



# The Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Schools Federation



Executive Headteacher: Ms Maria Gilmore

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Head of School: Mrs Jane Wright

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are safe, well and that you have had an enjoyable summer break. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school for the new academic year.

The staff team continue to be committed to ensuring that your children receive the best possible education, as we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Friday.

Staff have spent time preparing the school site in line with revised government guidance of 27<sup>th</sup> August and teachers are meeting, both today and tomorrow to plan. We have ensured that fully updated and robust risk assessments are in place, in line with government and local authority guidance, for the return of all children to school. We want the transition back to school to be as smooth as possible for your children and we have worked hard to try and ensure that school feels as familiar and safe as always for them on their return.

We will be sending you lots of updates about various aspects of school life over the next couple of weeks, as we settle back into systems and routines. Look out for information about PE Kit early next week.

For now, here is some information that you should find useful and reassuring:

## **Keeping Schools Safe**

You will know that during recent weeks most COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted across the country and the vaccination programme has been rolled out. In schools this means that 'bubbles', social distancing and face coverings are no longer a requirement (face coverings are still a requirement on London transport.)

## **What will stay the same?**

We will of course **still** be taking key actions, as outlined in government guidance, to keep children and adults safe in school:

- good hand hygiene - making sure that everyone washes their hands regularly;



- implementing an enhanced cleaning regime and
- maintaining good ventilation.

There are some arrangements which will still be in place to add extra protection as these have worked well and do not disrupt the school day:

- different start/end of day times – (see table below)
- the use of different gates to enter and leave school (see table below)
- staggered start times for playtimes and lunchtimes – but in phases now, not classes or year groups.
- one-way systems in school
- signage and floor markings
- tables facing forward in classrooms from year 2 to year 6
- individual resource packs for children where appropriate

We plan to review all of the above arrangements at the end of September. Breakfast Club and TopMark After School Club will run, as usual, from **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

### **Contact Tracing**

Anyone aged 18 or under will no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 but they will need to get a PCR test. From the 19<sup>th</sup> July, the process of contact tracing COVID-19 cases in schools moved to NHS Test and Trace.

**This means we will not be informing you directly about cases in the school or if your child is a close contact. You will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace.**

### **Self Isolating**

You must still self-isolate if:

- you have tested positive for COVID-19 (even if you've been vaccinated)
- you have symptoms of COVID-19, while you wait for the results of a PCR test
- or you are told by NHS Test and Trace that you've been in contact with a person with COVID-19 and you're not fully vaccinated (18 years or over).

### **If your child has symptoms**

The virus remains a risk to many people in Lewisham. If your child has COVID-19 symptoms

- a high temperature;
- a new, continuous cough or
- loss/change to smell or taste.



you must keep them off school and let us know by contacting the school by phone or email in the usual way. **It is really important that they stay at home (self-isolate) and get a test. If the test is positive, they must stay at home for the full ten days.** Even if they're feeling better before the 10 days is up, they will be at risk of spreading the virus to the more vulnerable in our community. Please let us know if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Children and young people are at very low risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. The majority of school staff and teachers have already had the vaccination. By September, all staff and teachers will have been offered the COVID-19 vaccination and by October half term, all will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated.

In the meantime, our priority is that your children feel excited and happy on their return to school.

We look forward to working in continued partnership with you as we begin another year in school.

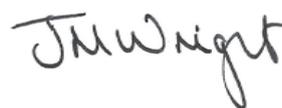
Year group	Morning drop-off	Afternoon pick-up	Location
Year 1	8.55am	3.15pm	Key Stage 1 playground gate
Year 2	8.55am	3.15pm	Key Stage 1 playground gate
Year 3	8.55am	3.15pm	Key Stage 2 playground gate
Year 4	8.55am	3.15pm	Key Stage 2 playground gate
Year 5	9.05am	3.25pm	Key Stage 2 playground gate
Year 6	9.05am	3.25pm	Key Stage 2 playground gate

For those unfamiliar with their location, both playground gates are situated on Amyruth Road – a School Street. The Key Stage 1 playground gate is next to the main entrance to school. The Key Stage 2 playground gate is further down the hill, towards Chudleigh Road.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Gilmore,  
Executive Headteacher.



Jane Wright,  
Head of School.

