



26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Full Re-opening of Sir Thomas Abney School to all pupils on Monday 8th March 2021

As you are likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils for face-to-face teaching from **Monday 8th March 2021** and we are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back.

Attendance

From 8 March, school attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance daily and following up on any absences.

As a reminder, your child should self-isolate and **not** come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice and we ask that you provide the school with a copy of your child's shielding letter.

For children who are self-isolating or shielding, we will continue to provide remote learning. Class teachers will upload pre-prepared work on to Google Classroom for English, Maths and Science, and your child will be instructed to access additional work on the PE, Spanish, Music and wellbeing classrooms. Any feedback on work uploaded to Google Classroom will be completed at the end of the school day.

Our Safety measures

Rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure our staff and children can return to school safely. The protective measures remain much the same as those that were in place during the Autumn term and are outlined below. Please refer to our [risk assessment](#) for a full breakdown of these.

Face Coverings for adults

From 8th March, we ask that ALL adults wear a face covering when entering and moving around the school site, including playgrounds. Children will **not** be required to wear one.

To ensure everyone's safety, please ensure that you:

- Support this request and remember to bring a face covering
- Wear the face covering for the duration of the time on site
- Ensure that it is worn correctly
- Put in writing to the school office any exemption from wearing a face covering by Friday 5th March.

Drop Off/Collection

In order to maximise social distancing and reduce the crossover of classes once inside the building, we will be again 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.
- 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

To keep everyone safe, the children will continue to be taught mainly by their class teacher and supported by class based teaching assistants, however, they will also be able to attend small Read-Write-Inc groups and intervention classes (both small group and 1:1s).

The government guidance continues to recommend that each class operates in this way as a “bubble” within school and has limited contact with other staff or children. From Year 3, 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. 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.

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, but it will not be possible for any face to face contact to take place without a prior appointment being arranged by the school office. Details of the next parents open afternoon will follow shortly.

Medication

If your child uses regular medication (inhalers, epipens, etc.) please ensure you provide the school with these. 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. Please contact the school office on 020 8800 1411 before dropping off medication.

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 and extra cleaning staff are employed on a daily basis. 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 the after school playcentre will resume from 8th March, and in accordance with government guidelines this is for the children of working parents and for parents in higher education. If your child attended either breakfast club or the after school playcentre in the Autumn term and you would like this to continue, please email parents@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk by Wednesday 3rd March.

Curriculum

We will be continuing to provide an ambitious, broad and creative curriculum for all of the children, whilst also addressing any gaps in their knowledge and understanding. We aim to make use of the full range of resources available to us, including our fantastic outdoor spaces. Additional funding will continue to support our effective tutoring programme for those who have fallen behind as well as the implementation of our phonics and reading interventions for our youngest children.

Pastoral Support and Wellbeing

We are aware that this 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 you feel they may require additional support by emailing us: pastoral@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
- 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

This has been a challenging period for all of us, and we would like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. We would also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We will continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Warm regards,

G Fitzmaurice

Geraldine Fitzmaurice
Executive Headteacher

