



4th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all well and ready for your children to return to school next week.

We have been busy preparing the site and classrooms in preparation for the children's return.

We understand that some parents and children may be feeling a little anxious about returning to school and we want you to feel secure that we are working hard to ensure everyone will be safe when we return fully on Monday.

Please make sure that you arrive on time and follow social distancing rules when you are lining up to drop children off or collecting them at the end of the day.

It is important that you arrive at the correct gate too. This information was sent out earlier this week in the FAQs document.

When children arrive, they will be met by a member of staff who will ask them to sanitize their hands then line up with their class teacher and adults. If your child has allergies please let us know and we will arrange an alternative handwash for them.

During break times the children will not be mixing with other children and staying in their year groups.

We are reducing the number of adults who come onto site and for the time being we are unable to have parents on the school site. I understand this is quite an alien concept for Reay as we are all so used to seeing each other each day and catching up on the playground however we feel it is necessary to reduce the risk and keep everyone safe.

I am constantly reviewing our risk assessment and will keep you updated of any changes that may occur.

We want the children to return to school and experience a curriculum that is broad, balanced but also fun! Unfortunately, for the time being we will not be going on school trips or going swimming. We will review this decision and keep you updated.

The children will be commencing InHarmony the week beginning 21st September, the staff delivering the sessions will be following the safety guidelines set out by the Government to ensure everyone is safe.

We will be working with Moving Matters PE provider who are also following strict government guidelines, such as working outside, small groups, hand washing.

You may have seen in the news regarding pupil's falling behind during lockdown. This may be true for some but may not be the case for all. Over the next few weeks, we will be identifying gaps in pupil's learning and ensuring lessons are planned to fill any gaps. We are very lucky that we have such fantastic staff who know your children well and have been able to handover to each other to ensure your child's new teacher is well informed.

We will be doing some assessments to identify any gaps but this information will only be used to inform our planning to support children and results will not be shared with parents unless they raise concerns or identify needs that we were previously unaware of.

However, our main aim to have children in school, happy and learning. We feel that by having the children in school we can support them to close any gaps that may have occurred in their learning. Some children may have excelled during lockdown so until we see the children, we will not know.

School will look different but we hope by working together we can make it work for everyone.

I understand that it will be difficult not being able to talk to staff on the playground and want to reassure you that we are here if you have any concerns.

If you need to speak to a member of staff you can do so via the telephone, please call the school office and leave a message for the teacher to call you back. Please remember this may not be immediate as they are in class teaching all day and also covering breaktimes.

If you have a longer enquiry then please email admin@reay.lambeth.sch.uk or the class teacher directly (their email address will be sent out on newsletters).

Please remember that if you are emailing a teacher they will not reply late at night and only during working hours. Please be patient if they do not reply immediately. If your concern is urgent then please call the school.

Class reps may also be able to pass on questions if there are general questions for the teacher.

Over the next few weeks, we will invite all parents to attend a virtual coffee morning where we will outline the priorities for the year as a whole school and go through the routines for your child's class.

The coffee morning will be an opportunity to speak to myself and class teachers, unfortunately via a screen.

At the end of last term, we said good bye to Miss King. I am really pleased to inform you that we appointed Ms Andraskova as our new Inclusion Leader. Ms Andraskova has a wealth of experience of working with pupils, parents and staff of children with Special Educational Needs and she is really looking forward to getting her teeth into her new role.

We are in the process of auditing our SEND and will share our key actions moving forward.

Ms Hall and Ms Manning will be job sharing in Year 5. Ms Hall will continue to lead on Art and Ms Manning Maths.

After careful consideration we have moved two classrooms this year. Year 5 will remain in what was the Year 4 classroom and the new Year 4 will go into what was the Year 5 classroom.

On a practical note, next week we are unable to accommodate bikes and scooters so please do not send your child to school on their bike or scooter. We may be able to accommodate families under exceptional circumstances, such as you are travelling a long distance. Please let the school office know so we can make arrangements.

As you are aware YPM will offer wrap around care. We are in the process of working out what happens at the end of the day as classes are finishing earlier than usual. Please be reassured once we have the number of pupils, we will make a decision if the children will stay in class a little longer or YPM will start their provision earlier.

Please remember if your child is showing signs of illness that you keep them at home and seek medical advice, if needed. Please inform the school of any absences.

Finally, we are really looking forward to welcoming you all on Monday and starting our new term.

Enjoy your weekend

Mrs Andrews

