



Dog Kennel Hill Primary School
East Dulwich
London
SE22 8AB

Telephone: 020 7274 1829
Fax: 020 7924 0735
Email: school@dkh.southwark.sch.uk
website: www.dkh.org.uk



15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In just a few days, this academic year will be drawing to a close. It has been challenging for every single individual and affected and impacted on everyone in different ways. However, we have all managed in our own way to cope with these challenges and thus we know that we can see this through.

We would firstly like to thank all staff for their selfless commitment to the pupils of DKH and the sacrifices they have made as educators whilst managing their own families and challenges at home.

We want to thank parents for working with the school throughout this period and for all the positive comments, phone calls and emails of gratitude and appreciation for what the school was able to provide during this time. I must admit the chocolates, cakes and sweets also helped to keep us smiling. The staff felt appreciated and valued by your gestures. Parents and carers need a special thank you too, for taking on remote - learning in the way you have and doing all you could to ensure that our children remained safe, happy and engaged.

We have also appreciated the constructive feedback of parents that allowed the school staff to reflect and adapt throughout the ever changing ebb and flow of this global pandemic. We did not get everything right but, we most certainly gave it a herculean effort.

Let us not forget the bravest of all... our children. A massive well done to all our children who remained focused on their learning (in whatever shape or form this took), those who were able to attend school and those who have not yet returned - we are proud of you and we have missed you. Thank you for working with your parents and carers and we cannot wait to have our whole community back together again.

To our Year 6 children that are about to leave us for their next phase of education; you have been super stars! This is not what we envisaged for you at the start of Year 6, but you have demonstrated the values of our school throughout and we are proud of your achievements. You will not be remembered as the COVID -19 cohort because to us, you will forever be the warriors of 2020. We will be planning a fitting farewell for you as soon as we are able to plan an event where we can socialise and enjoy ourselves without social distancing limitations. We will see you again in the near future!

It has indeed been interesting times, but we remain steadfast in our belief that with unity and a positive community spirit, we will reconnect and rebuild our DKH family to be stronger and even more resilient than ever before.





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We wish all our families, children and staff a very restful break and that you may find the time to gather your strength and establish a sense of inner peace that will allow you to be ready for the next phase of the journey ahead.

Please see below the proposed plan for the Autumn Term

Transition and Recovery

Aims

We want to create a curriculum that is agile and responsive to the needs of our pupils. We have used the guidance for full opening from the DfE (published on the 6th July) and ensured that our provision remains unique to us and focussed on the needs of our community. For this reason we will not create our recovery curriculum based on perceived 'gaps' but rather on what pupils need based on teachers' observations and pupil feedback.

Our reintegration programme will be based on:

1. Parents and student communications with their teachers via email or telephone and the telephone logs.
2. Information from other staff who may have had contact with families
3. Multi-agency professional views where relevant

By the end of this term all pupils would have been offered an online survey to complete about their time in lockdown, what they are proud of, what they struggled with and any other worries they may have experienced or are experiencing. The outcome of these surveys will then inform new class teachers and place them in a better position to support the children's wellbeing which will be one of our key focusses in the first half of the autumn term.

How are we preparing our staff?

The staff will be receiving 'Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experience' training delivered by an Educational Psychologist during the INSET days at the end of July. We will then follow up with Mindfulness training and establish expectations for this as part of a daily routine in school from September.





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How are we preparing our children?

Children will have received a holiday pack covering some curriculum topics that they may have missed during the summer term or a pack that has a range of curriculum activities which will keep them engaged with key elements of their learning throughout the summer break. We will use this as a starting point when we welcome children back to school in September.

We have asked children to complete a wellbeing survey. If your child has not yet completed it please help them to do so as this information will allow the school and class teachers to gather information about your children's experiences and reflections on lockdown.

We have been informed that the National Oak Academy online lessons from this term will still be available for parents to access during July and August at the following link: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year>. At the end of the summer break these will be removed from their website.

Approaches to our Curriculum

Throughout the coming academic year the school will be focussing on **four main key issues**:

1. The need to recover missed learning and addressing gaps in skills and knowledge
2. Predictions are that the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children has widened significantly. We will be working with the staff team to establish intervention work to address this and any other gaps that have arisen.
3. The impact on pupils' personal and social skills and their overall well-being.
4. We will be looking at contingency plans in preparation for possible further lockdowns and will continue to develop our remote learning for any pupils not able to be in school.

