



25<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Revised Arrangements for Starting School**

When we made the arrangements for our new Reception children to start school in September, we had hoped that everything would have returned to normal following the pandemic that impacted on us all so significantly. Since then, we have received the government's guidance on the re-opening of schools from September. 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. This has meant that some of our plans have had to change.

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

- The guidance states that visitors to the site must be limited and so we have had to change the arrangements your child's visit during the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September. There are now three different options available:
  1. Weather permitting, your visit will take place outside, with only the children invited into the classroom to look around. We are really sorry that we are unable to invite you into the building but need to adhere to the guidance we have been issued.
  2. You may prefer to have a virtual tour of the classroom with your child, via the Zoom App.
  3. If you know our school well, you may feel that this visit is no longer necessary.

A member of staff will call you the day before your visit to confirm which of these options you would prefer.

- Instead of children attending for just the mornings or afternoons during the week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, we are now inviting children in groups of 10 to come in for two full days, including lunchtimes before starting school full time from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, a day earlier than originally planned. Whilst not ideal, this arrangement provides time and space for your child to get to know us without increasing the number of visitors across the school day.

***Your child has been placed in Group A and should attend all day on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September.***

***Your child starts full time from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.***

- 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 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. On the first day, your child should only bring with them their coat, a water bottle and a change of clothes in a plastic bag to put on their peg. If your child is having a packed lunch, please make sure the container is cleaned thoroughly before being returned to school the next day.
- A maximum of two parents will be allowed in the classroom at the start of the day to settle their child, only if this is absolutely necessary for the well-being of the child.

We have lots of other measures in place from September to keep our school community as safe as possible. Later this month, our risk assessment will be available for you to download from our website, giving you more details about these.

We hope you have an enjoyable summer 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](mailto: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