



7th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Planning for September

I hope you are all having an enjoyable summer break and managing to spend some quality family time together, even if it's just a break from the joys of 'home learning'.

We are currently planning carefully for the proposed return of all pupils to Whitehill on Wednesday 2nd September and looking forward to welcoming our new Year 3 pupils to the school. You will be aware that the situation is dynamic; there isn't a Covid-related news bulletin that doesn't mention schools in some way. For that reason, please do keep a close eye on our Covid Blog on the school website and on our twitter feed for changes and updates.

Assuming there are no changes between now and the start of term, here is some key information you need to be aware of.

Early Morning Provision

For those families who were previously accessing the Highbury Breakfast Club and who have contacted me, this will be available from 8.00am on Wednesday 2nd September. Pupils should be dropped off at the main entrance, where they will be directed to the dining room to read or draw. Can I remind you that we will not be able to provide breakfast.

Rolling Start

Pupils can arrive at school **from 8.35am** each morning and should make their way straight to their classrooms. Some classes will be accessed through alternative doors and staff will be on the playground to welcome and direct them. We are asking any parents to leave the school site as soon as they have dropped their children off and to avoid congregating on the playground.

The End of the Day

In order to reduce congestion on the playground and unnecessary mixing of our year group 'bubbles', we will have two finish times.

Lower School (Year 3 and Year 4) – 3.10pm

Upper School (Year 5 and Year 6) – 3.20pm

It is our intention to release pupils in a controlled way to the parents / carers directly, again to avoid unnecessary congestion and mixing. Parents and carers will be asked to wait in a given area of the school playgrounds in order to collect their children. See attached. If you have more than one child in school, please do not worry, we will keep your children safe until you are there. This also applies if you have to do the Highbury collection first.



If your child walks home by themselves, they will be allowed to leave at the allocated time for their class.

To help us plan for this, we are asking you to complete a short online questionnaire detailing the typical arrangements for the collection of your child from September and indicating whether or not you will need to collect from Highbury first. A link for this can be found below and is also on the school website. Thank you in advance.

[Collection Arrangements for September](#)

Clearly, there will be a very human urge to congregate and catch up with staff and other parents when on the school grounds. Please exercise appropriate social distancing when on the playground and try not to arrive too early. The school gates will remain locked until 3.00pm each day.

The School Day

The staff are currently planning for full curriculum coverage when we return. There will need to be adaptations to the way some subjects are taught but we all feel an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum is imperative as the pupils return after seventeen weeks of home learning.

Our interpretation of the government guidance means that we will sometimes be teaching as year group bubbles, to allow for this broad and balanced curriculum as well as provide the most useful targeted learning and support.

There will be changes to timings during the day to ensure we keep the pupils and staff as safe as we possibly can. We will also be continuing to reinforce general practices we adopted in the summer term:

- Frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning of settings
- And minimising contact and mixing

We understand that whilst excited, some pupils may feel a bit nervous and apprehensive as it won't be like it was; they may be disappointed that can't play like they used to and will need reassurance that everything is OK. We have considered the emotional impact of lockdown as part of our planned provision.

Attendance and Punctuality

For safeguarding reasons, please continue to inform us of any absence (just as you did before lockdown). Although we have extended the arrival time, please ensure your child is in school 8.55am. If they arrive after this time, they must enter the school via the main entrance.

Messages

As we are asking you to avoid chatting to staff where possible, please send any messages for class teachers or our admin team via email (admin@whitehill.herts.sch.uk or if specifically related to Covid-19, consult@whitehill.herts.sch.uk) or phone wherever possible.

Food and Drink

Thank you to those who completed the school meal questionnaire prior to the end of term. This has helped Mrs Stokes plan for the first few days back. We are changing to a new system of ordering food and details will be coming home to explain the changes and the process for ordering lunch.

Please ensure that you send your child with a **named** water bottle, that they will need to bring back home to be cleaned each day. Healthy snacks are still welcome and indeed children may find this necessary as they transition back to the school day after so much time at home.



Thank you for taking the time to read this communication. We have tried to make it as clear and as reassuring as we could. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via the consult@whitehill.herts.sch.uk email address.

Best wishes,



Steve Mills
Headteacher

