



# The Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Schools Federation



Executive Headteacher: Ms Maria Gilmore

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21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this last communication of the school year finds you safe, well and looking forward to a break of some kind over the coming weeks.

As the school year comes to an end, it is very difficult to put into words the challenges we have all faced. We have heard the word 'unprecedented' many times since March and, once again, it seems the only way to describe the situation. The fight against the virus that has besieged us has been an exhausting one and it has tested every one of us in many, many ways.

It has been wonderful to see children who have not been able to attend school, visiting over the last week; it is so important that we retain the sense of community that is the bedrock of our school. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your determination and resilience and to thank you for the many kind words and gifts that we have received from you, even in this very difficult time for us all. Despite the challenges, the staff team continue to be committed to ensuring that your child receives the best possible education, as we look forward to September and to welcoming all of your children back to school.

From September, attendance at school will be statutory and the usual rules on attending school will apply. Senior Leaders will spend the summer holiday period preparing the school site in line with government guidance of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020. We will also be ensuring that fully updated risk assessments are in place for the return of all children. There is still work to do but we are able to give you some information about how school will work, as follows:

- Children in Year One, Two, Three, Four, Five and Six will return to school on Friday 4 September 2020 (please timetable below).
- Nursery and Reception parents have been contacted separately about their September arrangements.
- Children will return to school in their original classes of up to 30 pupils. We have already informed you of who the class teachers and teaching assistants are, and the new class names.



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- In line with government guidance, we will be doing everything possible to ensure that children remain in their class groups throughout the day.
- We will be operating a system of staggered start and end times to the school day and staggered playtimes and lunchtimes for classes and year groups.
- We will be asking classes to enter the school through a specific gate, to minimise the number of children entering the site at any one time, and to minimise the number of parents outside the gate.
- To ensure as much social distancing as possible, parents will not be allowed to enter the school playground to drop off and pick up; they will only be allowed on to the site by appointment.
- Parents should not enter the school office, except for in the case of an emergency, and they should make contact with the school via telephone, email or by speaking to the senior leader who will be on duty at the gate.
- Social distancing signage will be in place on the school site, along with a one-way system for moving around the school.
- We will operate an enhanced cleaning regime across school throughout the day.
- We will operate an enhanced handwashing regime for children and adults in school throughout the day.

Please be aware that any information we are giving you now is based on the current guidance and situation. All of this is subject to change, depending on government advice. You will receive further communication in late August to remind you of the new systems in school and to keep you up to date with any developments that may occur over the summer.

We will also write to you to let you know about our plans for a 'Recovery Curriculum' in September, based on the work of Barry Carpenter CBE, Professor of Mental Health in Education, Oxford Brookes University. This thinking puts our children's wellbeing and the importance of building high quality relationships, at the heart of everything we do in school and we know how important this will be, particularly for those who have spent an extended period of time out of school.

Please see the following table for start and end of day times and which gate to use in September. Please do not worry if you are unsure of where to go – staff will be in the playground and around the site on the day to support and guide you.

<b>Start Date Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b>			
<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Start of Day</b>	<b>End of Day</b>	<b>Gate</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	Sapphire 1 8:45am Sapphire 2 8:50am Sapphire 3 8:55am	Sapphire 1 3:05pm Sapphire 2 3:10pm Sapphire 3 3:15pm	Breakfast Club Gate



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<b>Year 2</b>	Sapphire 4 9:05am Sapphire 5 9:10am Sapphire 6 9:15am	Sapphire 4 3:25pm Sapphire 5 3:30pm Sapphire 6 3:35pm	Breakfast Club Gate
<b>Year 3</b>	Emerald 1 8:45am Emerald 2 8:50am Emerald 3 8:55am	Emerald 1 3:05pm Emerald 2 3:10pm Emerald 3 3:15pm	KS1 Gate
<b>Year 4</b>	Emerald 4 9:05am Emerald 5 9:10am Emerald 6 9:15am	Emerald 4 3:25pm Emerald 5 3:30pm Emerald 6 3:35pm	KS1 Gate
<b>Year 5</b>	Aquamarine 1 8:45am Aquamarine 2 8:50am Aquamarine 3 8:55am	Aquamarine 1 3:05pm Aquamarine 2 3:10pm Aquamarine 3 3:15pm	KS2 Gate
<b>Year 6</b>	Aquamarine 4 9:05am Aquamarine 5 9:10am Aquamarine 6 9:15am	Aquamarine 4 3:25pm Aquamarine 5 3:30pm Aquamarine 6 3:35pm	KS2 Gate

We know that the new timings will take some time to get used to and that you will need to make some adjustments, particularly if you have siblings in school, but please rest assured that everything we have planned is to keep your children and our community as safe as we possibly can. Please play your part in supporting the success of the plan by ensuring that you drop your children off on time and that you pick them up on time; that way, we can keep class groups together as much as we possibly can.

I am sure you will have further questions about the return to school in September. Please look out for further correspondence from us in late August as we approach the start of the new school year – this will answer some of the questions.

We very much look forward to welcoming all children back into school on **Friday 4 September 2020**. In the meantime, I hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

My very best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Gilmore,  
Executive Headteacher.



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