

Moving Forward Together

Date: 13th July 2020

The government has mapped out its plan for children to return to school. Whilst this plan is subject to change, the below attempts to answer some of the questions you may have about this. As always, we are here to support you in any way we can. Please feel free to message us through Studybugs, email: info@kensington.tlft.academy or call with any questions that are not answered below.

Q. When are we returning?

- A. All children in Y1-6 will be back at school on Monday 7th September 2020. We will open the main gate at 8.30am and the doors to the school will be open at 8.40am.

Children in Reception and Nursery will have been given their start dates individually.

Q. What uniform should children wear?

- A. Children should wear their PE kits: trainers; tracksuit trousers (navy blue, black or grey); t-shirt or polo shirt (white); fleece, sweatshirt or cardigan (navy blue).

Q. Will Breakfast Club and 6 o'clock Club be open?

- A. Yes. Both Breakfast Club and 6 o'clock Club will be open again. You must have let us know in advance if your child is going to attend on Monday 7th September.

Q. Will you be running after school clubs?

- A. Yes. We intend to run after school clubs. These will be run in year groups to minimise contact and mixing. This will mean a reduced choice for children but, over the course of the year, they should all have an opportunity to attend a club they will love to do. Children will be collected at their normal staircase after clubs: Y3 and 6 - Staircase 1; Y1 - Staircase 2; Y2 - Staircase 3; Y2 and 4 - Staircase 4; Reception - Individual classes.

Q. Can children ride their bikes or scooters?

- A. Yes. We are installing additional bike and scooter racks over the Summer and we would very much encourage all children to cycle, scoot or walk as it is great for their health and the environment.

Q. Can children bring a book bag?

- A. Yes. We would ask children to only bring items from home that are absolutely necessary but they are welcome to bring their book bags as they will be getting library books again and other work.

Q. We have library books at home, should my child bring these back?

- A. Yes please. We do not have lots of money to buy new books so please make sure any books you have are returned.

Q. We have lots of work my child did during lockdown, should we bring this in?

- A. We are delighted your child did lots of work over the lockdown. Please keep this at home as a memory of everything that happened during that most challenging time.

Q. When will we get my child's exercise books from last year?

A. All of your child's books are safely stored and will be sent home towards the end of the first half-term.

Q. Can my child bring a pack lunch or come home for lunch?

A. Your child is entitled to a hot, free, healthy lunch every day. We would much rather they chose this option as it both minimises risk and provides them with the nutrition they need to get through a busy day of school. However, if you feel very strongly that this is not the right option for your child, they will be allowed to bring a packed lunch or go home for lunch. We would ask that you consider this very carefully before making a decision and, would encourage you to at least have your child try a school lunch for the first few weeks.

Q. I am worried about my child returning. What should I do?

A. We completely understand that some parents and some children will be anxious about coming back to school. This has been an extremely difficult time. If you are concerned, please contact the school to speak to someone. We will be calling all of you the week before we come back to answer your questions anyway. What I know for certain is that the longer you leave it, the harder it will be. You will just need to be brave for the sake of your child and get them back into school.

Q. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in the school?

A. Anyone who has coronavirus symptoms must be tested through the Test and Trace service. If anyone were to have a positive test, they would provide advice and support to us on what to do next. We are minimising contact and mixing between children and between groups wherever this is practicable. This will help to reduce the need of isolation if we were to have a positive test in the school community.

Q. Does my child need to wear a mask and gloves in school?

A. No. The medical evidence is clear that a mask and gloves (Personal Protective Equipment) do not provide protection when people are together for a long period of time. In fact, they can increase the risk of disease if handled incorrectly. As education professionals, we would also say they should not be worn as this will make it a very distressing environment for children as well as seriously impact on children's ability to communicate. Any child wearing a mask or gloves will be asked to take this off.

Q. Will school staff be wearing masks and gloves in school?

A. No. For the same reason as above, school staff will not be wearing masks and gloves in school. The only time this will be used is if staff are either in contact with people for a short-period, for example on the gate in the morning, or where they are dealing with a child who is exhibiting coronavirus symptoms.

Q. Do I need to wash my child's clothes every day?

A. No. There is no need to do anything additional to what you would normally do for your general hygiene and cleanliness.

Q. My child is no longer getting house points. Why not?

A. We are currently reviewing all of our systems for encouraging positive behaviour. At this time, we have stopped giving out house points as they are another potential way of transmitting coronavirus and this helps to further reduce the risk to your child and yourselves.

Q. What is happening with Meet the Teacher and the RSHE meetings?

A. We will be holding virtual Meet the Teacher and RSHE meetings. You will be receiving information about these in September. We do hope you can join us in this brave new world!

Q. How should I travel to school?

A. Ideally you will walk or cycle/scoot as this is healthy and minimises risk. If this is not possible, please follow the guidance on using public transport including maintaining social distancing and wearing a face covering. Please do not drive unless it is essential as it causes problems outside the school as well as pollution, which can affect children's health.

Q. How will you support children who are coming back to school?

A. We are very fortunate at Kensington. Everything that is being suggested by experts and the Department for Education is already part of Curriculum K! We will be focusing on our health curriculum and helping children understand their feelings as well as getting them physically fit again. We'll also be using some of our new communication curriculum to help them rebuild friendships, negotiate with other children, and rebuild some of the skills they may have lost over this time. For any children who are really finding it hard, we also have lots of support through Place2Be, our mental health first aiders, and our whole range of expert, caring staff.

