

27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

## Returning to school in Lambeth

We write to say how much our **schools are looking forward to welcoming pupils back to school** after such a long period of uncertainty during the COVID pandemic. We are so grateful to parents and carers for the way that you have continued to support children's learning at home but know it has not always been easy. Some children have been able to go into school over the last few months and everyone else has had contact with schools through online learning or home learning packs. But we know that although many children have thrived and made good progress some have not enjoyed it and have missed their teachers and friends.

**We now want to do all we can to support you and our schools to get all children back to full time schooling.**

**Schools will be opening again from early in September and have put in place a whole range of new systems to keep children safe. Please visit your school's website to see what these arrangements are.**

**Please make sure your child attends school as soon as they are able to.** There will be staggered starts and some changes to breaks and lunchtimes. Please help your school by following their instructions. Many schools will spend time in the first few days **settling children back into school** life and ensuring they understand how the new systems will work. If they miss this time it will be much harder to settle back into the school routine.

The Education team at Lambeth Council have been in weekly contact with headteachers and governors throughout the pandemic and **we are confident that our schools are ready to welcome you back. We want you to feel confident too and to be able to ask any questions that you may have.**

**Your child's school will have been in contact directly to explain any changes to maintain the safety of children and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.** These will include children sitting in rows rather than face to face and remaining in their own learning groups or 'bubbles'. They will be encouraged not to mix with other 'bubbles' to reduce the number of unnecessary contacts.

**In primary schools, your child's bubble or group is likely to be their usual class. In secondary school it is likely to be your child's year group** in order that specialist subjects can be taught.

London Borough of Lambeth  
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London SW2 1RW  
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**You can help by:**

- Reassuring your child. With so much in the news about Covid19, your child may be nervous. For younger children, **you might enjoy reading [this book by Axel Scheffer](#)** with them. For older children, give them space to talk about their fears and feelings.
- **If your child shows any symptoms of Covid19**, do not send them to school. Arrange a test online. You will usually get the result within 24 hours. You must notify the school if the test is positive so that you and the school can take appropriate steps.
- **Please support your school if they give you a staggered start time.** This is to enable that children can enter safely and calmly.
- However tempting, **children should not approach people from another bubble or group at school.**
- **Walking or cycling is great exercise** and being in the outdoors gives further protection. Whilst Transport for London will be providing extra buses they will not be able to carry the usual number of passengers so please **walk, cycle or scoot** to school if possible.
- **Children over the age of 10 must wear a face covering on public transport.** It is not necessary to wear them in school so your child will need a sealed bag to keep them in during the day.

**A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend** school in line with medical advice or because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). If your child is unable to attend school or college for this reason, you should talk to your school or college about what support is in place in terms of remote education.

Attendance registers will be taken as normal from the start of term as they were up until Lockdown and **there will be an expectation that your child is back at school.**

**You might find the following resources helpful:**

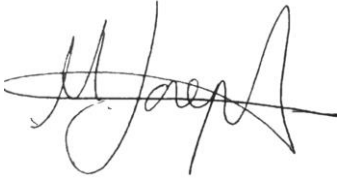
- [Ebug](#) is a resource to explain to children of primary and secondary school age about the Covid19 and how to keep safe.
- [Back to school safely](#) is government guidance for parents on returning to school,

**If you would like to find out more about preparations for school return**, we would like to invite you to an **online meeting** where you can talk to staff from Education, Children's Social Care and Public Health to hear about our preparation and answer your questions. This will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September between 2:00-3:00pm. [You can register for the event here](#). There will be a live question and answer feature during the session, you can also submit your questions in advance by [completing this form](#).

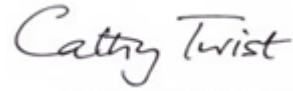
With best wishes

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Strategic Director of Children's  
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**London Borough of Lambeth**