



Friday 5th March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for the tremendous effort you have put into keeping your children safe, well and learning during this latest school closure.

On Monday 8th March, we look forward to all children returning to school. It will be wonderful to have the school full again and, with a great deal of thought and strict adherence to government guidelines, we have worked hard to make this return as safe as possible for children, staff and all our families. This letter is to update you on the current context, school routines and provide reassurance.

Current context and return to school

In recent weeks, the prevalence of COVID-19 in Camden has decreased. The risk to children becoming severely ill from coronavirus is very low and we know that school is vital for their education and wellbeing. We therefore expect **all** children, apart from those following government advice to quarantine, to return on Monday 8th March. If any families have concerns about this, please phone (020 7272 9627) or email us (admin@brookfield.camden.sch.uk) so that we can answer questions and support your child's transition back to school.

Safety measures and routines

Our full risk assessment is available on the school website and has been written in line with the latest government advice (February 2021). A summary of the measures that will be in place is below. Please do take time to familiarise yourself with them, especially those that involve the co-operation of parents and carers. We thank you for your help in keeping our community safe. Staff will take time to re-establish these routines (similar to those from September 2020) with their classes and you may want to talk about them with your child(ren) so they know what to expect from Monday.

- **Unwell children to stay at home.** Anyone with a new, continuous cough, high temperature or change in taste or smell to isolate and be tested for coronavirus, following guidance for possible infection. Let the school know immediately if a child tests positively for coronavirus.
- **Staff to complete twice weekly Home Lateral flow tests**
- **Robust hand washing routines**, including hand sanitising on entry to the school building, and 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' firmly established.
- **Staggered start and finish times with only one parent attending drop offs and pickups. Parents and carers to wear a mask at these times**, due to the limited space available on the pavements near school, and avoid gathering at the school gates. Please walk or cycle to school if at all possible.

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	Infant playground	Junior playground
8.45 – 3.15	Year 2	Year 6
8.50-3.20	Year 1	Year 5
8.55-3.25	Reception	Year 4
9-3.30		Year 3

We have new arrangements for Nursery drop off and collection. Nursery families will use the junior gate on Croftdown Road (the small one) to drop off for 9am and pick up at 3.15pm.

- **We are unable to accept children arriving late** through the office after 9am as this will compromise keeping year groups apart. **Any children arriving after 9am will be given home learning for the morning and given an allocated slot to arrive at lunchtime to join their year group.** Exceptions will be made for children attending appointments, please have confirmation to show the office.
- **Year groups will be kept apart** at playtimes, in the lunch hall and will not meet in assemblies
- **Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be in class bubbles.** Similar to practice in secondary schools, they will only mix with children from the other year group class in the playground and will record names of close contacts after break and lunch. This will minimize the number of children who may need to self-isolate if there is a positive case.
- Children to have their own **water bottles** brought in from home
- **Forward facing desks**, soft play, furnishings and toys with intricate parts removed
- **Only essential visitors** to be allowed on the school site, parents and carers to contact the school office via phone (020 7272 9627) or email (admin@brookfield.camden.sch.uk)
- **PE lessons outdoors** whenever possible, year 4 swimming postponed until further notice
- **Rigorous cleaning regimes**
- **School trips** to remain local, on foot, for example to Hampstead Heath
- **Lost property**, all named items returned to owners, weekly display of unnamed items in playgrounds, unclaimed items bagged up to avoid a lost property collection
- All **payments** to the school to be made online via www.scopay.com to minimise the health and safety risks of the office handling cash. Please email admin@brookfield.camden.sch.uk if you need a Scopay login.

We are confident that these measures will keep everyone healthy and safe and we will keep you updated if there are any changes.

Well-being and recovery

While so many of us are excited about the return to school, after months spent mainly at home, we anticipate children, parents and carers to experience a range of emotions about this transition. In the coming weeks, we will be focusing on well-being, positive mental health and helping children to regain lost learning.

I can appreciate that some families have experienced particular changes and challenges over the past few months and I invite and encourage you to keep us updated so that we can best support your child(ren) and you.

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I hope the above provides useful information and reassurance. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns so that we can help all Brookfield children safely return to school.

I very much look forward to seeing your child(ren) on Monday morning.

Yours, *Laurel*

Laurel Robin
Headteacher
Brookfield Nursery and Primary School

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