



26 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with your God

I am delighted to be able to welcome all children back to school on Monday 8 March. We are so looking forward to being together again as a school community. In order that we do so carefully and safely, I have outlined below the key measures of control that we have put in place and the arrangements that will be in place conceivably until all restrictions are lifted.

Let us open in prayer:

**Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, to you be the glory and praise for ever.
In the darkness you have shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of
the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence, that freed us from sin and shame.
May we grow into your likeness, from glory to glory.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Amen**

An overview of our procedures are:

- Clear systems of control – self isolation, facemasks, minimise contact , hygiene
- Minimising adult contact through adhering strictly to your child's drop off and collection times leaving the school site promptly on both occasions and maintain appropriate social distancing with staff and other adults on site and outside the school gates.
- Communicate with the school via telephone or email
- Remain vigilant for the symptoms of coronavirus and keep your child at home if they or if any members of the household develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Using the community testing arrangements at Avery Hill.
- Ensure your child washes their hands before they leave for school and after they return home.
- Helping your child understand the importance of infection control, good hygiene, and social distancing.

Risk Assessment

The school has undertaken a risk assessment to identify all the risks and we have implemented control measures in line with the Government Guidance. These risk assessments are published in the COVID 2021 section of the school's website.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils from 8 March. The systems of control and with the support of parents following the national guidance will mean that we can open the school safely and manage any illnesses that arise.

Symptoms

It is extremely important that all parents and pupils remain vigilant regarding preventing, identifying and minimising the spread of coronavirus.

We ask, therefore, that you ***do not send your child to school*** if they (or anyone from their household) have any of the following symptoms:

- A high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- A loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia), – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

In this event, you must not come to the school and must stay at home and follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please notify the school office via telephone as soon as possible if your child, or somebody in your household, is showing symptoms of coronavirus.

Children's illness

The school's risk assessment says that we will have a 'low threshold' of children's sickness, and parents will be asked to pick up children who are unwell. The symptoms of coronavirus are set out, however our experience has been that headaches, sickness and diarrhoea have often been associated with asymptomatic cases. Therefore, we are asking parents to support the school in its management of the virus to

- Do not send your child in if they are unwell.
- Use the community rapid testing site at University of Greenwich Southwood Site Avery Hill, SE9 2UG to check that they are not asymptomatic
- Similarly, if children are sent home, that parents work with the school to limit the number of asymptomatic cases through using the rapid testing site.

Bubble Arrangements

To increase the effectiveness of social distancing with all staff and pupils attending school, we have made the decision to teach the children in their class groups. Classes will be kept in their own 'bubble', but they will have lunchtime and playtime together – meaning that track and trace from a confirmed positive case will go across the year group.

Therefore, the children will still predominately work in their individual classes but may be grouped across a year group for targeted teaching groups.

Lunchtime

I am pleased to confirm that hot lunches are available for [all pupils](#). All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have a meal provided under Universal Infant Free School Meals.

For those children in Years 3 – 6, we have a record of those who previously requested a paid hot meal. However, we would be grateful if parents could confirm with the school office **by Monday 1 March** on office@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk if you would like your child to receive a hot meal from the 8 March so that we arrange for correct amount of food to be delivered next week.

Social Distancing

To reduce the risk of transmitting the coronavirus in our school, social distancing measures will be implemented. We expect pupils to follow these rules; however, we understand that some pupils may be unable to fully understand social distancing principles, e.g. because of their age or needs. Staff will work with all pupils to ensure their safety and positively reinforce good social distancing behaviour.

We have implemented the following additional protective measures:

- One-way system for Drop-off and Collection.
- Desks and chairs in classrooms arranged to maintain space (where possible).
- Staggered and separated lunch and break times.
- Signage and floor markings to encourage social distancing.

All adults are expected to leave the school site swiftly and not to congregate at the school gates, and wherever possible only 1 adult should drop off or pick up.

