



Dear parents: I always get an odd sensation writing today's date. 19 years ago today when the world changed. So the first three days it was a joy to welcome in all our new Reception children. The school is now full and attendance is running at 97% for the week just gone which is above average for the time of year. Great news. So this week we have been trialling, checking and refining our systems. This can only be done when all children are on site. What is working well: 1. The start in the morning is so calm and works smoothly. The current cut off time for registration is 9.15am and this will now stay the same until half-term. 2. Collection for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. We rehearsed everything before letting it go live and collection time has gone down from 20 minutes to around 2 minutes per class. This means that from Monday Years 3 and 4 may be collected at 3.20pm and Years 5 and 6 at 3.30pm thus reducing waiting times. New issues have however arisen and I will write about these Monday. Mainly around supervision of younger children sitting on neighbour's walls and running in the road. Please supervise your own children once they have left the school. 3. Hot lunches. Working really well even for all the new Reception children and this will now continue. 4. Music and PE are both in place and modified generally going well. Next week I want to review collection for Infants as the Culford Road gate is too congested. We will do this all next week to see what could be improved. More FAQs V4 and updates on Monday. Warm weekend and I intend to spend Sunday trying to understand the new rule of 6. Enjoy your weekend.



School news ... next week

Hot lunches continue every day as it is working well.

No packed lunches or snacks from home until further notice. Fish and chips today and menus to follow next week.



Late update

If you need a Covid test Bentley Road car park site 250 yards away is now walk in, no appointments with results back in 24 hours !!!!



New parking restrictions...updates

Hackney Streets did eventually send out an email late Friday informing us the scheme would start this Monday. Helpful. Basically you have one month's grace before cameras go in and £65 fines with almost no exceptions. The council are providing us with barriers that will go up in Buckingham Road between 3.10 and 3.40pm so you will not be able to drive down this road. This does help with safety. I have to say. As many of you have told me almost every side road in Hackney and Islington is now blocked and Kingsland Road, Southgate and Essex Road and my own Holloway Road are becoming more and more gridlocked with cars idling belching out more dangerous fumes. The law of unintended consequences. A decent and potentially very worthy idea but poorly implemented in haste IMHO.

It will be in force 8.30am - 9.30am and afternoon is 3.00pm to 4.00pm. Almost no exceptions including all staff.



Pics of the week:

Reception having lunch in the Nursery, classes sitting in their group (not bubbles) in the hall and Florence serving a wide range of hot food, salads, fruit, yoghurts and desserts. Three sittings instead of two and only took 15 minutes longer than usual to allow for extra cleaning between classes.

and finally ... for new parents I write a weekly Newsletter on whatever is going through my mind that week. They are my own ramblings and monologues and not meant to be taken too seriously even in 2020. Last I heard we still had free speech but found XRs attempt to muzzle a free press last weekend very concerning. But my real villain of the week is whoever is responsible for Highbury Corner. Roadworks going back to the turn of the century finally completed last year made traffic flow worse and now dug up everywhere again and nobody much working on it with congestion for miles. football season resumes with West Ham facing Newcastle and then easy games against the top six ... so relegation looming once again wrote last week about the book Risk - The psychology of fear. by Dan Gardner two of my friends have ordered it off Amazon it is a revelation and an easy read too. Life is troubling but today a 50 year old friend of mine is being buried who died from cancer leaving behind a 1 year old son and heartbroken wife. Count your blessings every day. !!