We will

- Review our behaviour management strategy and ensure steps are in place to support all children and especially those who will find the process of returning to school more difficult.
- Prioritise 'Personal Social Health Education' (PSHE) in September. As a school, identify what needs to be taught, where and how;
- Review, identify and provide additional support for children who may require it;
- Provide pastoral support for children who may be experiencing loss, anxiety, attachment challenges or bereavement;
- Implement intervention programmes

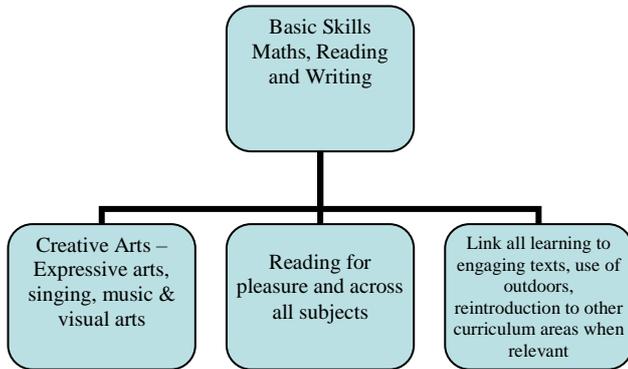
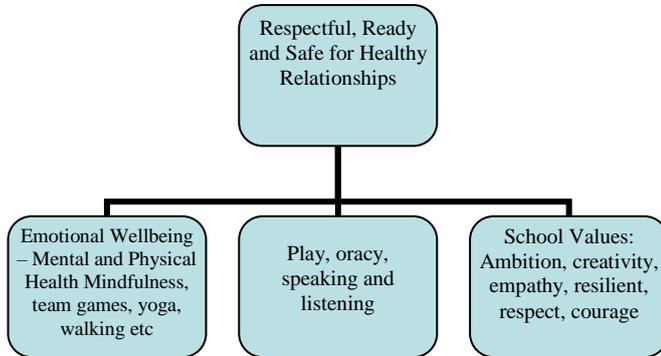
Our over – arching approach to our curriculum:





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What will the first two days look like in school?

The first two days 3rd and 4th September will be focussed on important work around children's transition into school. This will include activities around settling in, establishing class charters, establishing expectations on behaviour, reinforcing expectations on hygiene, getting to know 'you' activities, opportunities to speak about their lockdown experiences, mindfulness, regular story time, maths problem solving, art activities and daily reflection time.

What will the rest of the first half term look like?





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It will be necessary to adapt the curriculum for a short time at the start of the new academic year **but** we will return to a full and broad curriculum as quickly as possible and as soon as our children are ready. We will continue to focus on cross curricular subjects and themes where possible whilst still focusing on basic skills including phonics, number work and reading during the first half term.

Using the surveys and knowledge of children as a baseline we will be introducing an English transition unit to support the children in our school community to re-connect with each other and re-engage with school life.

This literacy based unit aims to support reading and writing for pleasure across the school. The age-appropriate activities will provide opportunities for children to use writing for a range of purposes including personal responses as well as shared reading and 'meaning-making'.

Our planned activities will:

- provide a framework for children to re-engage socially with each other and their wider community;
- suggest opportunities to engage positively with the outdoor environment;
- stimulate thinking and talk about world events and the impact of these events on individuals and the wider world;
- provide a safe forum to share thoughts, concerns, ideas and personal responses;
- use art and writing to help children respond personally to experiences they have had;
- provide opportunities for Maths to be taught and explored throughout this unit in a cross curricular way;

We will continue with PE and sport activities delivered by our specialist coach. Our fantastic music provision will continue and will be delivered by Margaret and her team. All specialist activities will be delivered with social distancing in mind and will start the second week back at school. We will be reviewing our Spanish provision and share more information with parents in the Autumn Term.

Social Distancing

From Year 1 – 6, children will remain sitting in rows, with some social distancing where appropriate, we understand that this seating arrangement will be a new experience for those children who have not been in school yet.

The DfE recognises that in the Early Years it will not be possible to socially distance as the curriculum provision is very different to the rest of the school. For this reason, the EYFS team will promote hand washing and take necessary precaution with regards to resources.





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Children will be able to mix in year group bubbles but not beyond. This would mean that play time and lunch time provision will be adapted accordingly. We will continue to provide individual resources to children where possible to minimise the potential spread of the virus.

Unfortunately we will have to continue to ask parents not to enter the school playground during drop off and pick up. Only pre-arranged visits to the school will be accommodated.

Hygiene

We will continue to observe strict hygiene practises in school. On entry to school **all** children will be required to either sanitise their hands or wash them thoroughly. We will continue to remind children of good hygiene and supervise this throughout the day.

