

Infant & Nursery Site
St Albans Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1TE



Dartford
Primary Academy

Junior Site
York Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1SQ

Telephone: 01322 223751
Email: office@dartfordprimary.org.uk

Telephone: 01322 224453
Website: www.dartfordprimary.org.uk

Principal: Miss R. Roberts

15th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Key Information Full School return - September 2020

Following the announcement from the Government that schools return all children in September, I would like to reassure all parents what we have done to make Dartford Primary Academy as safe as possible for your child's return. Since June 1st we have returned Nursery, Reception Year 1,2 5 and 6 with great success. We have implemented all government guidance and follow protocols to ensure everyone's safety. I will write again during the holidays to confirm exact timings for each bubble.

The year will start with a brief phased return, which will allow all pupils and staff to adjust to the new ways of working, rules and expectations, which will reduce the risk to all of contracting the virus. As you can imagine, it would be overwhelming for the children to suddenly enter a school of over 600 pupils and at least 70 staff if everyone is in the same position of not knowing where they need to be, which toilet facilities they need to use, rules and expectations for behaviour in class and around the school, etc. Therefore, we will be bringing back year groups slowly to ensure the atmosphere is calm and orderly, allowing staff to support pupils appropriately as they transition back into school. The wellbeing of the children and how we handle their return will greatly impact on their wellbeing and we strongly feel that their experience needs to be positive right from the start.

Return dates

Nursery - Thursday 3rd September

Year 1 - Monday 7th September

Year 2 - Thursday 3rd September

Year 3 - Friday 4th September

Year 4 - Tuesday 8th September

Year 5 - Monday 7th September

Year 6 - Thursday 3rd September

Reception - Monday 14th September - please see your individual letters from the EYFS team

Start and end of the day

The timetable will be staggered to allow different groups to enter and exit the school at different times to avoid large numbers of parents congregating at the same time. It is essential you are punctual for your time to avoid Bubbles mixing. This is for your child's safety.

Only **one** parent will be permitted to drop their child off and collect them at the end of the day and parents will be responsible for ensuring that they follow social distancing advice when on the school grounds. We will limit access to the site wherever possible. For parents with children at both sites - we will provide a waiting area at the Junior site for any child with a sibling in the infant to enable parents to safely collect. As stated above, I will write again week commencing 24th August with exact timings for class Bubble times

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'Bubbles'

The children will be grouped into their classes, called 'Bubbles' and they will be taught in these groups. They will also form part of their year group bubble for wider activities such as dining and intervention work. Each year group bubble will be separate to other year group bubbles. Staff will largely work within the same year group 'bubble', but the guidance allows staff to move between 'bubbles', so this will be the case for some staff who work across different year groups or run specific intervention activities. Staff will be able to move between bubbles whilst implementing Covid secure ways of working. We will have robust Test and Trace protocols in place.

Children will not be expected to socially distance from one another but they will be asked not to touch each other, hug or have close face-to-face discussions. Staff will need to socially distance from pupils as much as possible, although we appreciate that this is less possible in the Early Years.

Safety Measures

As well as the 'Bubbles', other measures will also be in place and enforced to minimise risk and these will include:

- Regular handwashing and hand sanitising throughout the day, in line with Government advice.
- Instruction for children as to how to move safely around the school if necessary, moving (for example, out of bounds areas, designated outdoor areas, designated toilets/cloakrooms)
- Learning spaces, and where appropriate play spaces, will be thoroughly cleaned with antiviral cleaner at the end of each day
- Pupils will be allocated their own work resources and for EYFS there will be restricted play items
- Additional resources and equipment will be assigned and limited to each year group Bubble and they will be sanitised at the end of each day
- Expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- Children will be reminded regularly to tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus and this to be acted upon immediately in line with Government advice.
- Rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- Appropriate use of designated toilets/cloakrooms
- Clear rules about coughing or sneezing towards any other person
- Induction time for all children on the first few days of their return so they are clear about the new systems and routines.
- In line with government guidance the Academy behaviour policy has been amended to reflect these changes and this can be found on our website. Any pupil not complying with the new expectations within school (intentionally rather than unintentionally) will be informed that they will continue their learning from home. This is to safeguard all concerned.

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Uniform

The Department for Education has now updated their guidance on pupils' uniforms. **All children are expected to return to full academy uniform.** Details are on our website and have been communicated via newsletter through the summer term. **Please note all children must now be wearing the DPA blue logo'd jumper or cardigan from Brigade.**

PPE

The government has advised that PPE is not required in educational settings so staff will not be wearing PPE unless a member of staff has particularly requested this or staff need to have increased physical contact (ie to assist in changing a child, toilet etc) or to deal with a child who is displaying symptoms of COVID.

Curriculum

Wherever possible a full curriculum will be taught to those year groups returning to school. The children will have allocated time in outdoor zones to explore physical activities in a safe and distanced way. There will be a focus on English, maths and reading to start the academic year.

PE

We will continue to deliver PE sessions in a Covid secure way. **All children are to come into school on their designated PE day in their PE kit.** This minimises the risk when changing. Children will be expected to wear the academy PE kit only (Blue PE top, Navy or black shorts, Navy or black non branded jogging bottoms, black sports shoes (trainers or plimsolls) and their normal DPA logo'd sweatshirt/cardigan). We will inform you of your child's designated PE further in the August letter.

Water bottles and Lunches

Your child's water bottle must be labelled. Lunch will be eaten in a designated space for certain year groups. Year R and 1, 5 and 6 will eat in the dining halls. Year 2, 3 and 4 will eat in their classrooms. There will be designated social spaces. A robust cleaning protocol will be implemented between sittings.

We should begin to receive our fruit for EYFS and Key Stage 1 snacks again, but it would be a good idea to send something in on the first day just in case. Key Stage 2 children are not provided with a snack so will need to bring in their own fruit or vegetable snack.

Online learning

We will continue to promote online learning with our children for their homework and independent tasks. Each child will also use this to build their IB portfolios across the academic year. We will continue to post to Dojo also for our parental communication in addition to Parentmail. It is essential your child retains an element of online learning in case we experience another peak or have to revert to this method of learning for any reason.

Resources from home

Children will not be permitted to bring any resources from home, other than their water bottle, packed lunch (if they have one) and their reading record and reading book. We would like Reception and Year 1 children to continue to use a bookbag (no rucksacks or other types of bags please) and from Year 2

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upwards we would like children to use a smaller bag such as a drawstring bag to maximise corridor space when moving around the school. No PE kits are to come into school.

Attendance

Children returning to school will be expected to be present everyday and we will be calling parents of absent children each day if we do not receive a call to say they are unwell, as we usually do. Please note, the Government has now reinstated the penalties for non attendance.

Breakfast & Afterschool clubs

In the interests of safety and keeping children within their year group bubbles, we will not run the Breakfast club and afterschool provision until further notice. I recognise many of our families use this to support them in going to work and we will work on resuming this service, however we feel until all children return and have clear routines in place, we cannot add other small groups bubbles. I hope this will be resumed no later than the start of module 2. I will keep you updated.

We are very excited to see our community come back together in September and we will work hard to ensure all safety measures are in place to mitigate risk as much as possible. I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful and peaceful holiday.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Roberts
Principal