



HORNCHURCH ACADEMY TRUST

'Sharing Excellence'

Hornchurch Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee

Registered in England: Company Number 10760863

Registered Office: Whybridge Junior School, Rainham, Essex, RM13 7AH

www.hornchurchacademy.org

24th February 2021

REF: Re-opening of schools for on-site education

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will be aware that in the Prime Ministers speech dated 22nd February, he outlined plans for the re-opening of schools for on-site education. This will take effect from Monday 8th March for all year groups. Many within our school communities will share our view that this is good news. All staff are very much looking forward to welcoming children back into the classroom.

Following the Prime Ministers speech, schools have received further guidance from government the evening of 22nd February. Much of the guidance remains familiar and contains a number of requirements such as all schools completing a risk assessment to identify and mitigate the implications of re-opening. As is common practice, this is to ensure we take every measure possible to keep pupils, staff and visitors safe. As such, Trust schools are working very hard to digest the guidance and prepare for the re-opening of on-site education as well as currently providing remote education. Each school will send further communication to its specific school community dated Monday 1st March with detailed arrangements for re-opening.

Key messages to note from the re-opening guidance include:

- From Monday 8th March, attendance for pupils returns to being mandatory. This means it is an expectation that all pupils attend and normal rules for managing attendance and reporting absence will be applied.
- Face masks are still not required or recommended in Primary School settings.
- Control measures will still be applied i.e. the Bubble system
- All staff will continue to complete a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test twice per week. This is to identify any positive cases within the workforce as soon as possible and break potential chains of transmission.
- All schools are required to provide a full curriculum offer that is broad and ambitious.
- In the event that a group is required to self-isolate after 8th March, the expectation is that education would switch to remote provision.
- Physical Education, sport and activity in schools is permitted providing schools follow identified control measures.
- Educational Visits are not recommended. Guidance is currently under review.
- Statutory assessments have been cancelled for Summer 2021 e.g. SAT's.





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- It is intended that Ofsted inspections will not return until the Summer Term.

As soon as children return to school on 8th March, we aim to settle children back into the school routine and allow them to re-connect as quickly as possible. It is understood that every child's experience of lockdown restrictions will be different and as such, staff will ensure that re-integration to on-site learning will reflect the needs of learners towards achieving best outcomes.

Parents and carers can also expect to see some familiar routines from 8th March:

- Enhanced and additional cleaning arrangements
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene routines
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- Staggered start times for year groups
- Staggered break times and lunch times
- Staggered end of day collection
- Restricted collective activities i.e. assembly or collective worship
- Restricted access to schools for parents and visitors
- Additional cleaning arrangements for resource equipment

Lastly, with re-opening for on-site education imminent, I would also like to remind parents/carers of how they can continue to support schools in their ability to operate as safely and successfully as possible:

- Follow national guidance if COVID-19 symptoms develop
- Report any known or suspected case to the school your child attends
- Wear a facemask when dropping off or collecting children (unless exempt)
- Minimise the number of adults attending the site to drop off and collect
- Being prompt at drop off and collection times
- Avoid congregating at the school gate
- Avoid entering the building unless absolutely necessary or by prior appointment
- Continue to adhere to the one-way systems on the school site

Yours faithfully,

Mr C W Hobson

CEO – Hornchurch Academy Trust

