

South End Junior



■ HEADTEACHER: MISS GURDIP KAUR
■ ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER: MRS LISA GIBBS
■ ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER: MISS LAURA BATEMAN

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you have all kept safe and well. We have read the revised guidance for opening on March 8th and will continue to follow the advice issued.

Upon return, we will remain in four separate year group bubbles. We will continue to encourage children to socially distance, limit interactions and control the sharing of resources.

Our utmost priority will be to nurture our children to settle them back into classes calmly, answering any questions they may have.

There are several reminders I need to share with you in readiness for the re-opening. Please do read all of the bullet points below carefully:

- Parents/carers are reminded not to send their children into school if the child or someone in the household displays any COVID-19 symptoms.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- ◇ a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
 - ◇ a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
 - ◇ a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- All parents/carers are expected to engage with the NHS track and trace process and provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive.
 - Parents/carers are expected to be ready and willing to book tests and self-isolate when circumstances require. The results of a test are to be relayed to the head teacher immediately.
 - Children will be asked to wash and sanitise their hands continuously throughout the school day.
 - School will be operated in four year -group bubbles, and bubbles will not mix. We will continue to stagger lunchtimes and playtimes until further notice.
 - There will continue to be staggered start and end times – one time for lower hub and another for upper hub. These times have changed slightly and can be found in the table on the next page. It is vital that all adults adhere to these times.
 - Parents/carers should leave their child at the gate to ease congestion of adults on site. At the end of the day, parents will be asked to socially distance whilst waiting on the playground to collect their child. All parents/carers are asked to wear a mask on school site.
 - Staff will be available on the playground daily to answer any questions you may have, and escort the children inside.
 - Children will need to return wearing full school uniform.
 - Water bottles must be taken home daily and washed out thoroughly.
 - PE kits must be brought to school every Monday and taken home every Friday to be washed ready for the next week.
 - No hot meal facility will be available. Packed lunches can be ordered via the Kingswood catering website. Children will be eating their lunch in their own classrooms.
 - There will be no before or after school clubs.

Inspiring the learning journey!

- Pupils' mobile phones will no longer be collected and stored for safekeeping. This is to minimise transmission of the virus. Children will be responsible for these, and will be kept in their lockers all day. The school will take no responsibility for any stolen or broken phones.
- Visits to the school admin centre should only be made if it is absolutely essential. Please call us instead; we are happy to help.
- All safeguarding concerns must be reported via a telephone call to the head teacher immediately.
- Attendance will be mandatory from March 8th as the government expects all pupils to attend school.
- Behaviour expectations will be reiterated on day one. We appreciate a long absence may result in some children needing reminders of our 5 stages and expectations. Should any child not follow these 5 stages, parents will be called to discuss the way forward to support the child with adjusting.

School life will look and feel different for everybody. The SEJ team will do their best to be patient and understanding of all children, and empathise with the situation we are all in. The first few weeks will be spent celebrating achievements in lockdown, and offering more pastoral support to everyone. Our new value of 'pride' will be launched as well as promoting positive behaviours for learning. Being flexible and developing a growth mindset will be reinforced, as well as following South End values.

Once the children have settled, baseline assessments will be completed across the school. These assessments will then inform us of what the children need support with, and which gaps we need to plug. This does not phase us: it's our job! Our children are used to completing assessments so this will be the norm.

Here are the start and end times for each year group **from 8th March**:

Year Group	Start time	End time
3	8.40am	3.00pm
4	8.40am	3.00pm
5	8.30am	2.50pm
6	8.30am	2.50pm

Thank you for your continued understanding and co-operation during this unpredictable and difficult time. Never has there been such a challenging time for us all at home and school. Just like you, we are all hoping that schools remain open safely and children continue to flourish with their learning.

We're extremely grateful for all the support we've received so far from the school community. Your support with remote learning has been exemplary; thank you.

We are looking forward to seeing all our South Enders return, and continue to build on their learning journey face-to-face. We have missed seeing the children and teaching them in person!

Should you have any questions which have not been answered in this letter, please do email me using gkaur@southend-jun.northants.sch.uk

See you at the gate next Monday!
Kind regards

G Kaur
Head teacher