



Newsletter

February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Here is your video newsletter

Please click on this link to view it: <https://vimeo.com/517123709>

Alternatively, you can go on our website and click on the newsletters section to find it.

If you have been unable to view it, continue reading below.

This week we welcomed back to school more children and they settled really well in their new bubbles and new routines. The children working from home have also been fantastic; teachers report excellent attendance, focus and great quality work.

Next week we would like to celebrate World Book Day with a special whole school challenge. All children and families will be asked to create their very own book and the theme will be "all about me". Teachers will provide each class with more details on Monday. I cannot wait to see your amazing work, the more creative the better!

When we come back to school we will also have the opportunity to dress up as our favourite book character on **Friday the 12th of March**. You have a few weeks to organise your amazing outfits!

As you're likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils on the **8th of March**. We're very much looking forward to welcoming back more of our pupils to face-to-face education then.

Attendance

From the 8th of March, school attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, your child should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice. Please get in touch with us if your child has been provided with a shielding letter.

For pupils who are self-isolating or shielding, we will ensure they have access to remote learning education tailored to their needs.

Our safety measures

Rest assured that we're doing everything we can to make sure our pupils can return to school safely. We'll be taking the following protective measures to keep everyone safe:

Procedures for going to and from school:



Newsletter

- We have re-introduced a staggered drop off and pick up times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave, please see the timetable below:

Year Group	Start time	Finish time	Location
Y5 and Y6	8:45	3:15	Main gate
Y3 and Y4	8:55	3:20	Main gate
Y1 and Y2	9:05	3:30	Main gate
Nursery	9:00	3:20	Back gate
Reception	9:00	3:25	Back gate

- Could I ask that parents/carers wait on the other side of the road until your child's year group allocated time, and then queue along the wall in a physically distant manner on the appropriate side.
- Please remember to keep the front of the gates clear at all times.**

What pupils can take to and from school:

- We would like to limit the amount of equipment pupils bring to school to essentials like water bottles, book bags, books and Chrome books.

How we will keep pupils safe in school:

- Children will be grouped in their year group bubbles (max 30) and will have consistent adults
- They will have separate playtimes and lunchtimes and will use different equipment for each bubble.
- There will be strict and regular hygiene measures such as hand-washing.

Timetable change:

Teachers are entitled to 10% of their teaching time to prepare for sessions and assess pupil learning. This usually amounts to ½ day per week. In the past this has been covered internally by a different member of staff. However, in order to minimize contact and to ensure we avoid children and staff crossing bubbles, we have decided that all staff planning and preparation time will be carried out on a Friday afternoon.

This means that school will close to all children every Friday after lunch, see below for the staggered pick up times.

Year group	Finish time	Location
Reception	12:40	Back gate
Y1 and Y2	12:50	Main Gate
Y3 and Y4	1:00	Main Gate
Y5 and Y6	1:10	Main Gate



Newsletter

The children will be expected to carry on with remote learning during Friday afternoon. Teachers will provide appropriate tasks to enable children to access independent learning. For those children who need to, they will be able to use Chrome books provided by school.

For more details of our protective measures please take a look at our updated risk assessment on our website.

Returning the Chrome Books

- Could all those families who have borrowed a School Chrome book during lockdown please return it with the charger (and case if it was provided) on **Monday the 8th of March**.
- Parents who would like their children to continue to borrow the devices during Fridays remote learning and the weekend, will be given the opportunity to do so. We will send out a separate letter with more details.

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you have any concerns about returning to school, please get in touch with us on admin@virginia.towerhamlets.sch.uk

We'd also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We'll continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Stay safe, healthy and kind

Best wishes,

Barbara Lo Giudice, head teacher