Face Covering

All adults at school have been strongly encouraged to wear a face covering whilst at school. Children are not expected to wear face coverings, but are strongly encouraged and organised so that social distancing is maintained as best as practicably possible given the children's ages.

All adults are expected to wear face coverings (unless they are exempt from wearing) while on the school site.

Drop off and Collection

Drop off and collection times are staggered in order for us to adhere to social distancing guidelines as much as possible. We ask that pupils are dropped off or collected by only one accompanying adult.

Parents / Carers are not permitted to enter the school building or gather in groups within or outside of the school premises, and should follow the one-way system so that the movement of people on site is well managed and organised.

The table below outlines the year group start and finish times:

Year Group	Drop Off	Collection
Nursery	8:30am or 12:30pm	11:30am or 3:30pm
Reception	8:30am – 8:40am	3:00pm
Year 1	8:30am – 8:40am	3:00pm
Year 2	8:40am – 9:50am	3:10pm
Year 3	8:40am – 8:50am	3:10pm
Year 4	8:50am – 9:00am	3:20pm
Year 5	8:50am – 9:00am	3:20pm
Year 6	9:00am	3:30pm

It is essential that you arrive on time for Drop off and Collection

Uniform & Equipment

School has restarted for all pupils and full School Uniform is expected. However, on the days that your child has PE, they will be permitted to wear their PE kit all day (shorts/tracksuit trousers, trainers, Eltham t-shirt and Eltham sweat shirt).

We request that pupils do not bring in non-essential items from home. Please ensure that your child only brings into school:

- A labelled water bottle – which can be refilled in school
- Coats and other essential outdoor wear
- School reading book bag
- Packed lunch

Essential medication and medical equipment should be provided to the school via the school office as usual.

Communicating with the school

Communication with the school will be primarily via email. If there are curriculum based questions that you would like to bring to the teachers attention, please use classname@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk If the question/information is non-curricular i.e. absence or appointments, then please use office@elthamce.greenwich.sch.uk .

Infection Control (Handwashing / Sanitising)

Strict infection control measures are an important aspect of keeping all staff and pupils safe and healthy in our school. This means that we will be enforcing new rules to ensure that good hand and respiratory hygiene is consistently maintained.

Visitors

Visitors are not permitted to come onto our school site without a prior appointment or if it is absolutely necessary, (e.g. for essential building works or to provide essential support to a pupil) this also applies to parents. Peripatetic teachers will be returning to school to deliver their music lessons.

Parents that need to come into school will need to make an appointment first. Please call the school office if you wish to meet with a member of staff. Meetings will only be held where absolutely necessary and ensuring social distancing.

First Aid

Additional personal protective equipment has been issued to staff and where possible social distancing will be maintained.

The accident / incident reporting procedure will remain unchanged.

If you are called to collect your child after an accident you will be asked to come to the main office on Roper Street. When you arrive you will be asked to wait outside while your child is brought to you.

Educational Visits

There will not be any Educational Visits until further notice. We will continue to accommodate visitors who enrich our curriculum in compliance with our risk assessment and control procedures.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship will continue to be an integral part of the school day. Classes will stop and hold a time of worship in their classroom each day. Prayer and reflection will continue to be a prominent part of the school day.

Curriculum

I met with the Senior Leaders of the school this week to look at the term ahead and I would like to conclude this letter by setting out our beliefs and thoughts on how the school will approach the remainder of the school year:

- We will be operating a 'recovery' curriculum. The narrative of 'catch up' and being 'behind' is unnecessarily negative and the children do not need to be made to feel that this is so.
- We will focus on 'essentials to progression' objectives in mathematics and writing for the remainder of the school year. Meaning that children's access to next year's curriculum is not jeopardised
- We will use review, retrieval and interleaving to support children and ensure that learning 'sticks'.
- We will use WOW days to block curriculum time to deliver science, topic, RE and art objectives – ensuring we maintain our creative and exciting curriculum, and the children have a joyous learning experience.

I thank you once again for your support of the school and our community as we open up the school once again, and thank you all for your prayers and understanding throughout this time.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Bulpitt
Headteacher