



2nd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Full Re-opening of Sir Thomas Abney School to all pupils in September

The Government has directed schools to prepare for all pupils to return full time from the start of the Autumn Term. The view is that the risk regarding COVID-19 is low and provided that schools put in place essential but proportionate measures, the risk regarding all pupils returning is manageable.

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 1 to 6 children back on **Thursday 3rd September 2020** with our Nursery and Reception classes starting their phased return from 7th September. We have worked hard to make the school a safe, enjoyable environment for all of the children.

The Government have put together a useful [leaflet for parents](#) regarding the return of children to school and you can find further back to school information for parents on the government [website](#).

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory from September, as the government expects all children to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

If you have received clinical or public health advice that your child should still remain at home, please provide us with evidence and continue to follow that guidance. We will be offering remote education to these children **only**.

Safety measures

When your child comes into school, we will have the following protective measures in place (please refer to our [risk assessment](#) for a full breakdown of these):

Drop Off/Collection

In order to maximise social distancing and reduce the crossover of classes once inside the building, we will be operating staggered drop off/collection times using the main entrance and KS1 entrance (both on Fairholt Road) as follows:

Group A <ul style="list-style-type: none">• drop off at 8.45am• collect at 3.00pm	Group B <ul style="list-style-type: none">• drop off at 9.00am• collect at 3.15pm
NR Cherry FS Hazel 1 Chestnut 2 Beech 3 Bay 4 Lilac 5 Redwood 6 Oak	FS Holly 1 Willow 2 Cedar 3 Mulberry 4 Juniper 5 Sycamore 6 Maple

- The school gates will open at 8.30am in the morning and 2.50pm at the end of the school day.
- Group B children who are siblings of children in Group A should arrive at 8.45am and wait in the playground until their 9.00am start time.
- Group A children must be collected at 3.00pm and parents/carers should wait in the playground to collect any siblings in Group B until they finish at 3.15pm.
- There will be a one way system of entering through the main gate and exiting out of the KS1 gate on either side of the school day for all adults and children. You will not be able to double back round to the main path.
- Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will enter their classrooms from the KS1 playground and Years 3 to 6 from the central playgrounds as normal. Each KS2 year group will enter the building by a different door. Staff will be on hand to direct everyone.
- We ask that everyone keeps to the allocated drop off and collection times to ensure a smooth and safe beginning and end to the school day.
- Latecomers will need to come to the area outside the office where they will be signed in.
- It is very important that parents and carers do not break social distancing guidelines when dropping/collecting their children at school. Please drop/collect your child and leave the school vicinity immediately maintaining at least a 1m distance between each other. We ask that only one adult comes to school to drop off/collect.
- As our cloakrooms are small enclosed spaces, the children should not bring anything to school other than a named water bottle, their packed lunch if you do not want them to have a school meal, their school bag and/or book bag and a coat or sun hat if required. Children bringing scooters or bikes will need to be able to store them independently and without adult assistance.
- For children in Year 6, we encourage parents and carers to accompany their children to and from school to ensure they do not congregate together and break social distancing rules to and from school.

Grouping and Staffing

When the children return in September, they will be taught as a whole class. To be kept safe, they will be taught mainly by their class teacher and class based teaching assistants, however, they can also attend small Read-Write-Inc groups, intervention classes (both small group and 1:1s).

The government guidance is that each class may operate in this way as a “bubble” within school and will have limited contact with other staff or children. From Year 2, desks will be set up in rows so that children are not facing each other. Each child will have their own set of resources (pencils, pens, etc.) in an individual tray on their desk space, to limit movement around the classroom. Children will line up when coming into class, in the order of back row to front row to ease movement into classrooms and avoid children having to pass each other once seated. Where staff need to work with individual children or small groups of children from more than one bubble, care will be taken to maintain distancing.

Along with children’s individual resources, the class will have some of its own shared resources, which will be frequently cleaned. Any resources that need to be shared between classes will be cleaned between uses. Children will be permitted to take their reading books home, as well as any homework activities.

Lunches

Children will be provided with a cooked meal in school each day if required. To minimise contact between different year groups:

- Lunchtime will be staggered between 11.45am and 1.30pm
- The school will make use of the dining room and lower hall

- Both spaces will be cleaned between each setting
- Seating will ensure that children do not sit facing each other

For more information about school meals, menus and packed lunches please go to the school website and check our [School Dinners](#) page

Playtimes and Lunchtimes

To minimise contact between different year groups we will make the most of our spacious playgrounds and assign areas for each year group. Playtimes will be staggered and toilets cleaned frequently.

Uniform & PE Kit

It is expected that all children attending school will be wearing the school uniform. Uniform can be purchased from Trutex (Crossbow Schoolwear), 31, Broadway Market, E8 4PH. Opening hours are 9.30am to 5.00pm weekdays and 9.30am to 3.00pm on Saturdays. You can also order online at www.trutexhackney.com

From Monday 7th September PE lessons will resume and class timetables will be emailed to parents later this week. On PE days children are required to come to school wearing their PE Kit as this will reduce the time and space required for children to change in and out of their uniform. This will remain the case for at least the first half term.

