



Evelyn Street, SE8 5RJ
 Tel: 020 8692 4351
 Fax: 020 8694 0116

E-Mail: info@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk
 Web: www.deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk

Friday, 4 September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

I hope you have had a good summer and that your child is feeling positive about returning to school next week. We are certainly looking forward to welcoming them back! As I am sure you are aware, it will not yet be a complete return to normality. I am writing to remind you all of the procedures that are in place to support a smooth transition back to school. This correspondence was already sent to you at the end of last term. The following table highlights school starting and finishing times, as well as locations for picking up and dropping off. Each bubble is staggered:

	Start time	Break time	Lunch time	End time
EYFS	Nursery: 8.55 Gold: 8:55am Copper: 9:05am Enter via the Nursery/Reception Gate	N/A	11:45am – 12:30pm 11:45am eat lunch (Dance Studio) Play on the Back Field	Nursery:12pm Gold: 3:20pm Copper: 3:30pm Exit via the Nursery/Reception Gate
Year 2	Yellow: 8:30am Purple: 8:40am Enter via the Main Gate	10:15am-10:30am KS1 Playground (B)	12pm-12:45pm 12pm eat lunch (Infant Hall) Play in Infant Playground	Yellow: 2:50pm Purple: 3pm Exit via the Main Gate
Year 6	8:30am Enter via the Football Cage Gate	10:00am-10:20am Football Cage	12pm-12:45pm 12pm eat lunch (Junior Hall) Play in KS2 Playground (B)	2:50pm Exit via the Football Cage Gate
Year 1	Rose: 8:50am Green: 9:00am Enter via the Main Gate	10:15am-10:30am KS1 Playground (A)	12:30pm-1:15pm 12:30pm eat lunch (Infant Hall) Play in Infant Playground	Rose 3:10pm Green: 3:20pm Exit via the Main Gate
Year 5	8:50am Enter via the Football Cage Gate	10:20am-10:40am KS2 Playground (A)	12pm-12:45pm 12:15pm eat lunch (Junior Hall) Play in KS2 Playground (A)	3:10pm Exit via the Football Cage Gate
Year 3	Ruby 9:10am Diamond: 9:20am Enter via the Football Cage Gate	10:40am-11am KS2 Playground (B)	12:45pm-1:30pm 1pm eat lunch (Junior Hall) Play in KS2 Playground (B)	Ruby: 3:30pm Diamond: 3:40pm Exit via the Football Cage Gate

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Year 4	9:10am Enter via the Main Gate	10:45am-11:05am KS2 Playground (A)	12:45pm-1:30pm 1pm eat lunch (Junior Hall) Play in KS2 Playground (A)	3:30pm Exit via the Main Gate
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We strongly urge parents to collect and drop off swiftly to avoid congestion. Late or very early parent arrivals will have a negative knock on effect on efforts to keep everyone safe.

The government has asked that all schools share the links below with parents and carers. Please take time to read the messages:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)

[2020.08.24_BackToSchool_Primary_A4Leaflet_Eng.pdf](#)

Principles underpinning our approach

Our approach is to balance the risk that Covid presents to the school community against wider risks to the general health and welfare of pupils. In practice, that means that we will do our utmost to provide as full a school experience as possible subject to all mandatory Government controls. We will continue to emphasise the importance of following guidance and we will explain why it is important to do so; the risk to pupils from Covid appears to be very low indeed but they have a duty to cooperate fully with the effort to reduce its spread for the sake of others who may be more vulnerable.

Our response is based on a central risk assessment that has been informed by advice and guidance from Department for Education, the Local Authority and Public Health England. These arrangements are subject to ongoing review.

I have summarised some of the headline measures below but I hope you will contact us if you have any questions.

In case of symptoms at home

It is most important that your child does not come to school if they or any member of your household has symptoms of Covid, no matter how mild. The latest guidance regarding symptoms and isolation must be followed. We realise that, in many cases, those displaying symptoms may not have Covid but it is essential that the guidance is followed to the letter. Those with symptoms should arrange a test as soon as possible and keep the school informed so that we are able to engage with the Test and Trace process.

