

WEEKLY UPDATE: RETURN TO SCHOOL



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are fast approaching the end of the school year, and what an unusual year it has been. You will know that the arrangements for all children to return to school in September is very complicated and I want to make sure that all pupils and staff can return as safely as possible. I cannot thank you enough for the support you continue to give me and the team here at Star. I have tried to keep the information in this newsletter as simple as possible because I know it is a lot to take in.

- **In September there will be no breakfast club BUT the start of the school day will change to 7:50am.** This will reduce the risk of infection of class bubbles mixing across the school in the breakfast club.
- The school day will run from **7.50 am for all children**. School will finish at **2:05 for the EYFS**.
- Before your child starts any after school club provisions we ask that we give them a '**settling in**' period. We want to ensure that your child feels **happy and secure** before extending their day. However, we appreciate that some of our parents have work commitments so please email your requests to info@star.newham.sch.uk if you require the extended day immediately.
- Rainbow Club will be available every day **except Fridays**. Rainbow Club will run from **2:05/2:10pm - 3:00pm Monday to Thursday**.
- Sherpa Kids will continue to run from 3:00 until 6:00 as previously, **except on a Friday when Sherpa will run from 2pm - 5pm**. Please see the school website and book via their website. <https://star.newham.sch.uk/before-after-school/sherpa-kids/>

Please ensure you inform school of any changes to your address, phone number or medical needs for your child at info@star.newham.sch.uk or by calling the school office. **It is vital that we have the correct email address logged on Parent Mail.**

Video clips about your new class teacher can be found on our school website on **Tuesday 14th July**.

<https://star.newham.sch.uk/> This will be a short video for the teacher to introduce themselves to your child and talk a bit about the new arrangements for next year. You will find details of the new class and teacher attached. **Please bring this with you on the first day that your child returns to school in September.**

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020/2021

Star Primary School Term and Holiday Dates 2020/21

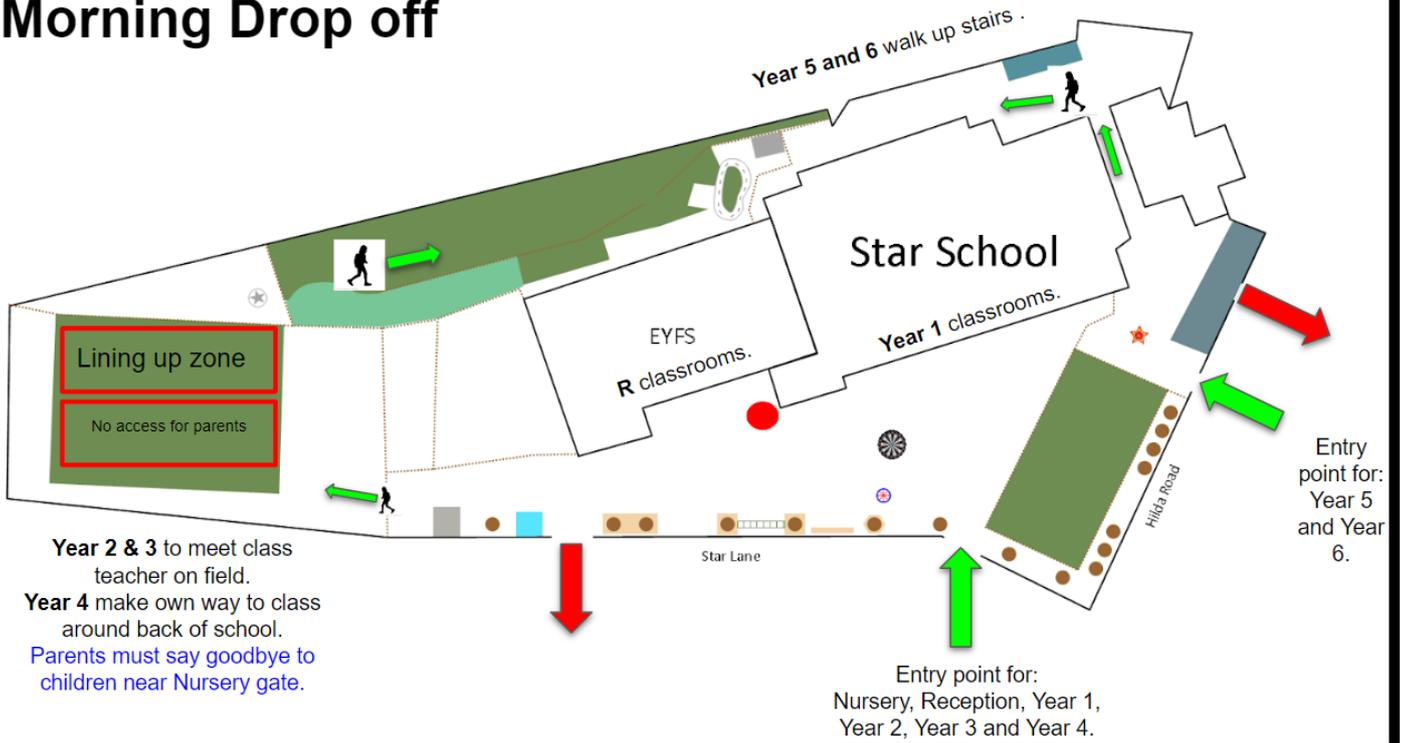
August 2020							September 2020							October 2020							November 2020						
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31																					30						

