



The
ORATORY
RC PRIMARY
School

Oratory Primary School
Bury Walk
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15th July 2020

Dear Parents,

When I sat down to write to you in March to explain that school was going to close, I never imagined that we would all still be dealing with the consequences of this pandemic at the end of the academic year.

I know that this has been an unsettling time for everyone in our school community including the worries about health, finances, and childcare that have been at the forefront of many of our minds for several months now. Despite all of this, you have supported the way the school has managed this process, engaged wholeheartedly with your child's teacher whenever you could, and sent so many positive messages our way. The staff and I are very grateful to you all.

Thankfully, we are able to reopen fully in September. I have outlined the current plans in a table below. There are many tweaks to our usual procedures that will most probably have to remain in place for the autumn term. However, my aim is for the children to swiftly get used to this new way of doing things, so their new routines can be seamlessly embedded into school life and they can feel settled as soon as possible. As always, please ask for clarification at any point and I will inform you of any updates if I need to.

Arrangements for reopening: Autumn Term 2020	
Handwashing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ This will still to be done frequently:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ On arrival at school▪ Before and after break▪ Before and after lunch▪ After using the toilet→ The school is planning to install handwashing sinks in the playgrounds over the holidays→ Permanent 'sanitiser stations' will be placed around school with instructions for use
Face Coverings and PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Guidance states that Public Health England does not currently recommend the use of face coverings in schools→ However, ace coverings must be used if families travel to school on public transport and advice will be given to children on how to remove them correctly. If you child has a reusable covering, please provide a plastic container or bag

	<p>for them to store it in. A bin for disposable coverings will be available at each entrance.</p> <p>→ Staff will wear PPE if a child becomes ill with Covid-19 symptoms, or has intimate care needs.</p>
Minimising contact with those who are unwell	<p>→ Pupils, staff and other adults must not come to school if they have Covid-19 symptoms. They should arrange to have a test and should self-isolate for 7 days. Members of their household should self-isolate for 14 days</p> <p>→ In the event of a positive case, schools will contact Public Health England and those who have tested positive will be required to engage with the NHS test and trace process</p>
Cleaning schedule	<p>→ Frequently touched items will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.</p>
Social distancing	<p>→ 'Year group bubbles' of 30 will be the new expectation. Distancing within bubbles is not necessary but where it can be offered, then it will have a positive effect on reducing the spread of Covid-19</p> <p>→ A 'no touching' approach will be implemented (although it is recognised that this is not always possible)</p> <p>→ Ideally, adults should continue to maintain 2m distance from each other and from children. It is recognised that this is not always possible, but that close face to face contact should be avoided and time spent within 1m should be minimised.</p> <p>→ Breaktime and lunchtime rotas and zoned areas will be in place to aid social distancing</p> <p>→ Children may need to eat in classrooms more frequently than usual to aid distancing measures</p> <p>→ Year 6 'Owls' will still be able to support their Reception 'owlet'- which is great news! Social distancing and frequent handwashing should be maintained and we will adjust the responsibilities of the Year 6 Owls just a little to reduce risk but retain the welcoming aspect.</p> <p>→ Volunteers and visitors to the school will be expected to comply with all hygiene and distancing measures in place</p>
Attendance	<p>→ Usual rules on attendance will apply once again from September. Even those who have family members who are shielding should attend school.</p> <p>→ Families returning from abroad after the summer should ensure they leave sufficient time for self-isolation where necessary so that they can join on the first day of term</p>
Drop off/pick up	<p>→ Specific staggered starting and leaving times are still necessary to reduce congestion at the gate.</p> <p>→ Until further notice, 8.30am drop off will not be possible as class groups must be kept 2m from other class groups</p> <p>→ Children will enter through playground or hall, sanitise hands and make their way up to classrooms</p> <p>→ Families are required to queue twice where they have children in different drop off/pick up locations</p>

Times and locations are as follows:

Drop off

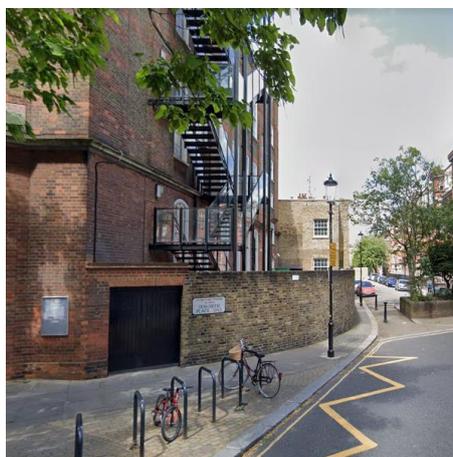
Parents and children will queue in specific points until the doors are opened:



