



# KENSINGTON Primary School

Inspiring children for exciting futures

**Kensington Primary School  
Return to school: March 8th 2021  
Information for parents and carers**

PEARSON  
NATIONAL  
TEACHING  
AWARDS

The Award for  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE -  
PRIMARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

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**In the interests of everyone's safety, we request your co-operation with adhering to the updated home-time procedures.**

1. Please wear face coverings and follow physical distancing guidelines.
2. Before the current 'lockdown', there were days that we were very concerned about parents/carers waiting on the other side of Kensington Avenue (see the 'orange area' shown on the map), who would then cross over as soon as the gates are opened and this would create 'bottle-necking' by the entry point with the parents that had already been lining up in the area shown in the 'green area' box on the maps.
3. Parents/ carers who have been waiting in the 'green area' to enter will be allowed entry first. Once these have entered the school, we will then allow parents/ carers crossing over from the 'orange area' to then enter the school.
4. We will support with marshalling all of this for next week only. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that these safety procedures are followed. This includes crossing the roads.

You can still collect your child/children **anytime between 3:15pm and 3:30pm**. It would be very helpful if parents/ carers don't all arrive exactly at 3:15pm. Up until 3:30pm, we do not regard this as any form of 'late' collection of your children.

Please try to avoid arriving before 3:10pm, as this increases congestion and makes space for safe social distancing very difficult.

Thank you for your co-operation with this; the safety of everyone is our first priority.

# **Returning to School: Key information for parents 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

## **Onwards**

### **General**

- Drop your child off at school between 8:30- 8:55am
- Collect your children between 3:15 – 3:30
- Nursery morning children need to be collected promptly 11:30am from the nursery gate
- Nursery afternoon children need to be dropped off promptly at 12:30pm at the nursery gate
- The one-way system will still be in place at the beginning and end of school day
- Enter school through the main gate and leave via nursery gate
- Mask must be wore correctly over your nose and mouth whilst on the premises
- Children in KS1 and KS2 can bring their water bottles to school
- No after school clubs until after the Easter Holidays
- Breakfast and 6'0 Clock clubs will start on March 8<sup>th</sup>
- Parents to continue to contact school via Studybugs
- Child absences to still be reported via Studybugs
- Children are to come to school in suitable clothing, shoes/trainer

### **Things to prepare before returning to school**

- Put the school start date in the calendar so that your child can look forward to coming back to school
- Discuss with your child what they love about school
- Remind your child about how to stay safe when returning to school, e.g washing hands and keeping physical distance
- Check child has appropriate clothing and shoes for school
- Establish early bedtimes and practice waking up for school
- Having a healthy breakfast- talking to your child about the importance of eating breakfast in the morning

## Kensington's School Safety Guide 2020-2021

Changes we are making (protective measures to reduce risks)	Potential positives (+) and negatives (-) about the changes	Reasons for the changes to be communicated with your child
More frequent washing of hands	+ may find it reassuring that they are keeping the virus away; may enjoy the sensory stimuli of water - may not like wet/soapy hands or the smell of the soap	Clean hands don't have the virus on
Classes set up to ensure sufficient space between each child	+ less social interaction - your child may miss sitting with friends or having the freedom to sit where they like	To help with social distancing – to stop the virus from spreading
Keeping children within phases and year groups throughout the day	+ less social interaction - may be in a group away from friend(s);	To avoid larger groups of children mixing
<u>Break and lunch-times</u> Children will have their break/lunchtime in their phase using allocated cutlery/plates	+ less social interaction; fewer people in the lunch hall means less noise - Not able to see siblings or friends from other phases in the dining hall	All children are not in one place or moving around the school at the same time to reduce the risk of the virus spreading
Some lessons may be outside	+ may prefer learning outside, not confined in classroom with sensory overload - unfamiliar with outdoor lessons; risk of less structure to lessons and may find it difficult to differentiate between lesson time and break time	The virus is less likely to spread in the open air

