

Frequently asked questions FAQs - school reopening March 8th

1. Will the school be open for all children and all ages on Monday March 8th?

YES ...the school will be open for all children from Reception to Year 6. Attendance is mandatory for all pupils unless a valid informed reason.

2. Will Breakfast Club and After school club resume?

YES ... on the same day March 8th. Booking details tomorrow.

3. Do children have to wear school uniform?

YES normal proper school uniform for all pupils.

4. Will hot lunches be provided?

YES same as usual kitchen will be fully open. Packed lunches may be brought in also.

5. Is it fully back to normal or will they still be in 'bubbles' or class settings?

ALL children will be in their own class groups or bubbles all day including as far as possible in the playgrounds. Social distancing will be maintained as far as is possible with young children.

6. Will my child have to wear a face mask or PPE?

NO but they can if they wish and you must provide and clean these.

7. Will all lessons resume the same as in March 2020?

NO ...it will be a phased return. We hope to have PE outdoors back and music also starting again in the first week.

8. Will parents be allowed to drop their children off at the classroom door and collect same as before?

NO parents can only enter the school grounds by appointment only.

9. Will my child have to be tested before returning to school or when school resumes?

NO ...lateral flow tests are for secondary pupils only. Teachers and staff now have these tests and have been asked to conduct them twice a week. I do every week ...

10. Start and finish times will they be staggered and can they bring bikes and scooters?

YES Start times are the same between 8.45am and 9.00am. Collection Reception - 3.15pm Year 1 3.20pm Year 2 3.25pm. From Culford Road Gate. Children responsible for parking and collecting bikes etc and may not be ridden in school grounds.

Years 3 and 4 @ 3.20pm Years 5 and 6 3.30pm from Buckingham Road Gate.

11. How can I book a place for Breakfast and After school clubs?

Online via our website from Monday

12. What about multi-sports, art clubs, karate, music etc?

Some will start very soon others will be when restrictions are lifted.

13. Can we now mix households and share childcare, playdates, sleepovers etc?

Please see the guidance but clearly not until after March 29th with two households.

14. What would happen if a child or member of staff tests positive for Covid after March 8th?

We follow the same protocols and guidance from the NHS, DFE and PHE as before.

15. Will the children still be using Google Classrooms?

YES - but thank the Lord not in the same way.

16. Will the school day be longer and Summer holidays be shorter?

NO and probably not. Forget the sound bites in the media this has been discussed before during Lockdown 2. Involves complex changes to contracts, terms and conditions and would be too costly and time consuming. There will however probably be more holiday time clubs and fun activities.

17. Is there going to be a Recovery Curriculum?

NO - don't like the phrase. We hope to have as normal a curriculum as possible as quickly as possible. Every child will have had different experiences we will address individual needs.

We want to emphasise security and safety in our early days.

18. Are there any more spare laptops available for Remote Learning?

YES - please fill out a form online as soon as possible.

19. My child has outgrown their uniform what can I do?

Please order online from our website for quick collection.

20. What are the key areas we as parents can help with and focus on for our children's well being?

Great question! (all politicians now start their response with this phrase these days).

Diet and healthy eating, exercise and sleep. Get them away from screens as much as possible.

Handwriting practice and speaking and listening to them.

Read to them and Easter coming up chance to talk about the life of Jesus and his disciples.

21. What about Covid-19 testing in schools?

Testing in England has been planned for children in Year 7 and up, who are attending face-to-face education, including SEND and AP schools.

Secondary students will take three Covid-19 tests in the week they return to classrooms, as well as one home test. Schools and colleges will make a decision on how these tests will happen – so follow your school communications for more information. Students will also be provided with two optional tests to take home each week.

Primary pupil testing is not currently planned. All primary, secondary and college staff will be given two tests to take home each week.

22. Is the return to school compulsory?

The Department for Education has said that it will be mandatory for pupils, with some exceptions, to attend schools in England from the date that they are eligible to return. It will be a parent's legal duty to ensure that their child attends. The ability for a school or local authority to impose sanctions for non-attendance – including fines – will be reinstated.

The exception to this is the shielding patients list. Those children who are confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are advised to, "shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice". If you are not sure, check with your school to confirm the date from which your child should attend. If you have any problems or concerns, contact your school office who will be able to advise further.

23. Will my child have to wear a face covering like in Redbridge school?

Staff and students at English secondary schools are being advised to wear face coverings in all areas including classrooms. Where social distancing may not be maintained. If your child is in secondary school, check the school website or comms for more information about what is being required. You can also raise concerns with the school office.