Y5 & Y6 8.45am in through the Bury Walk entrance



Y3 & Y4 8.50 through the Hall door



Y2 8.50 through the side playground door

then

Y1 & Reception* 8.55 through the side playground door

*Arrivals for reception will be slightly different in their first wee

	<p><u>Pick Up</u></p> <p>→ Parents will queue in specific points until the doors are opened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception, Y1 & Y2: 3.20 from hall <u>then</u> Y3 & Y4 3.30 from hall • Y5 & Y6 3.30 from side playground <p>→ We are unable to have more than two classes in the hall at pick up due to lack of space, so please be on time to collect your child.</p>
After school clubs and instrumental lessons	<p>→ After school clubs and instrumental lessons will not run for the first half of the Autumn term to enable procedures and routines to settle</p> <p>→ The decision will be reviewed after the October half term break</p>
Trips	<p>→ Local trips will take place in the Autumn term</p> <p>→ These will be within walking distance of the school wherever possible, to prevent the use of public transport</p>
Parental access to the school	<p>→ Parents are unable to enter the school without an appointment to avoid spread of infection. Please email or telephone in order to make contact with a member of staff.</p> <p>→ We ask that you make sure your child has all their belongings before they enter the building</p> <p>→ Coffee mornings are suspended for the current time</p> <p>→ We are reviewing how we will organise events such as the 'meet the teacher' evening, class Masses and assemblies, and will let you know when we have further information</p>
Uniform & belongings	<p>→ Children will be expected to wear full school uniform from the very start of the autumn term</p> <p>→ Expectations will be high and parents informed swiftly if items of uniform are incorrect or missing</p> <p>→ Children should only bring essential belongings to school, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Book bag/rucksack ○ Named water bottle ○ Packed lunch/snack (unless having school meals) ○ Reading book and reading record ○ School cap or beret ○ scarf/gloves when necessary
Making up for lost classroom time	<p>→ Classteachers will thoroughly prepare the children's new teacher of the curriculum objectives that may need revisiting</p> <p>→ Teachers' regular formative assessment (quizzes, observing pupils in class, talking to pupils etc) will allow them to see if a child has areas of learning to catch up on</p> <p>→ Catch up for children who are working below the expected level for their age group will be addressed in our usual ways (class support/small group intervention/planning)</p>

At the end of each school year we have to say farewell to some of the members of our school family.

Our Year 6 class have been truly remarkable. They have of course, been excellent role models for the rest of the school and dedicated 'owls' to their 'owlets', but we always knew that such a wonderful class would rise superbly to that annual challenge! What we didn't know was how much their last few months of primary schooling would be altered, how many traditions would need to be postponed, changed, or cancelled. Neither could we have predicted how well they would adapt and how mature they would prove to be in such unusual circumstances. Through our time of school closure, and our 'bubbles' coming together again, their positivity, bravery and sense of acceptance has been a lesson to us all. They have dug deep, strengthened their faith and trusted that all will be well, and in their communication with others have rarely shown the frustration or upset that this situation must have undoubtedly caused them.

In Western culture, owls are synonymous with wisdom and knowledge. We see it often in stories, cartoon owls wearing caps and gowns appear on graduation cards at this time of year, and owls wearing reading glasses are regularly spotted on signs in libraries. In Greek and Roman mythology, owls were associated with education, intellect and magic, probably because of their wide eyes and ability to see through darkness. Well, our Year 6 owls have certainly strengthened these stereotypes. The way they have conducted themselves over these past months have shown how much they have learned, how much they can teach others, and how able they are to seek out light through the darkest times.

Their secondary schools are enormously lucky to be gifted with them in the new term. Our owls are fluffing up their feathers, preening their wings, and are ready to fly. And I know each and every one of them is going to fly far and fly high!

We are saying farewell to two of our members of staff at the end of the term. Our Year 2 TA Miss Reilly will be leaving us to train to be a teacher. She will be brilliant, and we hope she can come back again one day! Our Support Teacher Mr Neilson is returning to Australia and although his family will be delighted, we wish he could have stayed with us longer.

To all of those leaving our school- we hope you remember it with fondness; there will always be a warm welcome for you here.

We are saying hello to three new members of staff next year: Miss Olivia May will be a School Direct Trainee in our Year 2 classroom next year, Miss Saskia Van Ryneveld will return to our school as a Year 2 TA and Mr Jamie Ward will be our new Year 6 teacher.

I would like to end this letter by taking this opportunity to thank the entire team of staff and governors who have worked tirelessly throughout the academic year, and particularly this past term. It is a year we will never forget, not least because we are able to truly know what it is to be part of a community who 'works together, plays together, laughs together, and prays together' during hard times as well as good ones.

I hope you all have a safe, healthy, restful and happy summer. With my very best wishes,



Jane Griffiths, Headteacher