December 2020							January 2021							February 2021							March 2021						
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28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

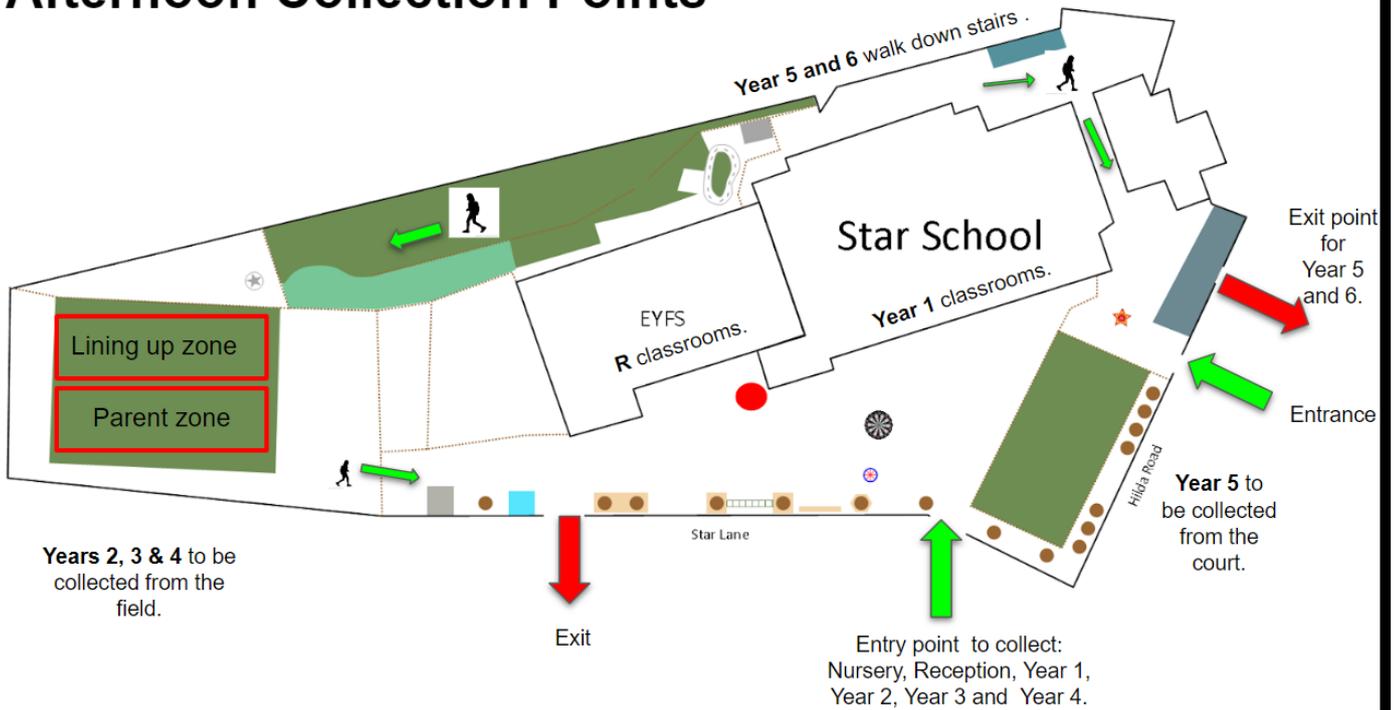
April 2021							May 2021							June 2021							July 2021						
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Key:	
	Holiday
	Training Day – School Closed
	Pupil Day – School Open
	Weekend

Morning Drop off



Afternoon Collection Points



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

(RETURN TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER)

Do I have to send my child into school in September?

