



**Headteacher: Monica Forty**

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15 September 2020

## Welcome back – update from Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for being patient with the school as we started with our new arrangements for the beginning and the end of the day. It has been great to see older siblings take their younger brothers and sisters to class. It has been amazing how quickly the children have got used to the new arrangements. Well done everyone!

Here are a few points to emphasise following concerns raised by some parents:

### 1. End of the day

At the end of the day there are too many parents waiting at the gate and collecting their children at 3.15pm. This is resulting in poor social distancing and some parents (and staff) have shared their concerns with me.

So please collect your children at these times (on the website)

- **3.15pm** if your eldest child is in **Years 5 and 6**
- **3.25pm** if your eldest child is in **Years 3 and 4**
- **3.35pm** if your eldest child is in **Years 2, 1 and R**

This will stop the rush and crowd of parents waiting for the gates to open. Thank you to those of you who are collecting at the allocated time. For those of you who are worried – please come later as it is less busy and the gates do not close until 3.40pm.

At the end of the day, Commodore Street is entry only. Follow the one-way system, Essian Street and Harford Street are exit only. Please do not wait at the exits for your children as this is causing obstruction.

In order to reduce footfall in the playground, only one member of the household (plus buggy!) can collect your child. If you have a secondary school child who is doing the pick-up, please remind them only one person should come (no school friends).

### 2. Talking with members of staff

As the R number is rising I have advised all staff to wear masks at the end of the day and have asked them not to have conversations with parents. We are sad that we are not able to talk with you all freely as we would normally. But these are not normal times and we are trying to keep everyone safe. If you do need to speak to the class teacher please email your question or message to [admin@benjonson.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:admin@benjonson.towerhamlets.sch.uk) with the name of the staff member you wish to contact in the subject line. This email box is looked at throughout the day and your message will be forwarded to the relevant staff member. If it is urgent please ring the school.

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### 3. If your child has a Covid-19 symptom

Finally, I have spoken to Public Health England (PHE) in Tower Hamlets as many of you have been given advice from NHS 111 or NHS 119 to send your children back to school the next day if their temperature has dropped; that is not the advice PHE have given schools.

I have been told by PHE that if your child has

- a temperature of 37.8 or above or is hot to touch on their back or front
  - and /or a new persistent cough (this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
  - and /or have a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell
- please ring 119 to book a test.

You may have to wait a while for the test as there is a shortage. While you are waiting for a test your child with symptoms will need to be off school for **10 days** and the whole household has to self-isolate for **14 days**. If the test comes back as negative then the family can come out of self-isolation. If this advice changes I will let you know.

In addition, there is a cold going around at present. Some children have a headache, runny nose and sore throat. These are **not** Covid-19 symptoms but your child should stay at home until they feel better.

A reminder: when you call school to leave a message regarding your child's absence, please remember to clearly state the name of your child, class and the specific reason for absence including your child's symptoms.

We are in this together and I feel very lucky to have such a supportive parent community. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,



Monica Forty  
Headteacher