<p>Prompt drop-off and collection times for parents at the start and end of day with a one way system</p>	<p>+ may reduce feeling of chaos and bewilderment as crowds of adults and children arrive and disperse</p>	<p>To minimise adult-to-adult and child-to-child contact</p>
<p>Increased cleaning around the school and classrooms less cluttered</p>	<p>+ may prefer a tidier, cleaner environment - sensory issues: smell of cleaning products</p>	<p>Cleaning gets rid of the virus; fewer things in the classroom means less chance of touching something with the virus on</p>
<p>Classroom layout altered– increased spaces between desks</p>	<p>+ less social interaction; may be familiar with layout from practice tests/exams - may be sitting in a different part of the classroom causing anxiety</p>	<p>Less chance of children touching each other and spreading the virus</p>
<p>No more whole school assemblies. Assemblies will be in the classroom.</p>	<p>+ may prefer class assemblies May enjoy new interactive assemblies - may no longer feel a part of a school community</p>	<p>To reduce the number of children in the hall in close proximity. There will also be some interactive whole school assemblies so your child will be part of that virtually.</p>
<p>Playground equipment will not be shared between phases</p>	<p>+ may prefer having one object to play with and not have to share it; - may want to play with something another child has</p>	<p>The virus can be spread by touching the same toy that someone else, who has the virus, has touched</p>

<p>A group of children use the same classroom or area throughout the day</p>	<p>+ may prefer the familiarity of being in the same place - may need movement breaks</p>	<p>To stop the spread of the virus by children sharing classrooms and desks</p>
<p>Limiting the number of children or young people who use the toilet facilities at one time</p>	<p>+ less social interaction - may need to suddenly go to the toilet</p>	<p>To ensure that toilets do not become crowded</p>
<p>After school clubs dismissal of children according to allocated year group staircases</p>	<p>+ the same staircase will be familiar -Might feel unsure of parents not knowing where to collect them</p>	<p>To ensure the safety of children and that parents are aware of new procedures</p>
<p>Breakfast club- separate tables for children from different phases</p>	<p>+to avoid mixing of children from different year groups -Might miss sitting together with other children for breakfast</p>	<p>To ensure social distancing and the safety of children</p>
<p>Wearing of face coverings by adults when not communicating with children</p>	<p>+reduces risk of transmission -some children might find this a bit disconcerting at times</p>	<p>Everyone wearing masks helps reduce the risk of the virus spreading through coughs and sneezes</p>
<p>Wearing of face coverings by parents when on school grounds</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>

Increased ventilation in the building	+movement of air helps to further reduce transmission -may be cold at times	Air moving through the building helps to reduce the risk of the virus spreading
Picking children up between 3.15 and 3.30pm	+reduces crowding outside and inside school grounds -children whose parents arrive later may find this hard	By coming later we can keep everyone safer.

## **Moving Forward Together**

**Date: 8th March 2021**

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 with any questions that are not answered below.

### **Q. When are we returning?**

A. All children will be back at school on Monday 8th March 2021. We will open the main gate at 8.30am and the doors to the school will be open at 8.40am.

### **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 8th March.

### **Q. Will you be running after school clubs?**

A. We will not be running after school clubs straight away. We will have a full-programme of after school clubs from after Easter.

### **Q. Can children ride their bikes or scooters?**

A. Yes. 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 borrowed a laptop, should my child bring this back?**

A. Yes please. We need these back immediately as the children will need them for their learning in school.

### **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. Do I need to wear a mask?**

A. Yes. You must wear a mask when you are on school property unless you are exempt.

**Q. Do I have to come on my own?**

A. Yes. The fewer people; the lower the risk. Please come to school on your own to drop-off and pick-up your children unless there is a very good reason you are unable to do this.

**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 healthy 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. If we haven't already contacted you we will be before the children return. 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 in school?**

A. Your child can wear a mask when they are not communicating with other children and adults - mainly at the start and end of the school day. They will be asked to take this off when they need to talk to others for their learning.

**Q. Will school staff be wearing masks in school?**

A. School staff will wear masks in all communal areas.

**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. Once we have had time with the children we will be adapting the curriculum to ensure they get what they need before moving onto the next year group.

**Q. Will there be SATs this year?**

A. There will be no formal assessments this year as the government have cancelled all of these including SATs and the Y1 Phonics screening.

**Q. Are the timings of the day the same?**

A. Yes. Please aim to arrive between 8.30 and 8.55am. The doors will be open and children will be able to go straight up. Please do not arrive before 8.30am as we cannot have people waiting outside the school.

At home time, please arrive between 3.15 and 3.30pm to collect your child. We have had issues at the end of the day with too many people arriving early and not social distancing. We will support this in the first week back with additional staff but we do not have the resources to manage 650 grown-ups every day. Please do come at 3.20pm or 3.25pm as it is much quieter and this will keep everyone safe. Outside of school, please ensure you are following the physical distancing guidelines.

**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. 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. Based on the current guidance there will be no Educational Visits. As soon as we receive revised guidance we will let you know.

**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.

**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. 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. 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.