Q. Will children be following their normal curriculum?

A. Yes. We will be back to Curriculum K, which will combine the same level of academic rigour we have always had with the key elements your children need to thrive in the 21st century: Health, Communication, Technology, and Culture.

Q. Are the timings of the day the same?

A. Mainly, yes. Please aim to arrive between 8.40 and 8.55am. The doors will be open and children will be able to go straight up. The gates will open from 8.30am in case people using public transport find it hard to time their journey precisely. Please do not arrive before 8.30am as we cannot have people waiting outside the school. Children will be collected at 3.15pm as usual. Please do not arrive before 3.15pm.

Q. Will I be able to speak to a member of staff?

A. Yes. Our leadership will be outside in the morning to answer any queries you may have. After school, we will all be outside. However, we would appreciate it if you only spoke to staff to ask and answer quick queries. We are trying to minimise face-to-face contact still. Any longer conversations, please send through Studybugs, email to: info@kensington.ttl.academy, or phone the school office. We will make sure all messages are passed to the appropriate member of staff and someone will get back to you promptly.

Q. What if my child has symptoms of coronavirus?

A. If your child has symptoms of coronavirus - high fever, new continuous cough - please arrange a test through the Test and Trace service immediately. Keep them at home and follow the self-isolation guidelines for you and your family until you receive the result of the test. Please let us know the results of the test immediately. Depending on the result, we will either ask you to self-isolate or let you know when you can return to school.

Q. What if I have symptoms of coronavirus?

A. If you are showing any symptoms of coronavirus, please do not come to school. You will need to arrange a test through the Test and Trace service and follow their advice for yourself and your family. While you are waiting for the result, you will need to keep your child at home and follow the guidance on self-isolation.

Q. What if someone in my house has symptoms of coronavirus?

A. If anyone in your house has symptoms of coronavirus, you must arrange a test through the Test and Trace service and follow their advice. Please do not come to school during this time.

Q. Will children be going on Educational Visits?

A. For the first half-term, there will be no educational visits using public transport. Children will continue to go on local visits where they can walk. They will follow all of the precautions.

Q. Can I come into the school Office?

A. We would ask that you only come into the Office if it is essential. We will be limiting this to 2 parents at a time. Please try and ask any questions through Studybugs, info@kensington.ttl.academy, or by phoning.

Q. How can I buy PE kit (uniform) from the school?

A. The only way to buy PE kit (uniform) is by ordering it online through our School Money App. We will not be able to take any orders or payment at the school Office. Once you have paid for your PE kit (uniform) you will be able to collect it from the Office. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide uniform to try on and you will not be able to return any uniform. We know this is not ideal but we hope you understand given the circumstances.

Q. Will Y6 children be going to Fairplay House?

A. We certainly hope so. We are planning to go but we know it may not be possible. For now, it is too early to make a decision. We will continue to talk to you about this once we are back. If they are unable to go, we will look at other options.

Q. What are you doing to make sure children are safe?

A. We have put in place a whole range of measures to keep children safe. We have published a separate document outlining everything that we are doing. It includes: clear processes for anyone with coronavirus symptoms including isolation and PPE; regular handwashing and additional resources for handwashing and respiratory hygiene; lessons

for children on handwashing and keeping themselves safe; no educational visits; no school events; no assemblies.

Q. Will children be kept apart at all times?

A. No. Not only is this not possible, it would be very distressing for the children. We have put in place as many measures as we possibly can to keep the children safe at this time. However, we also have to be realistic. A school with every risk removed would be a really horrible place to be. There is no point children coming back to school if they are going to be stressed and upset. We have done everything we can, whilst maintaining a happy, positive atmosphere for the children.

Q. How will I drop-off my child at the start of the day?

A. At the start of the day, please do not arrive before 8.40am for Reception, Y1 and Y6 (Nursery children can arrive at 8.30am).

Please keep a distance of 1m from all other adults at all times.

You will enter through the main gate.

Please follow the marked path, keeping 1m apart.

Your child should leave you as you get to the correct entrance: Staircase 1 for Y6 and Y3; Staircase 2 for Y5; Staircase 3 for Y1; and Staircase 4 for Y2 and Y4; individual classrooms for Reception and Nursery.

You should try to continue walking. If you have to stop, please only do this very briefly.

You will exit through the Nursery/Reception gate.

Q. How will I collect my child at the end of the day?

A. At the end of the day, please do not arrive before 3.15pm.

Please keep a distance of 1m from all other adults at all times.

You will enter through the main gate.

Please follow the marked path, keeping 1m apart.

Your child should come to you as you get to the correct entrance: Staircase 1 for Y6 and Y4; Staircase 2 for Y5; Staircase 3 for Y1; Staircase 4 for Y2 and Y4; individual classrooms for Reception and Nursery.

You should try to continue walking. If you have to stop, please only do this very briefly.

You will exit through the Nursery/Reception gate.

Q. How can we help?

A. We would ask that you follow the new arrangements in regard to pick-up and drop-off. We would ask that you work with us to support and encourage your children to come back to school. It is essential that we are all in this together. If we get the children back, every day, we will make sure they are ok.

Apart from that, just continue to be your normal, wonderful, supportive selves. It has made such a difference to all the staff throughout this time. We know how stressful this has been. We are all doing everything we can to support the children, the community, and everyone who is involved in making Kensington a place everyone loves to be. Of course, as always, if you do have any concerns or queries then please let us know through Studybugs, info@kensington.tlt.academy or calling the school office.

