

DURANTS – UPPER SCHOOL
HIGH STREET, SOUTHGATE, N14 6BN

HEADTEACHER

Ms Rachel Carli

Main Office: office@durants.school



Telephone: 0208 804 1980

www.durants.enfield.sch.uk

Dear parents and carers,

A warm welcome back to the new academic year especially to our new Year 7 pupils at Pitfield Way and our other new pupils at Southgate.

Government Guidance for full school reopening in September

The Department for education released its guidance for schools on full reopening in September. We have now had a chance to read and digest it. The guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>. I will summarise it for you in this letter and explain how we intend to implement it at Durants.

Will children be returning to school full time in September?

Yes. All children will be in school from Monday to Friday. School attendance will be compulsory and schools will be able to issue fines to parents whose children are persistently absent.

Will children still be taught in bubbles?

Yes, in class bubbles with their teacher and teaching assistants. There will be no large gatherings, such as assemblies for the foreseeable future.

Do children need to wear school uniform?

Yes. Please let us know if you are struggling to get hold of school uniform for your child because we have plenty of second hand uniform we can give you.

What about school lunches?

We will be able to offer school dinner as normal, some classes are having their lunch in their class rooms as well as some pupils having packed lunches as normal.

Which staff will be allowed to work with my child?

Staff will be allowed to work across bubbles. The Government says that *'All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable...if that is needed to enable a full education offer.'* (page 10)

In addition, the guidance states that, *'Supply teachers, peripatetic teachers [teachers who work across schools to deliver specialist provision eg. music lessons or sports coaching] and/or other temporary staff can move between schools'* (Page 11). This means that therapy, speech & language sessions, music therapy, OT sessions can restart. The pupils will have some PE sessions— although contact sports will be avoided.

Can children take equipment to school and bring resources home?

Yes, we have already started to give children reading books to read in class; from September, they will be allowed to bring these home along with home school books. The Government still recommend that *'pupils limit the amount of*

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equipment they bring into school to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, stationery. (Page 12). The Government also includes mobile phones in their list but here they and I part company on our definitions of 'essential' so I will leave that one to your discretion as parents.

Will children be allowed to share resources at school?

Children will still have individual trays containing all their essential resources as they do at the moment. They will be able to share learning resources such as books, games, maths manipulatives and other curriculum equipment; all shared resources will be thoroughly and regularly cleaned.

What will happen if there is a confirmed case of Covid 19 in school?

We will contact the local health protection team immediately who will risk assess the situation and provide definitive advice on the action that we must take as a school community. This will include asking everyone who has come into close contact with the person while they were infectious to self-isolate for 14 days. To support this, we will keep records of which staff and children have interacted over the course of each day.

What about people who are shielding?

The Government guidance says that, 'shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (Covid-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.' (Page 17).

If you are concerned because you or a family member has been shielding, you should contact your specialist health care provider for further guidance. Of course, we will be very happy to talk to you or your doctor if this would help.

What if I am worried about sending my child back to school?

Please contact us and we will do our best to help. The support we offer will depend on your exact circumstances and the nature of your concern so it is impossible to say here what it will look like but please know that you are not alone and schools have lots of resources to help parents and children who are worried. Give us a call or drop us an email and we'll arrange to talk through what we can do to make things easier for you and your child.

Will parents be allowed on site?

I'm afraid not. The Government is very clear on this. We are not sure yet how this will affect events such as parents' evenings but we will let you know as soon as we have more information on this. In addition, we will only be able to accept online payments for clubs and trips. The office can always be contacted by phone, or email.

Annual Reviews

We have scheduled all the Annual Reviews for this academic year. This year parents will be invited to their child Annual Review of the EHCP as normal, however to minimise visitors to the school other professionals will be invited to the meeting via TEAMS.

It sounds like everything's more or less back to normal. Is this true?

Yes and no!

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We will still have staggered break and lunch times, timetabled use of outdoor equipment and extensive cleaning regimes in place. We will still insist on regular and thorough hand washing at the start of the school day, throughout time in school and at the end of the day. We will still not be able to allow parents on site and contact between children will be very limited.

On the other hand, everyone will be in school at the same time, everyone will be wearing school uniform and we will be teaching a full broad and balanced curriculum. On balance, as far as the children are concerned, school will probably feel pretty similar to how it did before lock down just with a bit less mingling and a bit more hand washing.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Carli

Headteacher

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Term Dates – Academic Year 2020-2021

Durants School

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Autumn Term</u>	<u>Spring Term</u>	<u>Summer Term</u>
Start	Thursday 3 September 2020	Monday 4 January 2021	Monday 19 April 2021
End	Friday 18 December 2020	Thursday 01 April 2021	Friday 23 July 2021
Half Term	Monday 26 October 2020 to Friday 30 October 2020	Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021	Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021
Break	Christmas Break Monday 21 December 2020 to 01 January 2021	Easter Break Friday 2 April 2021 to Monday 16 April 2021	Monday 26 July 2021
Bank Holidays	Friday 25 December 2020 and Monday 28 December 2020	Friday 01 January 2021 Friday 2 April 2021 and Monday 5 April 2021	Monday 3 May 2021 Monday 31 May 2021
Durants School Inset Days	Thursday 3 September 2020 Friday 4 September 2020	Monday 4 January 2021	Monday 19 April 2021 Friday 23 July 2021

