

28th February, 2021

We are extremely pleased that we will be able to welcome all of your children back to school on Monday 8th March. The school has not been the same without all of your children in it and we are certainly looking forward to seeing and hearing all of them next Monday. I hope that you have made a note of the fact the school will be shut on Thursday 4th March but online learning will continue, and closed completely on Friday 5th March.

The government has published new guidance which we have studied to ensure that when we re-open, we do so in the safest possible way that we can. Whilst schools will be opening and incidences of the virus are diminishing, the virus is still with us and therefore caution is required and a measured approach to the loosening of measures is required. Therefore, the vast majority of the procedures that were put in place last autumn will remain.

What will be the same?

- The system of classes being limited to their class bubbles will remain for the time being and all measures within the school to keep the bubbles separate will continue.
- There will continue to be a staggered start and end to every day. As previously we will be using three entrances: the nursery gate, the courtyard and the main playground gate.

With the exception of nursery, which will start five minutes earlier, the times remain the same as those during the Autumn Term.

Year Group	Entrance	Start of day	End of day
Nursery	Nursery entrance	9.05	3.00
Reception	Nursery entrance	8.55	3.20
Year 1	Courtyard	9.05	3.30
Year 2	Courtyard	8.45	3.10
Year 3	Playground	9.05	3.30
Year 4	Playground	8.45	3.10
Year 5	Playground	8.55	3.20
Year 6	Courtyard	8.55	3.20

- Only one adult per family can bring and collect children. Please note, it is very important that adults do not gather at the school gates in the morning and at the end of the school day.
- All parents and visitors to the school must wear a mask or facial covering on the premises.
- Playtimes and lunch times will be staggered.
- Social distancing and hygiene routines will continue to be a key feature of the school routine.
- **Wrap around care.** We will not be able to run a breakfast club or after school clubs during the three and a half weeks that the children will be in school up to the end of the Spring Term. We will aim to be able to organise these for the start of the Summer Term.

What has changed?

- Children **will** be able to bring their belongings to school in their school bags – packed lunch containers will still need to be in containers that can be wiped down and water bottles also need to be to be wiped down.
- Children **will** be able to take reading books home.

The return to school on 8th March is compulsory for all primary pupils. Punctuality will be closely monitored as lateness will directly impact on all families at the beginning and end of day.

Excited as we are about your children returning to school we do not underestimate the mixed feelings that your children may be having about returning to school. Whilst some may be excited about returning to school and seeing their friends again, some may be worried and anxious about what it will be like when they return.

The teachers have already begun to prepare some welcoming activities for them but it would be really helpful if you could start preparing them too by talking to them about returning and some of the things they might be excited and worried about. Also, if you have slipped out of routine and need to get back to regular sleeping and waking times for school, the coming week would be a good opportunity to try to get back into routine. Please look at the poster at the end of this newsletter for ideas that might help with this.



BOOK WEEK

Next week (w/c 1st March) is Book Week and is ordinarily one of the highlights of our year. We have made some arrangements for next week but, as the week will be impacted by our arrangements for the re-opening of school, we will be extending Book Week into the

following week. 'Dress Up as a Book Character Day' will now take place on **Thursday 11th March** – this is something that we could not have done online and will certainly give the children (and you!) something to plan for and look forward to in our first week back.

We will have a busy few weeks when we return and would very much like your support in making it as successful as we possibly can. Although we cannot gather, Book Week, Red Nose Day and Easter and celebration of spring is on the horizon. We sincerely hope you can lend a hand in all of the events we are hoping will take place.

Dates to remember:

Book Week/World Book Day	Week commencing 1 st March /Thursday 4 th March
Red Nose Day	Friday 19 th March
End of the term	Wednesday 31 st March

Wishing you a safe, happy and healthy week ahead.

Anne

Anne Fontaine

Let's keep each other safe!

HANDS



FACE



SPACE



Three simple words that mean so much.

Preparing Your Child For the First Day Back in School

As schools begin to open to more children, parents and children may well be feeling anxious. Here's some ideas of how best to prepare.

Be Calm.

Your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter of fact.



Be Curious.

These are strange times and their imagination may run away with them. Listen, and try not to dismiss or minimise their fears but validate how they are feeling – “it’s completely fine to feel like that at the moment” or ‘I can really understand why you would feel like that’



Be Positive.

Remind them of all the ways they have learnt to keep themselves safe: washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow, not hugging others and staying in their own space.



Be Thankful.

Help your child think of things they are looking forward to: being with their friends, seeing their teacher, favourite activities but be mindful some of these may not be available for them



Be Supportive

Younger children particularly may struggle with separation anxiety and may become tearful, clingy or act out. Reassure them that you will miss them too and think of them through out the day. It might be helpful to draw a little heart on their wrist and one on yours too. You can call it the hug button and when they find they are missing you they can press the heart and know that you will be doing the same at home. Sometimes having a little object to remind them of you through the day helps but please check this out with your school first.



