 6 aren't able to sell paper copies at the Fair they would welcome paid adverts. Email [charlotte@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](mailto:charlotte@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk) with your ad. Payment will be via the Virtual Fair website as from Monday.



### **UKMT – United Kingdom Maths Challenge**

We will manage this in school tomorrow **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**.

Next week we will undertake a first, and invite other keen mathematicians to try an ‘entry level’ national challenge. If you’d like to have a go, the 2019 pilot paper can be found here [https://www.m-a.org.uk/resources/FMC\\_2019.pdf](https://www.m-a.org.uk/resources/FMC_2019.pdf). I’ve had a look and it is much more accessible than either the main PMC or UKMT paper!

### **Absence from school**

Please call if your child is not in school. We are wasting too much time having to call families because we are - for obvious reasons – being ultra vigilant and must know why a child is not in. Do remember that, if they have a temperature, the advice is to be tested for Covid immediately. We have had a trial run of this (**NEGATIVE!**) and are grateful to the parent for their swift communication and action.

A reminder too that we have the same expectations for attendance and punctuality as before. If the absence is not due to illness, then permission must be sought in advance.

### **Managing our whole school health**

**We have now had four weeks with almost no illness. Children have been excellent at following our new regular hand-washing routines.**

**However everything tumbles in our new regime if a child comes into school ill, and possibly with covid so I will persist in reminding you not to send your child in if they are symptomatic.**

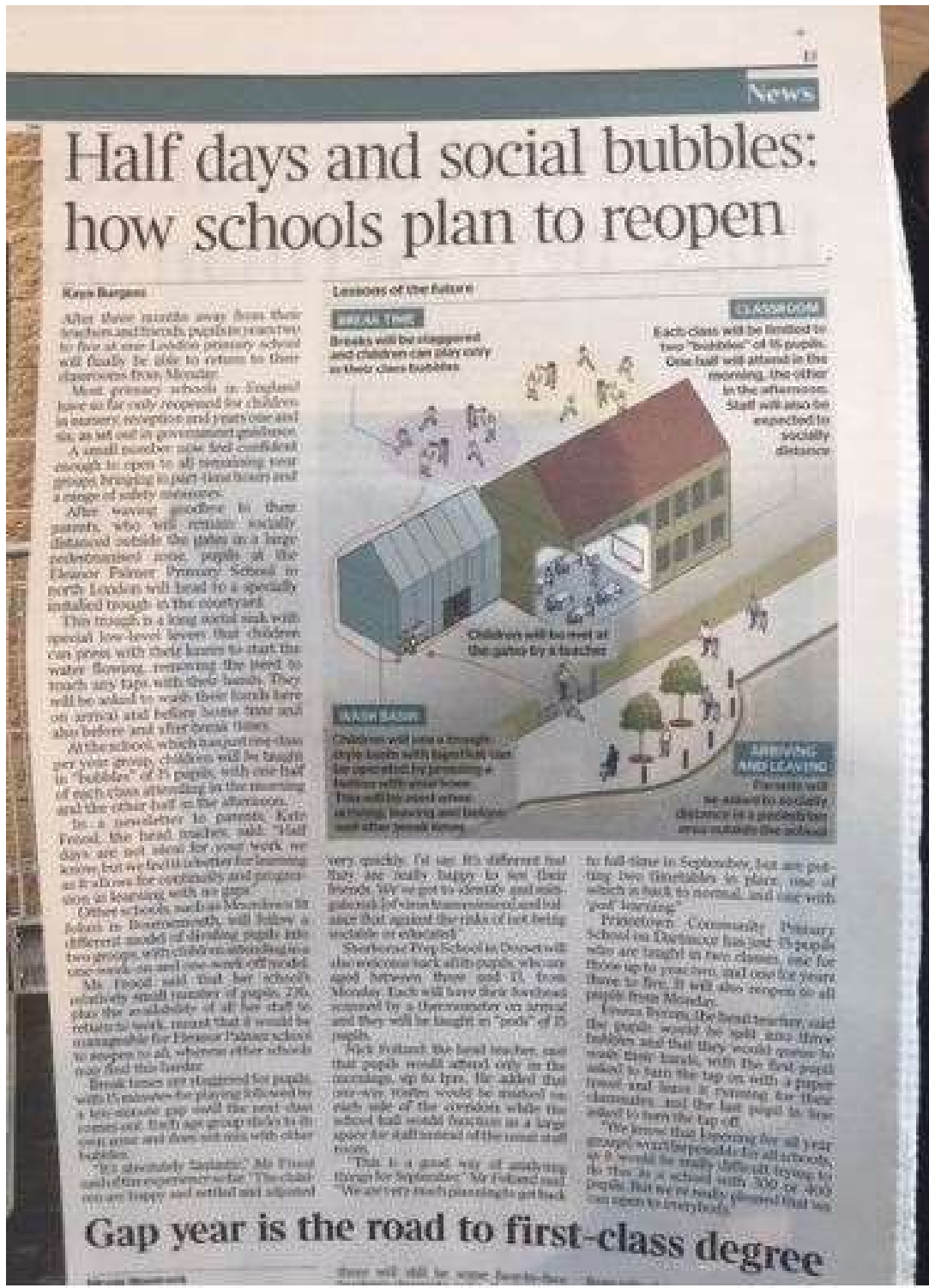
**YOU MUST keep your child off if they (or any of you) show any of the following symptoms:**

