

06 September 2021

Dear Parents and carers

COVID-19 Update and Protocols

It was lovely to see so many smiling faces in the playground today and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Meet the Team meetings later this week. Most importantly, it is wonderful to see the children in their classrooms! I thought that, now that we are back in full swing, it would be helpful to send a letter outlining our COVID-19 protocols and what to do in different circumstances.

The Government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should now operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. To this end, we have followed much of the national guidance but also ensured that we have tailored our risk assessments to meet the needs of our school and our community.

School Start and Finish Times

- As you know, we have introduced a soft start (**8:45-8:55am**) to the school day to replace the staggered starts but still give a slightly wider window for children coming into school. This is designed to avoid large numbers of adults gathering in the playground and to enable children to have time to hand wash as they arrive in class. **Gates will close promptly at 9am** so if your child arrives after this time, they will be marked as late, as registers will have already been taken.
- Full time Nursery pupils start at 9:00am and part time at 8:30am or 12:30pm.
- School will finish at **3:15pm** (Reception to Year 6).
- Nursery finish time is 11:30am or 3:30pm for Part Time; 3:00pm for Full Time.
- As a reminder, dismissal will be from the following locations:

<i>All Nursery classes from Nursery building</i>	<i>3M – dismissed from Year 3/4 playground</i>
<i>All Reception Classes from their classroom doors</i>	<i>4R – dismissed from external classroom door</i>
<i>1R – dismissed from external classroom door</i>	<i>4O – dismissed from Year 3/4 playground</i>
<i>1O – dismissed from the ramp by Staff Room</i>	<i>4M – dismissed from Year 3/4 playground</i>
<i>1M – dismissed from external classroom door</i>	<i>5R – dismissed from Year 5/6 playground</i>
<i>2R – dismissed from Year 1/2 playground</i>	<i>5O – dismissed from Year 5/6 playground</i>
<i>2O – dismissed from external classroom door</i>	<i>5M – dismissed from Year 1/2 playground</i>
<i>2M – dismissed from Year 3/4 playground</i>	<i>6R – dismissed by Monkey Bars</i>
<i>3R – dismissed from Year 3/4 playground</i>	<i>6O – dismissed by Monkey Bars</i>
<i>3O – dismissed from external classroom door</i>	<i>6M – dismissed from Year 1/2 playground</i>

- The one-way system will still be in place, and we ask you to enter from the vehicle gate and walk around, exiting from the gate by the main office in order to avoid too much congestion.
- In order to avoid overcrowding, we are still advising that there should only be one parent per child dropping off and collecting children but we do understand that younger siblings (and pushchairs) may need to come with parents; please just ensure that they are with you at all times.

Updates to Covid Restrictions

No More Bubbles - The children will no longer be kept in consistent groups ('bubbles'). However, if there is a school or local outbreak, there is a possibility that bubbles may be reintroduced for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups.

Hygiene - Hand washing and hand sanitising is still essential to minimise the spread of the virus, so children will be hand washing and sanitising regularly throughout the day.

Seating - Children do not need to be seated in front facing rows any longer; staff will be grouping children according to the needs of the class and the lessons taught.

Cleaning - Additional cleaning of key touch points will continue during the day, as this is still recommended.

Ventilation - We are still required to maintain good airflow through the school, so will continue to have windows and doors open.

Lateral Flow Tests - Staff will continue to test twice weekly and we ask that families continue to test too, in order to identify any positive cases.

Face Masks - Although the wearing of masks is now not compulsory, many members of our community, including our own staff, may still prefer to wear one for their own safety and the safety of others. We will still ask parents to wear masks when coming inside the building for meetings.

Managing Covid Cases

- Staff or children **MUST NOT** come into school if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- As has always been the case, the three main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:
 - a high temperature
 - a new, continuous cough
 - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- If you or your child has symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. You can arrange this online by clicking here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. Click here for the latest [guidance](#)
- The self-isolation period starts immediately from when your symptoms started, or, if you do not have any symptoms, from when your test was taken. Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.
- If anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, however mild, they will be sent home. They will be taken to a room to isolate until collected. **Please ensure that all your emergency contact details are up to date.**

Close Contacts

- The school will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. This is now being carried out by NHS Test and Trace.
- Close contacts will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and informed that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.
- We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.
- Individuals **DO NOT** have to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- This means that all primary aged children identified as a close contact should come to school as normal unless they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive PCR test result.

Communication

- Although it is now not a requirement to inform parents of cases within classes, I believe it is important for us to communicate as openly and honestly as possible. Therefore, we will aim to inform parents when there is a positive case within the classroom so that you are able to keep a closer eye on your children at home.
- Please inform the school immediately if your child or anyone in the household has symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19, as well as if you have been in close contact – this will help us to stay up to date.
- Please phone 020 8886 3216 during the school day (8am-4pm) or email covid@hazelwood.enfield.sch.uk outside of school hours (4pm-8am or weekends).
- Even if you or your child are not required to isolate, it is still helpful for us to know if you have been identified as a close contact so that we can keep an extra eye for the development of symptoms.

I hope this guidance is clear and helpful. It is certainly complicated to navigate the endless Government guidance and regular updates but we will continue to do so, and update our risk assessment accordingly so that we can minimise the risks of infection and maximise the learning opportunities at Hazelwood for our children.

With my very best wishes,



Mr Josh Newham