Returning to school after quarantine

The Government has imposed quarantine for 14 days for those people who have been in a number of countries. Please note that the list, which is kept under review, currently includes France and Spain among other countries and applies even to transit stops. This means if you have arrived back to the UK from a country to which quarantine regulations apply, you will need to calculate your child's start date at school with regard to the 14-day quarantine period. If your

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child is unable to start school on time, please inform us as soon as possible.

In case of symptoms at school

We have procedures in place in case a child (or a member of staff) starts to display symptoms at school; the risk to others will be reduced if they can be picked up from school promptly.

Travel to and from school

All children are encouraged to walk to school if possible.

Face masks/covering

Face coverings will not be required in school. If your child wears a face covering to and from school, it should be taken home by you or kept within a sealed plastic bag inside their bag for the duration of the school day. Face coverings should be removed at the school entrance on arrival.

Personal hygiene

Extra sinks have been installed around the school to facilitate more frequent handwashing and all children are required to wash their hands on arrival at school. We will continue to remind the children of the need for regular handwashing and other aspects of hygiene such as

'catch it, bin it, kill it'.

Water bottles

We strongly recommend that all children bring a clearly labelled water bottle with them to school.

Lunch

Hot meals will be served at lunchtime although the arrangements for serving food have been changed to reflect current guidelines on food and to facilitate distancing. Please let the school office know if your child would like a school meal.

Medicines

If your child has medicine kept at school (asthma pump, EpiPen etc), these must be brought into school on the day they start in a named container and handed over to the member of staff on gate duty. If there has been a change to your child's medical needs, please email the office with details before they are due to start.

Visiting school

We greatly value the informal contact between parents at the start and especially at the end of the school day. Sadly, however, until further notice we will not be able to receive visitors to Reception without an appointment. If you need to speak to someone at school, you can arrange to speak with them by phone or contact them by email info@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk.

Pupil Mobile Phones (Y6 Only)

These can only be brought to school with permission; however, it will be in school at your risk. Unfortunately we can no longer securely store them. If absolutely necessary and only with my permission, they can be brought to school and given to the class teacher in a plastic wallet e.g. a sandwich bag. Phones will be stored in the classroom until the end of the day. However, during the pandemic we cannot accept liability for the loss of property and strongly advise that phones are NOT brought into school. Please note that any child found with a mobile phone in his/her possession during the school day will have the phone confiscated until an adult can collect it.

By next Wednesday we will see the whole school return. I am asking that parents observe the collection and drop of times. Parents who are late/early dropping off or collecting will increase the risk of congestion, which in turn will make social distancing harder to maintain. Where possible, just one parent should be present during drop off and collection. We will closely monitor how this system works and if necessary, make changes to further improve it.

As with every plan, it is necessary to review our procedures. We invite parents to help with this process. Please communicate any observations or constructive comments to the school office via email. You will not be able to visit the reception area as parents are not currently allowed to enter the site unless by appointment. We are always keen to listen to your views in order to develop more efficient systems.

Here are some ways you can help your child prepare for start of the term:

- Encouraging conversations about how your child feels about returning to school and email their teacher about significant anxieties/concerns;
- Reassuring children that it is ok to feel sad, anxious, excited, enthusiastic or otherwise about returning to school - children will have a mixed bag of emotions and so will staff!
- Ensuring they have their bottle of water, full school uniform, and come to school in PE kit on the days they have PE, they will not need uniform on those days - remember there is no need for a pencil case;
- Encouraging increased hygiene habits (hand washing, cough/sneezing advice - catch it, bin it, kill it);
- Reminding children not to touch their face or put their fingers in their mouth.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school and a productive and enjoyable term.

Sincerely,



Ken Johnson

headteacher@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk

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