Parent/Carer Contact

Our office will be open, however we will not be able to welcome parents into the school office or classrooms in person. You will be able to phone the school office on 020 8800 1411 or continue to email parents@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk with any queries. You can contact your child's class teacher via the class email address (we will inform parents of these in September), but it will not be possible for any face to face contact to take place for the time being.

Medication

If your child uses regular medication (inhalers, epipens, etc.) please ensure you provide the school with these. You can drop these off at the Medication Drop-Off point in the main playground From Thursday 3rd September to Monday 7th September 2020. All medication must be accompanied by a fully completed Parental Request to Administer Medication form which can be found on our [Useful Links](#) page on the school website.

Minimising Contact

While class bubbles and organisational routines outlined above will support us to follow the Department for Education's guidance, we want to be very clear with parents and carers that enforcing distance between the children will be very challenging.

We will encourage distancing when the children are inside and we will position the desks in Years 2 to 6 to allow for this. There will be a one way system (as much as is possible) in place throughout school and the toilets will be monitored to make sure there is only a certain number of children inside at any one time. Frequent handwashing between sessions will be supervised.

In Nursery, Reception and Year 1, minimising contact between the children will not be possible as their age, the curriculum and activities do not support this.

We will try and discourage any hand holding and games which involve contact such as tag. Our PE lessons will avoid teaching contact sports.

All of the above will be done in a sensitive and age appropriate manner and we will use child friendly resources to promote this. The children will be reminded of the rules each day and this is the [Welcome Back to Sir Thomas Abney September 2020 Powerpoint](#) they will watch, please have a look so that you can support us in reminding them how they can stay safe in school.

We have been asked about children and staff wearing masks when in school. Government guidelines are that any kind of PPE is not required for normal classroom practice and masks should not be worn in school. If you wish your child to wear a mask to and from school, this is your choice and we ask that you show them how to remove and store their masks safely.

The school has purchased PPE for staff to wear should a child become unwell with symptoms of coronavirus and they need to care for them before they are collected by a parent or carer.

Staff who will be providing intimate care and first aid will be provided with PPE.

Infection Control

If any child or any member of their household displays symptoms of coronavirus, they should **NOT** attend school. Testing is available to children and members of their household and staff via the [NHS](#). If a child or member of staff tests positive then the school will take all necessary actions to limit the spread of coronavirus, including the possibility of closing the school to all pupils at short notice.

Parents and carers need to contact the school to report any absence due to sickness immediately and make arrangements to collect their child quickly if they become unwell during the school day.

Children will be supervised washing their hands regularly. This will be done when the children arrive, before and after each session, play and lunchtimes and before they go home. In addition we have alcohol based hand sanitiser across the school site and children can bring their own if they wish.

Cleaning

The whole school site has been deep cleaned during the lockdown and will be thoroughly cleaned over the summer holidays. All classrooms and shared equipment will be cleaned thoroughly every day and regular cleaning of corridors, toilets, doors, handles, etc., will take place throughout the day.

Wrap around care

Breakfast Club and After School Play Centre will run from 7th September, but in accordance with government guidelines and adult pupil ratios, we will not be able to offer the provision to the usual number of children. We understand that this may cause difficulties with childcare arrangements and we will aim to extend the offer to more children once it is safe to do so.

Curriculum

Although there will need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we will be doing our very best to provide an ambitious, broad and creative curriculum for all of the children. The government has suggested that all schools work towards providing the normal curriculum by summer 2021.

Our current plan is to:

- Assess the children coming back into school to identify any gaps in their knowledge created over lockdown
- Whilst teaching our IPC topics; prioritise Reading, Writing, Maths and Personal Social, Health & Economic (PSHE) education
- Provide catch up lessons for all and phonics interventions for our youngest children
- Continue to improve the curriculum to ensure that it is diverse and reflects our school community
- Continue to make use of Google Classroom and plan for its use in the event of a localised lockdown or due to individuals or groups of children having to self-isolate

Pastoral Support and Wellbeing

We are aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for some of our families. Please let us know if you think your child feels particularly anxious about coming back to school or they have experienced bereavement. You can email us from Tuesday 1st September on parents@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk with any concerns so that we can organise the best way in which to support your child.

Our current plans to support the children's wellbeing are to:

- Offer all children additional PSHE lessons that focus on returning to school and setting out their hopes and goals for the school year
- Helping individual children who have difficulty reengaging with school by offering group and 1:1 pastoral support
- Offering personalised programmes to children with special educational needs

We are extremely grateful for all of the support you have provided your children during this time. We will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government guidance.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Best wishes

G Fitzmaurice

Geraldine Fitzmaurice
Executive Headteacher

