



EMMANUEL CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Acting Headteacher: Miss Claire Burns BA (Hons)

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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### **Re-opening of Emmanuel Church of England Primary School on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government announcement on Monday, we are delighted to welcome back all children to Emmanuel from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. In this letter, there is a lot of information on the return to school so please do take the time to read it carefully.

Our plans are informed by the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance and using this, we have reviewed and updated our risk assessment, which will be available for you to read on our school website next week. In effect, there are only a few minor changes from the systems we had in place before the school closure.

#### **Protective Measures**

The following protective measures will continue as we re-open for all pupils:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who have someone in their households who does, do not attend school.
- Cleaning hands more often than usual.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene; promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
- Minimising contact through the formation of 'bubbles' and 'hubs'.
- Ensuring good ventilation by keeping windows and internal doors open.

#### **Attendance**

The DfE guidance states that school attendance is compulsory from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly applies.

For some children and their families, this will be an anxious time and they may need some additional support with the return to school. If this applies to your family, please do contact our school ELSA, Mrs Watkins, via [wellbeing@emmanuel.camden.sch.uk](mailto:wellbeing@emmanuel.camden.sch.uk) and she can discuss available support.

#### **Your child should not come to school if:**

- They have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19;
- Someone in their household has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19;
- They are quarantining following a return from overseas.

If any of the above apply, please inform the school via [covid@emmanuel.camden.sch.uk](mailto:covid@emmanuel.camden.sch.uk) as soon as possible as we may need to carry out contact tracing. If your child is going to be absent from school for any other reason, please follow the usual procedures; call 020 7431 7984.

### Preparing the children for the return to school

Please take some time over the next week to talk to your child/ren about returning to school; they may be anxious about coming back to school, seeing peers they have not seen for a while, or about falling behind in their class work. Try to reassure them that all of these feelings are completely normal and Mrs Watkins has included further tips in our newsletter this week. Next Wednesday, all class teachers will discuss the return to school in their class 'google meets' so please ensure your child attends these meetings if possible (for Reception class, this google meet will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March).

### 'Bubbles' and 'Hubs'

As in the autumn term, children will stay within their 'class bubble' for the majority of the day. At times, such as the start and end of the day, and break and lunch times, two 'class bubbles' will join together to create a 'hub'. There will be a Nursery & Reception hub, a Y1 & Y2 hub, a Y3 & Y4 hub and a Y5 & Y6 hub. Hubs will be kept separate from one another at all times. The government guidance recognises that younger children may not be able to maintain social distancing so our emphasis is on keeping our hubs separate throughout the school day.

### Start and end of the school day

We will continue to stagger the drop-off and collection times at Emmanuel to help keep hubs apart as they arrive and leave the school premises.

Alpha Building		
Class	Drop-off	Collection
Reception <i>Alpha building</i>	8.55am	3.15pm
Nursery <i>Alpha building</i>	9.05am	3.05am

Omega Building		
Hub	Drop-off	Collection
Years 5 & 6	8.40am	3.10pm
Years 3 & 4	8.50am	3.20pm
Years 1 & 2	9.00am	3.30pm

As before, if you have more than one child in the Omega Building, please drop-off and collect at the **latest time slot** given for your children. We appreciate there will be clashes for some parents and we will of course be accommodating when this applies.

**Please note, we will be using a new entry and exit system at the back gate of the Omega building to support social distancing from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Staff will guide you through this on the first day.**

Parents and carers can support the health and safety of our whole-school community by:

- Being on time to drop-off and collect your child/ren;
- Only one parent dropping-off and collecting;
- Wearing a face mask and socially distancing as you wait in line;
- Following the new one-way system for drop-off and collection in the Omega building;
- Not congregating in the car park.

### Our approach

When the children return to school, we will take the time to settle them back into the routines of school life and give them time to enjoy playing with their friends. Over the next three weeks, we will also begin to identify and address gaps in their learning in a supportive way. Parent-teacher consultations will take place before Easter via Zoom and we will send more information on these meetings when we return.

### Break and Lunch Times

Caterlink will continue to provide hot lunches and if your child already receives a school lunch, there is no action for you to take. If you would like to swap your child to or from school lunches, please contact the school office by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

## **Clubs**

Breakfast club will resume from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and if you had already booked a place before Christmas, there is no further action for you to take. If you are interested in a place for breakfast club, please contact the school office by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and we will try our best to accommodate you.

Fortune Green Play Centre (020 7183 5120 extension 2) will be available for wrap-around care after school and we are looking to reinstate our own after-school clubs after the Easter holiday.

## **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

To prepare for the full re-opening of school, on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, teachers will set work on google classroom but there will be no 'class meets' on this day, teachers will not be on the class stream and work will not be marked. *A reminder to parents who are critical workers or who have vulnerable children in school on Friday 5th that they will need to be collected at lunchtime on this day (please check times on the email sent this week).*

Finally, thank you so much for all the support you have given your child/ren and the Emmanuel team during the partial school closure. It has been a challenging time for all of us but over the last year, the whole Emmanuel community has shown remarkable resilience and I am confident that this return to normality can be achieved in that same positive spirit.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you and your child/ren on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

With my best wishes,



Miss Burns  
Acting Head Teacher