



Elmridge Primary School  
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Head of School: Mark Edmundson

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well and have begun to enjoy a little more normality in recent weeks with the further relaxing of the Government's covid restrictions. The national and local infection rates have decreased which is welcome news before the summer break and the return to school in September.

I am writing to provide you with important information about Elmridge's plans for the return to school in September.

We can't wait to welcome back all pupils again for the new academic year on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

Our aim is to make school feel as normal as possible for our pupils, whilst, at the same time implementing the protective measures recommended by the Government. Plans have been formulated for re-opening in September after a full risk assessment in consultation with Trafford Borough Council and the Local Governing Body.

### Attendance expectations

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

### Protective measures

#### **Bubble system**

We will employ a "bubble system" in school which keeps interaction between groups of pupils and adults to a minimum. Each bubble will consist of two classes- Nursery and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2; Year 3 and Year 4; and Year 5 and Year 6. The classes within each bubble will share playtimes and lunchtimes which will be staggered to encourage distancing and avoid bubbles mixing.



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### Entering and exiting school

As part of the protective measures that we are taking, there will be a staggered start and a staggered end to the day. The times for drop off and pick up are the following:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Arrival	8:45	8:45	8:45	9:05	9:05	9:05
Departure	3:10	3:10	3:10	3:25	3:25	3:25

Nursery and Reception parents will receive separate letters with start and finish times as well as drop off and collection points included.

If you have more than one child attending the school, please drop your children off and pick your children up at the earlier time.

The current one-way system that runs through the school premises will continue in September. The system ensures that families can maintain distance whilst dropping off and picking up. The one way system relies upon parents accessing the school through the Wilton Drive entrance gate and exiting via the High Elm Drive back gate. The only exception to that are the families dropping off pupils in Year 1, who can enter via the Wilton Drive gate and then exit via the pedestrian gate next to the car park gates. Those Year 1 parents dropping off other children will then re-join the main path and exit via the High Elm Drive gate.

It is vital that parents/carers and children arrive punctually to ensure that this system can work efficiently and safely. We would really appreciate your support on this.

Please keep the number of adults dropping off and picking up pupils to a minimum and parents are respectfully requested not to gather on the playground and, in order to support social distancing to leave the premises directly after dropping off and picking up their child.

As a further protective measure, for many classes, children will enter and exit school through different doors from our usual entry and exit points. This is to keep the number of pupils moving through narrow doorways and along corridors to a minimum.

Entry and Exit points are the following:

Year 1- The Year 1 outside area gate

Year 2- The top of the infant slope

Year 3- The playground doors, outside the Year 3 classroom (at the bottom of the staircase)

Year 4- The Year 4 classroom outside door

Year 5- The playground doors, opposite the Year 3 classroom (at the bottom of the staircase)

Year 6- The playground doors, opposite the Year 3 classroom (at the bottom of the staircase)

### Hygiene

We will continue to secure the highest levels of hygiene in school

- Pupils will clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- The school will enforce good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Enhanced cleaning will continue including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach



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### **Covid symptoms**

If your child or any member of your family is ill and displaying covid symptoms, please do not send them into school. In this situation please follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. Parents/carers must inform school immediately on the results of a test.

### **Adults on the premises**

Visitors to the school will be kept to a minimum. Parents should avoid coming into the entrance area of school to speak to the office staff if the enquiry can be dealt with via a telephone conversation or e-mail.

### **Wrap around care**

School will be offering wrap around care from 7.30am to 6pm. The school will be running its own breakfast club and Kids Collective will be offering after school provision. Please contact the school office or Kids Collective directly for details on how to book a place for your child.

### **Uniform**

Pupils will be expected to wear a full school uniform apart from the days when they have PE. On those days they will come in their PE kit. Teachers will let you know which day your child has PE at the beginning of the new academic year, so unless you are advised otherwise, please send your child in full (summer) uniform on the first day of term.

### **Curriculum**

The school will continue to offer a broad and ambitious curriculum with a wide range of subjects represented. Pupils in each year group will be assessed soon after returning to school, and timetables will then be adapted to support pupils in catching up on any core maths and English skills where ground may have been lost. To support pupils in returning to a more normal school routine and recovering from any after effects of lockdown, we will be encouraging more physical exercise and offering daily well-being activities such as yoga and meditation. Pupils will have regular class circle times where they will get opportunities to discuss their experiences of and thoughts about the pandemic and the way that it has affected them. It is important to contextualise these feelings and staff will be able to support pupils and families if required.

### **After School Activities**

The school will not be running after school activities from the beginning of the new academic year. The provision of after school activities will be reviewed again towards the end of September.

### **Bags and equipment**

School will provide stationery for the pupils so there is no need for pupils to bring pencil cases into school. Pupils can bring bags into school but the bags should only contain essentials like packed lunches, reading books, homework books and a water bottle. Pupils should not bring in anything else from home.



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## School Meals

Hot school meals will be available to every pupil using the ParentPay booking and payment (if applicable) system. We will advise when we have rolled over the academic year and booking can commence.

## Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating

Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Read the [current advice on shielding](#)

Some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health at [COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people](#).

## Families who are travelling over the summer holidays

Families travelling abroad this summer should be aware of the travel corridor exemptions in place for the UK before making any plans. If holidays to countries without this exemption are taken, this may require self-isolation on returning to the UK and mean that pupils are not able to return to school on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Please follow this link for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

## Pupils and families who are anxious about the return to school

If you or your child is anxious about the return to school in September, please contact us to share your/their concerns. Our staff will be happy to discuss any concerns through with you or talk to your child to reassure them.

Thank you again for all your support and understanding during the last few months. The staff will be delighted to see you and your children again in September. They have undertaken training and prepared meticulously to ensure that the return to school is as smooth as possible for every child.

Kind regards,

Mark Edmundson  
Head of School



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