



Dear parents: So I spent last Sunday afternoon cooking lunch (a German ham hock with boiled new buttery potatoes and chives, fresh parsley sauce and carrots and broccoli florets), watching sports, reading Sunday papers and relaxing after a long walk on the Heath. Tried to work out the Rule of 6. I would have been happier with 7. Chinese consider it a lucky number, Magnificent 7, Kurosawa's epic 7 Samurai, 7 days to create the world and rest, Dubliners 7 nights song, 7 days in the week you get it!! Anyway you can have a shooting party of more than 6, you can meet 5 other people from several households indoors and in Wales you can ... I gave up and watched Lewis Hamilton win the Tuscan Grand Prix. The big news of the week has been test and trace and the Bentley Road walk in site is no longer walk in since last Friday. I know someone quite senior in Public Health who was not told, so things do change rapidly. It's not easy to set up new systems and I have some sympathy but feel there should be clearer guidance and priority testing.

Anyway in an emergency we do have a very limited number of test kits if children meet the criteria and cannot be tested locally. Will still take at least 48 hours to check however. Persistent cough at least 3 times a day, headache, loss of smell and above all a fever over 37.8. Attendance has gone down since the start but still much higher than the Hackney average over the last two weeks, so well done. Lots of new things happening as I strive to return to what we knew before. Next week packed lunches may be brought in for all classes including Reception which we never previously allowed. No bottles please or sweet drinks or sweets and please take care over nuts and allergies. Children will not be allowed to share food. Gates will now open from 8.45am - 9.05 am and lateness will be 9.10am. Lots more news below.

School news ... this week

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTERS are now back and all on our website under Class Newsletters + a personal message to you parents and the children from their class teacher. Read what your child will be learning about this term. More will come on stream shortly. But no swimming or trips to museums etc or class assemblies or your termly class visits to look at your child's work.

Track and trace and priorities

Felt sorry at first when the track and trace system got overwhelmed. Who could have foreseen or planned for a spike when school returned and universities reopened. Hmmm!! Then I heard the Justice Secretary Robert Buckland being interviewed on Sky News Wednesday morning. Two key words missing from his statement see if you can guess them. Answer below:

"And then I think what we need to do is have a cascading system where we know where our priority should be and for me priority should be for children in school and their parents in order to ensure their lives are safe and also importantly they are not disrupted in the way we are seeing."

Pics of the week:

Reception class of 2020 in the sunshine. Lovely pic ... nice clam start and hope they enjoy many happy and sunny years in the school.



School news ... next week

Lunchtimes - children may now bring in a healthy packed lunch. No bottles please we provide lots of water every day. Hot lunches also continue as well. Children can swap but only on a weekly basis so let us know a week in advance please.

Breakfast Club resumes Monday 7.45am places must be booked in advance. All successful applicants will be informed today and this will now be ongoing if there is sufficient demand.

After school clubs - most schools have not started these yet but we want to be an outlier and have put our heads together. Multi-sports which is massively popular will resume Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday if there is a demand details next week.

Karate has resumed Saturday.

If all this works we will look to resuming Art Clubs, Music and Dance and Coding and ... one step at a time.

and finally ... as a child me and my brother used to play Spot the Ball black and white still photo of a football match with the ball missing. You had to mark it with an X. I would like to start a new competition Spot the Workman at Highbury Corner. I pass it at least twice a day and seen no-one for the last two weeks but more cones every day book recommendations Murder at White House Farm by Carol Lee superbly researched book about Jeremy Bamber who is totally guilty by the way but gripping read and just started Permanent Record by Edward Snowden interesting and complex guy podcast recommendations brand new Spectator TV is good on YouTube and the best podcaster Joe Rogan has now moved to Texas. He has had both Edward Snowden and the great writer and broadcaster Douglas Murray on over the last three nights. Both really great informative and at times funny listening. On YouTube still..... my sporting highlight has been the finale of the Tour de France toughest sporting event in the world in the Alps this week most children in this school are Arsenal fans so please be kind to me if you slaughter West Ham this Saturday we do look truly awful ... I drive to work really early these days and on Monday stepped out in the crisp air to horse chestnut conkers all over the road so Autumn is well on the way anyone spot the two missing words from the Justice Secretary above ??? after parents.....AND TEACHERS !!! ..helps when you are trying to run a school.. Anyway enjoy the late sunshine and its life enhancing Vitamin D.