Be Prepared.

Support your child to be aware of changes that may have happened to their classroom environment since they were there last and rehearse any new routines that school may have shared. Rehearse and practice your ‘goodbye’ routine and create a ‘hello’ greeting for the end of the day for them to look forward to.



Coronavirus: Weekly update from Camden Council

For the latest information and support from Camden Council and its partners, including updates to services:

- Visit [camden.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.camden.gov.uk/coronavirus) – includes information in different languages
- Check the rolling news pages at [news.camden.gov.uk](https://www.news.camden.gov.uk)
- Follow Twitter [@CamdenCouncil](https://twitter.com/CamdenCouncil) and Facebook [facebook.com/LB Camden](https://www.facebook.com/LB Camden)
- Speak to someone at the Council directly by calling **020 7974 4444 (option 9)**.



SIGN UP to the Council's coronavirus newsletter at [camden.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates](https://www.camden.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates)



On Monday (22 February) the Government published its phased approach to ending lockdown. This begins with schools and colleges returning from 8 March, along with indoor visits for a single named visitor in care homes.

I know these changes will be a welcome relief to those who have not been able to see loved ones over lockdown, and for parents and carers who have done an incredible job to support their children. However,

there are still many unknowns ahead. Many residents and businesses are still struggling. As a council we continue to be here for you and you can contact us on **020 7074 4444 (option 9)** if you need support with accessing food, medicine or other services.

And while there is light at the end of the tunnel, restrictions will not be eased unless the data on infection rates and vaccine uptake are heading in the right direction. As a community we have done so much to get to this point – it is therefore so important that we all continue to follow the rules, and get the vaccine when it's our turn.

Councillor Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council

Today: Virtual COVID-19 event for London's Somali community

Tonight (Thursday 25 February) from 7.30 to 9pm, join GPs, community leaders and public health experts at an information session for London's Somali community. Hosted by presenter and broadcaster Abdihafid Mahamud Jama, topics include staying safe during the pandemic; what to do if you catch COVID-19; information about the COVID-19 vaccine; and more. To attend, you can dial in from a landline or mobile phone on **+44 203 481 5237**, via Zoom us02web.zoom.us/j/84065404338 with webinar ID **840 6540 4338** or at [youtube.com/CamdenCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/CamdenCouncil). To submit questions in advance, please email Martha.Daniels@camden.gov.uk

COVID-19 vaccine for unpaid carers

If you are the main carer for a family member, partner or friend whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill, you may now be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. This is in line with the Government's priority list for vaccination, which has now moved to include unpaid carers (sometimes called "informal" carers) who are adults and young carers age 17 and 18 (priority group 6). Please make sure you are registered with a GP as an unpaid/informal carer so they can contact you about this. For support in your caring role, visit [camden.gov.uk/carersupport](https://www.camden.gov.uk/carersupport)

Anyone aged 64 or over, or clinically extremely vulnerable, can book their own appointment at a local vaccination centre by calling **119** for free or visiting [nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccine)

Please continue to follow all public health advice, whether or not you have been vaccinated.

Please celebrate Purim safely

Happy Purim to all of those celebrating, and thank you for everything you continue to do to keep Camden safe.

With cases of coronavirus high across London, it's crucial that you continue to follow the rules to keep yourself and loved ones safe. This means celebrating at home, with your household or support bubble.

Schools and colleges reopen from 8 March



The Council is working closely with Camden schools to ensure they are supported and ready to begin face-to-face lessons for all pupils from 8 March.

All schools will update their risk assessments and work closely with Camden Learning, local Public Health colleagues and trade unions to ensure the necessary safety measures are in place to keep pupils and staff as safe as possible.

Your child's school will be in contact with you about their arrangements. Visit [camden.gov.uk/schools-children-and-families](https://www.camden.gov.uk/schools-children-and-families) for more details.

No symptoms but must leave home for work?

Free, rapid tests with results in 45 minutes are available to any adult who:

- Lives or works in Camden, **and**
- Doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms, **and**
- Must leave the house to go to work or have regular close contact with others through caring or volunteer responsibilities.

Book at [camden.gov.uk/rapidtest](https://www.camden.gov.uk/rapidtest) or call **020 7974 4444 (option 9)**.

Got symptoms?

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, self-isolate and book a free test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call **119**. Do not go to a rapid test centre.

Stay home, save lives



Wear a face covering in indoor and busy outdoor public spaces, unless exempt



Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly



Keep 2 metres apart from people outside your household or support bubble

For more information, including on the Government's four-step plan to ease lockdown, visit [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

[camden.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.camden.gov.uk/coronavirus) 020 7974 4444 (option 9)

 **Camden**