As is the current practice we will continue to have a cleaner continually cleaning and disinfecting the school throughout the day.

Marking and Feedback

Following DfE guidelines, we will be adapting our marking policy to ensure we do all we can to reduce the spread of the virus and to protect children and staff.

Start and End times (this will be reviewed regularly and may have to change)

Nursery children will arrive at **8:45am** through the Early Years Gate and leave **3pm** via the Early Years Gate.

Reception children will arrive at **9:00am** through the Early Years Gate and leave at 3:15pm via the Early Years Gate.

Year 1 children will arrive at **8:45 am** and enter through the main office gate. The children will then leave school at **3:00 pm** through the main office gate.

Year 2 will arrive at **8:55 am** and enter the school building via the main office gate. They will travel straight to their classrooms. They will be released at **3:10 pm** via the main office gate.

Year 3 children will arrive at **9:10 am** and enter the school building via the Early Years Gate. They will be released at **3:25 pm** from the Early Years Gate.

Year 4 will arrive at **8:45** and they will enter via Dog Kennel Hill gate. They will be released at **3:00pm** from the same gate.





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Year 5 children will arrive **9:00 am** and will enter via the Dog Kennel Hill gate and travel straight to their classes. The children will leave at **3:15 pm** from this gate.

Year 6 children will enter via Dog Kennel Hill gate at **9:15am**. They will travel straight to their classrooms. They will be released from this gate at **3:30 pm**

*Office Reception hours will therefore be from **9:30am – 3:00pm**, parents and visitors will not be accommodated in the office during these times as this will affect children's start and leaving times.*

After School Wrap around Provision including Breakfast Club

We have started the external after school wrap around provision including Breakfast Club with **TREETOPS**. This will allow our parents more flexibility in booking places according to individual needs. We have circulated this information last week via email. Please contact Treetops directly to book your child's after school days from September onwards. This will no longer be managed through the school.

Sports and Music Clubs

We will be offering some morning and after school music and sports clubs, more information will be shared with parents when we return in September.

Parents Meetings

Moving forward, parents meetings for the Autumn Term will be conducted via Microsoft Teams, telephone. If parents have specific requirements – please contact the school. This will continue until the social distancing arrangements have been revised by the Government. Class teachers will send a welcome email to all parents on the 2nd of September. Parents are encouraged to continue to use the teacher's emails as the main form of communication.

Performances and Assemblies

Unfortunately it is highly unlikely that we will be able to conduct any performances and or assemblies during the first term. We will of course keep this under review and update parents as soon as the guidelines change. Children will be joining assemblies via online methods.

School Trips

We will not be planning any trips during the first half term. We will review this for the second half of Autumn Term and inform parents accordingly.

Special Education and Disability needs

The DfE has been very clear that peripatetic provision such as speech and language, occupational therapy etc will be allowed to continue with clear hygiene practises in place. Parents are informed that this provision will continue on a 1:1 basis. Children receiving 1:1





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support will continue to be supported in this manner and there with due regard that social distancing cannot always be guaranteed in a school environment.

Risk Assessment

The school has completed a Risk Assessment that carefully considers potential hazards and risks of Covid-19 infection due to full school opening. This Risk Assessment can be located on our website by the end of term.

Transport and Wearing Masks

Where possible, we would request that children and parents walk to school. Children are exempt from wearing face masks. However, if parents choose to allow their children to wear a face covering, please teach your child/children the following procedure based on the advice from the DfE:

- ✓ Avoid touching the front of the face mask/face covering while wearing it
- ✓ On arrival at school, wash hands
- ✓ Remove the face covering carefully – either place in a lidded bin (if disposable) or if a reusable mask place in a plastic bag (parents must provide the plastic bag and this must be kept in their school bag)
- ✓ Wash hands again prior to entering the classroom

We understand that some parents might wish to drive to and from school, but we would like to remind you that there are parking restrictions around the school and we strongly discourage parents from parking in private resident parking spaces as this creates disharmony in our community.

Attendance

We are aware that some parents and children may be anxious about returning to school. We will support parents as far as possible and would encourage parents to contact us if they have any concerns about their children returning to school. However, returning to school in September is compulsory for all children and it is expected that very few children will be requested to shield based on medical grounds. The DfE has placed clear responsibility on schools to resume normal attendance procedures this will include:

- ✓ Same day calling when children do not attend school
- ✓ Calling emergency contacts where no accountability has been gained
- ✓ To take further actions for children who are considered to be persistently absent.

