

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Children's Services

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To Parents & Carers

22 May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Phased return to nursery and primary school in Hammersmith & Fulham

We understand that this has been a very difficult and challenging time for everyone. We are aware that many families have been greatly impacted by the Coronavirus in different ways and some have lost friends and loved ones.

Our school staff inform us how amazing parents and carers have been in supporting their children's learning at home, we understand this hasn't been always easy. This has been particularly difficult for those families with limited space or access to online resources.

As you are aware, nearly all schools in Hammersmith & Fulham are open and supporting children of critical workers, vulnerable children and those with additional needs. We are very proud of the effort made by our schools to remain open, offering advice and guidance to families as well as supporting home-learning.

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, recently announced plans to allow nursery classes and some primary school classes back into schools from the beginning of June 2020. He highlighted the need to support our children's return to school to support their social and emotional wellbeing as well as their continued learning.

We are therefore asking our schools to plan for the gradual return of some children using a **phased approach throughout June**. In addition to offering places for the children of critical workers and those with additional needs identified by schools, some children will be welcomed back to school. This will be once the government has provided final confirmation and, providing schools have the staff available.

Children in **nursery classes (N2), Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** will be prioritised as these groups of children are at very important stages in their development. Please be aware that the government is continuing to review the rate of infection as well as scientific advice on risk and may change decisions if necessary.

It is understandable that parents will have concerns about the Coronavirus risk and so we would like to share with you what measures have been put into place to support your child(ren) return to school. Schools will ask children to return to school gradually and in smaller groups to reduce the risks of infection. Schools will be putting in place a number of additional measures to reduce the risk of infection including use of outdoor space, social distancing, staggered start and finish times, alternative arrangements for breaks and lunch time, increased supervised hand washing, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting.

Please note some schools will be ready to open for more children before others as Headteachers will need to consider the availability of staff and how space will be used. **In some cases, schools may not be able to meet the government's ambitions straight away.** We ask for your understanding and patience while your child's school makes appropriate arrangements.

Important information:

- If your child is in one of the groups being invited back to school - the school will soon be contacting you to outline the protective steps they have taken to reduce the risk of infection and provide the safest possible environment for your child to learn and play; and to inform you of times and dates your child may be invited back to school.
- If your child is not in one of the groups listed above, teachers will continue to provide guidance and support for home learning. It is hoped that all children will be able to return to school in the near future.
- If your child has specific health needs, please seek the advice of their GP about returning to school. For the few children who are 'extremely clinically vulnerable', they still need to be shielding at home.
- If there is someone in your home who is at greater risk of coronavirus due to being elderly, pregnant or have a medical condition, your child can still attend school. Please speak to a member of staff if you have specific concerns.
- If there is someone in your home who is shielding as a result of being 'extremely clinically vulnerable', your child should only attend school if social distancing can be maintained, otherwise we will support them to learn at school.
- If you have specific concerns and worries about your child returning to school in June or July, please contact your child's school directly to discuss these concerns and ask any questions about the arrangements put in place.

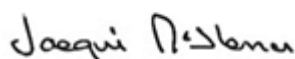
Useful resources for parents and carers

BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

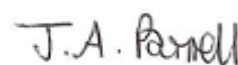
Oak Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/information-for-parents-pupils/>

We hope you have found this letter useful. We will continue to review the situation in light of further government guidance on 28 May.

Yours sincerely



Jacqui McShannon
Director of Children's Services



Jan Parnell
Assistant Director of Education