- 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

Testing is now available to anyone - including under 5s - 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](mailto:covid-19queries@camden.gov.uk)**.



Kate Ford



# Half days and social bubbles: how schools plan to reopen

Kate Ferguson

After three months away from their teachers and friends, pupils are expected to fly at one London primary school will finally be able to return to their classrooms from Monday.

Most primary schools in England have so far only reopened for children in nursery, reception and years one and six, as set out in government guidance. A small number now feel confident enough to open to all remaining year groups, bringing in part-time hours and a range of safety measures.

After waving goodbye to their parents, who will remain socially distanced outside the gates in a large, redesigned area, pupils at the Eleanor Palmer Primary School in north London will head to a specially installed trough in the courtyard.

This trough is a long metal sink with special low-level levers that children can press with their knees to start the water flowing, removing the need to touch any taps with their hands. They will be asked to wash their hands here on arrival and before lesson time and also before and after break times.

At the school, which has set up class per year groups, children will be taught in "bubbles" of 15 pupils, with one half of each class attending for the morning and the other half in the afternoon.

In a newsletter to parents, Kate Ford, the head teacher, said: "Half days are not ideal for your work, we know, but we feel it is better for learning as it allows for continuity and progression of learning with no gaps."

Other schools, such as Moorcroft in Islington in December, will follow a different model of dividing pupils into two groups, with children attending one day a week on and one week off school.

Ms Ford said that her school's relatively small number of pupils (200) plus the availability of all her staff to rotate work meant that it would be manageable for Eleanor Palmer school to reopen to all, whereas other schools may find this harder.

Break times are planned for pupils with 15 minutes for playing followed by a five-minute gap until the next class comes out. The age group stays in its set it enter and does not mix with other bubbles.

"It's absolutely fantastic," Ms Ford said of the experience so far. "The children are happy and settled and adjusted

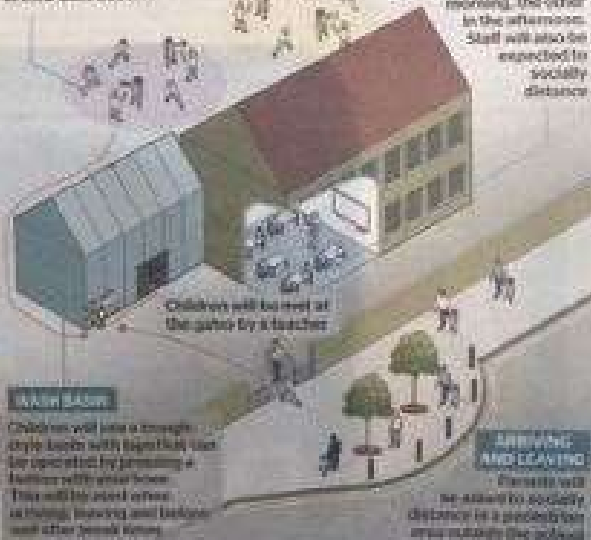
## Lessons of the future

### BREAK TIME

Breaks will be staggered and children can play only in their class bubbles.

### CLASSROOM

Each class will be limited to two "bubbles" of 15 pupils. One half will attend in the morning, the other in the afternoon. Staff will also be expected to socially distance.



### WASH BASIN

Children will use a trough drip basin with levers that can be operated by pressing a button with their knees. This will be used before, during, leaving and before and after break times.

### ENTERING AND LEAVING

Parents will be asked to socially distance in a parking lot area outside the school.

very quickly. To see its different but they are really happy to see their friends. We've got to identify and mitigate all the risks and understand that against the risks of not being available or educated."

St Albans Prep School in Essex will also welcome back all its pupils, who are split between three and 11, from Monday. Each will have their homework returned by a Dettol sprayer on arrival and they will be taught in "pods" of 15 pupils.

Kate Ford, the head teacher, said that pupils would attend only in the mornings, up to 1pm. He added that one-way routes would be marked on each side of the corridors while the school had would function as a large space for staff instead of the usual staff rooms.