In English primary schools, pupils will not be required to wear face coverings. However, staff will be advised to wear face coverings, where appropriate. Be aware, all school staff have been advised to be sensitive to pupil and student needs and whether a face covering is appropriate. This may affect pupils with special educational needs.

24. What's happening with exams?

The government has confirmed that in England there will be no GCSEs or A-Level exams this summer. Results will be based on teacher-assessed grades based on mock exams, coursework and essays – rather than using an algorithm, which proved highly unpopular last summer.

Schools will have the option to use test papers – or "mini exams" – which can also inform teachers about final grades. These will be supplied to schools before the Easter holidays and will need to be completed by 18 June, if a school decides to use them.

Results will be published earlier than usual, with A-Level results on 10 August and GCSEs on 12 August – allowing more time for appeals.

There will also be no SAT exams for primary children in Years 2 and 6 – and these will be replaced by teacher assessments. Vocational qualifications (VTQs) will be based on teacher grade, except for qualifications requiring practical skills – some of which will go ahead in a Covid-safe way. Results for these will be released in the week of 9 August.

If you have further questions or concerns, speak to your school for more information.

25. Will I have to give a borrowed device back when my school reopens?

There is no government guidance on this. At this moment, it will depend on your child's school and they may be in contact to advise you further.

If you are not sure or concerned, contact the school office for more support and advice.

26. What if my child's school closes again — or my child has to self-isolate?

If there are further closures or your child is not able to attend schools will have a duty to continue to deliver remote education effectively. In the event of this, your child's school will contact you with more information.

It will also be a school's duty to provide access to remote education. If you are concerned by a lack of access to technology, your child's school may also be able to arrange the loan of a school laptop or device if required.

If your child doesn't have access, you can make a request to your school for a loan.

Parents cannot directly apply for devices from the government but schools are able to apply for additional tech to support pupils and students who are without. The scheme is devised for Years 3 to 11 (ages 7-16), but infant schools (Reception to Year 2, ages 4-6) are not currently able to apply. However, some primary schools may still independently choose to loan additional devices to KS1 pupils.

27. What if we don't have broadband connection or enough mobile data for remote learning?

You are entitled to support with internet access for your child's education during lockdown. Two schemes are available, and your child could qualify for one of them if they are

not in face-to-face education, you don't have fixed broadband at home, and you cannot afford additional data.

The first scheme provides temporary data increases for mobile devices during this period on some networks – including EE, O2, Sky Mobile, SMARTY, Tesco Mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile and Vodafone.

It's available for children in Years 3 to 11 (ages 7 to 16), but the request needs to be made by the school, rather than the parent – so if you think you might qualify, speak to your child's school.

For children in Years 3 to 13 (ages 7 to 18), schools can alternatively apply for 4G wireless routers, and parents should again speak to their school if they have the need.

Aside from that, some data providers have also made it free to access educational sites – such as BBC Bitesize for EE, BT Mobile and PlusNet Mobile customers. Check with your provider.

28. Monday is usually PE day. Will children come in with PE uniform on March 8th?

No this week PE will be all week but no uniform.

29. When will we know if we have a place in Breakfast and After School Care.?

Friday morning March 5th all confirmed.

30. Will there be Sports Days, Year 6 plays and a Summer fair this year?

Who knows? Please God yes but not until late June or July at the earliest.

'Hope springs eternal'.

31. Can pupils still bring mobile phones to the main office?

No - they will be collected in class and given back later in the day. As usual protocols apply.

32. Have you updated the schools Risk Assessment for reopening?

Of course. Done large numbers in the last year for every eventuality. One of the first schools to do it and sent and approved to Hackney H and S. On website.

33. Can you say a bit more about 'Catch Up'?

Yes – as stated earlier I don't like the phrase Recovery Curriculum and even less so 'Catch-Up'. Delighted to hear yesterday that the new Government Tsar for schools reopening (Sir Kevan Collins, nice man I've met him) equally does not like the expression. Catch Up with who or what? Why? When? How do you measure it and what is the purpose etc etc.

So no 'Catch Up' just individual and group work to help every child prosper and develop.

I heard the expression LEARNING LOSS this week and tested it out on people not involved in education and quite like it. Every child (and adult) I would suggest has had some LEARNING LOSS whether it be academic, emotional or physical. So that is what we will try and assess and do our best to make up.

Easter coming and we are told that Jesus lived 33 years so 33 FAQs should suffice.

March 8th only a few more days now !!! 8.45 school reopens for all.