We kindly request that parents keep us fully informed if your children are unwell, attending a medical appointment or are showing symptoms of Covid-19. If children are unable to attend school due to parents following clinical and or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.





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Protective Health Measures/Engagement with Test and Trace

If children or staff are unwell with possible Covid-19 symptoms they must **NOT** attend school. Staff who are symptomatic will be sent home and required to book a Covid-19 test.

In the event of a child developing Covid-19 symptoms during the school day:

- Child will be isolated in a ventilated room.
- Toilet to be nearby and if used by the child, this will then be out of use for others.
- First aider caring for the unwell person will wear a mask and gloves.
- The person's temperature will be taken and noted.
- Any waste to be disposed of in the hazardous waste bins in 2 sealed bags.
- Parents will be called to collect the child.
- Parents will be expected to engage with Test and Trace. They will be asked to book a Covid-19 test and update the school regarding the results. Tests can be booked online through the NHS website at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus> or ordered online via the NHS 119 number.

The child and household will need to self-isolate until the results of the test are confirmed. If the child tests negative and they are now feeling well, they may return to school. Please refer to the stay at home guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>.

If the child tests positive they must continue to self-isolate along with the rest of the household for 14 days.

You **must** inform the school if your child has tested positive for Covid-19. We will then contact the Local Health Protection Team. This team will conduct a rapid risk assessment and will guide us through the actions that then need to take place. This is highly likely to mean that the class will be asked to self-isolate along with any members of staff who have been in direct/or close contact with the child. The self-isolation period will be 14 days from the start of the child's symptoms. If staff and children remain well they will return to school after this time. If however, the child or staff member becomes symptomatic they too will need to book a test.

National Testing

Currently, the DfE are planning for primary assessments to occur next year. This will include the following:

- Year 2 and Year 6 SATs tests and teacher assessments
- The Year 4 Multiplication check
- The phonics screening test for Year 1 and Year 2
- Early Years Foundation stage profiling





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Remote Learning

If a class is required to self-isolate for a period of time the school will provide remote learning for the children. We will continue to use resources from the National Oak Academy online website and it is likely that the resources for remote learning will include these resources. We would also like to develop our Microsoft Teams provision to ensure engagement for those children who potentially need to isolate. We will update parents more on this when we return in September.

Homework

To support children's transition back into school life we will not be sending out our regular weekly homework tasks in the first 6 weeks. We are encouraging year 1 -3 to access Maths with Parents and Year 3 – 6 to continue to use Time tables rock stars. We want to ensure that we build up children's stamina and ensure they manage the return to school well, before adding any additional home tasks.

Uniform

At Dog Kennel Hill we will continue to operate a no uniform policy. However, we must make it clear that children will be expected to be appropriately clothed for the weather and for school in general. Clothes should be changed and clean for each new day.

Shoes: If your child is not able to tie their own shoe laces, we ask that parents ensure they wear velcro shoes.

Hair: Children's hair that is longer than shoulder length must be tied up.

Bags: Children should bring their own school bags that can fit their personal belongings like jumpers and water bottles.

Water Bottles: Every child must bring in a clearly labelled water bottle with your child's name and class, as water fountains are still not allowed to be used.

Mobile Phones: Following the arrangements that have been in place during lockdown and as a precautionary measure year 5 and 6 children will not be allowed to bring in mobile phones at this stage.

PE: Children will be resuming the PE curriculum (with the exception of contact sports) and this will happen with due regard to social distancing bearing in mind that children will be in class and year group bubbles. Any equipment used will be disinfected before and after use. Children will therefore be required to bring a PE kit to school. This should consist of trainers, shorts and a white t-shirt for indoor and long blue track bottoms and a long sleeve top for outdoors. We are waiting for further guidance with regards to swimming.





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All personal belongings remain the children / parents' responsibilities and we cannot take responsibility for looking after these. Please ensure your child is reminded to keep their belongings in their bags and that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name and class. No additional belongings should be brought into school.

We completely understand that this is a lot of information to take in but we wanted to be as clear as possible with parents on where we are with our September return and hope that parents find this useful. Although there are many uncertainties facing us, we are sharing our current plan with parents. Please bear in mind this will be under constant review and will be subject to change. We will of course keep parents updated as soon as practicably possible.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding. We do look forward to welcoming all our children back in September.

Warmest Regards,

.....
Galiema Amien – Cloete
Executive Head Teacher

.....
Linda Hillier
Head of School