"This is a good way of making things for September," Mr Ford said. "We are very much planning to get back

to full time in September, but not putting two bubbles in place, one of which is back to normal, and one with 'soft learning'."

Princes Town Community Primary School in Tottenham has set 15 pupils who are taught in two classes, one for those up to year two, and one for years three to five. It will also reopen to all pupils from Monday.

Kevin Lyons, the head teacher, said the pupils would be split into three bubbles and that they would queue to wash their hands, with the first pupil asked to turn the tap on with a paper towel and leave it running for their classmates, and the last pupil to be asked to turn the tap off.

"We know that keeping for all year groups would be possible for all schools, as it would be really difficult trying to do this at a school with 300 or 400 pupils. But we're really pleased that we can open to every body."

## Gap year is the road to first-class degree

By [unclear]

There will still be some [unclear]



## EP Virtual Summer Fair!!

Lots of wonderful parents have come together to put on different events in lots of different ways! From Monday our Virtual Fair website will go live! We will alert you in every way we can.

**IT'S FANTASTIC!!** Through it you will be able to:

- Enter a Palmer Pooch dog show;
- Book a table for a yard sale on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July (yard sale means a table top sale but in front of your house; we will publish a map!) Think of the chance for a lockdown clearout;
- Book a doorstep family photo – what a great memory of lockdown;
- Pay in your 'Sponsor me for EP' money;
- Buy an NW5 bag;
- Order a home-made mask;
- And then, spend money wandering around a virtual fair - that burger, that Pimms, that cold beer, endless bouncy castles - effectively just make a donation to us!!

### Raffle

We can't have a fair without a raffle! **Raffle tickets have come home today in book bags.**

For any tickets your child is able to sell, **ON THE FRONT OF EACH TICKET STUB** please write the name and contact details of the person buying the ticket. **ON THE BACK OF EACH TICKET STUB**, please write your child's name so they get a £5 prize if the ticket is a winning one.

Please return any money for sold tickets with named stubs, and any unsold tickets to a member of staff in the Home Zone by **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020**.

Thanks to Sam Jones (Oliver and Henry) you can get extra tickets if you need them and deposit sold tickets and proceeds at the raffle table in the Home Zone at pick up. We'd be grateful for exact money only!

### Silent Auction

Promises are coming in! It will be a reduced high quality auction! We will share the list of lots via the app and then bids are made – including setting your maximum bid – by emailing the wonderful sam on [sam@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk](mailto:sam@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk)



### **Do you have a dog destined to be an EP legend?**

This year we are looking for the dog that belongs to an EP student that is worthy of being crowned the winner in the first ever **virtual Eleanor Palmer Dog Show**. The winning hound will be gifted with treats and toys that will be delivered to your door.

The dog contestants will be revealed in the newsletter and on the website. To enter, **visit our virtual fair website from Monday!**

### **Lockdown clear-out Yard Sale**

On the day of the Virtual Fair (11 July) we are planning a “Yard Sale”; a table –top sale outside your own home. **Look for out Monday’s Virtual Fair website launch** to book a pitch so the PTA can put together a ‘map’ of the pitches and what is available. Currently pitches include a baker planning a cake stand, someone planning coffee and cold drinks, and several nearly new stalls of items that they would have typically donated to the fair eg toys, books etc.

Stall holders are responsible for arranging their stalls with the current restrictions in mind. £10 donation to host and be put on the map; any donation from your taking gladly accepted!

### **Sponsor me for EP**

For the PTA’s first virtual fundraiser, we are inviting children (and even the whole family) to get involved in our “Sponsor me for EP” event. Choose a challenge that works for you as a family - running, cycling or walking, TV free days, learning to perform a new song or piece of music, a new “helping out at home” job, helping neighbours or the wider community - the more creative the better!

If anyone wants to take on the challenge of learning all their tables from 2-12x, Miss Frood will lead a physically distanced test event in the hall on Friday 10th July. 100 questions taken from those 144 (72!) all important facts!! Try to be sponsored per correct answer. You will never look back. Open to all year groups!

You will be able to submit sponsorship money (and any pictures) **via the Fair website** until **Monday 13 July**.

### **Lockdown doorstep photos**

Why not create a lasting memory of this unprecedented time in our lives and book a ‘doorstep photo’ of your family? You will be able to do this **via our Virtual Fair website from Monday!**

### **Masks**

In addition, in keeping with PTA and school focus on sustainability, some of our crafty parents are making wonderful reusable facemasks which can go in the washing machine (remember face coverings are now mandatory on public transport). **They will be available to buy through the Virtual Fair website!**