



August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Revised Arrangements for Starting School

I hope you are enjoying the summer break and that you and your child are looking forward to returning to school in September? The first day of term for children in Year 1 and Year 2 is Monday 7th September - we really can't wait to see you all again!

Whilst restrictions have eased and all children are able to return to school, there are still lots of expectations relating to social distancing, grouping of children into bubbles and the limiting of visitors to site. We've been working hard on the plans for the full re-opening of our school and considering how these plans will work alongside the junior ones to make things as safe as possible but also to ensure that we don't cause too much disruption. Our plans align closely to the government's guidance on the full re-opening of schools but takes into account the age of our pupils. The full guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#B>

The main changes we have had to make are as follows:

- Each year group will work in a bubble, keeping separate as much as possible from other year groups. This means lunchtimes and playtimes will be separate from other year groups and there will be no large gatherings, such as assemblies, in the hall.
- We have introduced a staggered start and finish to the school day and are asking parents to strictly adhere to these times, ***with just one adult dropping off and collecting children***.
- You can drop your child off at their classroom between ***8.40am and 9.10am*** and collect him/her between ***2.50pm and 3.20pm***.
- If you have no other children attending the school, we ask that you arrive and collect your child within the first 15 minutes of this time frame, with parents who have children in other parts of the school dropping off and collecting in the second 15 minutes. ***There will be no waiting permitted***, so please ensure you do not turn up any earlier than the designated times.
- Schools must limit the amount of equipment coming to and from school each day. Your child should only bring with them their coat, a water bottle and packed lunch box (although we would prefer children to have a school meal). If your child is having a packed lunch, please make sure the container is cleaned thoroughly before being returned to school the next day.
- Your child does not need a book bag in the first week of term. We are setting up a new approach to reading and phonics and more details about this will be sent to you during the first week back.
- ***Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed to come into the school building and must remain distanced from the classroom door.***

- It will not be possible to visit the office unless a pre-arranged appointment has been made. Instead, please ask a member of staff on the playground if you have a query. Communication with the office team will need to take place via email or phone. The only exception to this will be parents dropping off and collecting for breakfast and after school club.
- On the day that your child has PE, we ask that they wear their PE kit to school rather than having to change in the day. Children can wear jogging bottoms (navy blue) instead of shorts and trainers instead of plimsolls.
- Due to the junior school's arrangements, the gate in the main playground between the infant and junior school will be closed in the mornings and open in the afternoons **only** for parents of children in Macaws, Owls and Ducks.

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| Dropping off: | Penguins and Macaws to enter through Penguin class. Owls and Ducks to enter through the activity doors, next to Penguin class. |
| Picking up: | Owls, Ducks and Penguins to be collected from their classroom doors. Macaws to be collected from the fire exit facing the junior playground. |
- Please do not be late to collect your child from school as this puts pressure on the safety systems we have in place for everyone.
- Children must not play on low ropes before/after school as these are designated for use to a specific year group.
- Following a relaxation of our uniform policy during the summer term, children will be expected to wear school uniform from the start of the new term.

To avoid congestion at the start and end of the school day, please walk to and from school, whenever possible. Children in the infant school will still be able to use the scooter and bike pods, possibly making that walk to school a little easier.

Our plan also expects all staff and parents/carers (on behalf of their child) to be ready and willing to book a Covid-19 test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5.

We have lots of other measures in place from September to keep our school community as safe as possible. If you would like more details please visit our website where you will be able to download a copy of our full risk assessment.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer break and look forward to seeing you and your child in September. In the meantime, if you have an urgent question or concern, please contact support@elmwood-inf.croydon.sch.uk and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Harris

Headteacher