- From September 2020 all children should attend school.

How will school minimize the risk of transmission?

At Star we will ensure we maintain,

- robust hand washing and personal hygiene... 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- more regular cleaning
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- From September children will be in class bubbles and at play and lunchtime be in year group bubbles. Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible. This includes, desks facing the front, staggered lunches and breaks and the use of a one way system around school at certain times of the day. There will be no whole school events such as assembly or singing assembly. In the Autumn Term there will be no school trips or whole school events like the Winter Market and Singing in the Community. Parent Information Meetings will all take place virtually.

What time will school start in September?

- To facilitate travel to school during non-peak hours for pupils, parents and staff, governors have agreed to change **the school day to 7.50 to 2.05/10**. Your child will still receive the same amount of teaching time, just one hour earlier.

How will you ensure that my child settles confidently into Reception?

- Parents are unable to enter the school building. All children are unique, some will separate from their parents/carers with ease whereas others will find it difficult. In order to ensure the children transition into Reception confidently we will be providing some activities outside to facilitate a supported transition time where parents can engage their child in an activity alongside a member of staff who will begin to build a relationship with your child. We will work with parents to ensure your child experiences a positive start to their school life at Star.

What will lunchtime look like for my child?

- Your child will choose a lunch at the beginning of the school day. At 10:30 your child's lunch will be delivered to them in their classrooms, where they will enjoy eating with their teachers

and peers. Your child's class teacher will be able to provide any feedback of concerns regarding your child's eating behaviours and offer advice or alternatives to help support them.

My child goes to Sherpa Kids, what shall I do?

- For families who are not able to collect their child at 2.05/10 we will be facilitating a Rainbow Club till 3.00pm once we are confident that your child is happy and secure in their new setting. This will provide a further one hour per day of time for children to do their homework, and use learning apps. Children will be invited to Rainbow Club and parents who are working and need to use the club, must contact the school to get a place for their child.

Can I drop my child off in the playground?

- To ensure there are no large gatherings and social distancing can be adhered to we will be using all entrances to school, including the large green gates on Star Lane. Staff will be available to help guide you. There will be no waiting in the playground and we encourage you to leave once your child is collected. Only one adult per household should drop off or pick up.
- Please see diagrams above for entry and exit points.

What happens if my child is unwell at school?

- If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

What if a child has covid19 in my child's bubble?

- If there is a confirmed case of Covid 19 in a class then we will ask that bubble to self isolate for 14 days.

How will my child catch up on any missed learning?

- At Star we have designed a recovery curriculum for the first half term. This will teach children key skills in core subjects. Children will still have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, with a strong focus on Wellbeing, Reading, Writing and Maths.

How can I help my child at home with their learning?

- We invite you to continue with the good habits you have made during the last three months. Please continue to use Bug club, Mathletics and Times Table Rockstars at home, alongside daily reading and our spelling scheme.

Can I send my child to the Breakfast club?

- As stated above, children will be in class 'bubbles'. In order to minimise the risk of infection **we will not be offering a breakfast club** from September. School now starts at 7:50 so parents can give their children breakfast at home and drop them at school before going to work.

Can I send my child to Sherpa Kids?

- Yes, when your child is settled Sherpa Kids will welcome your child into their provision. Sherpa Kids will still be running the after school club and have their own Covid19 arrangements in place.
- You will need to use the booking system as before to contact Sherpa Kids directly to book your child into the club.
- The club will be available from 3.00 - 6.00pm every day **except Fridays, when the club will run from 2pm - 5pm**

Are there any clubs running in September?

- We will be inviting some children to our **Rainbow Club from 2:05/10 till 3pm** each day and if guidelines permit some clubs may operate in school. These will be shared with families if possible in September.

If we have to self isolate or there are local lockdowns - How will my child continue to learn?

- At Star we will be prepared to offer remote learning to all pupils if there is full lockdown or local lockdown. Children will be encouraged to access their learning tasks through google drive. We will also be launching Google classroom in September which will better facilitate learning from home and improve interactions between teacher and pupil.

What will be different about the school day?

- School will look different in September but we are very excited to have every single pupil back. Your child may enter through a different door, perhaps have their classroom on a different floor but any measure we put in place will be there to ensure the safety of your children and our staff at Star.

Does my child have to wear a uniform?

- Yes. Children must wear clean clothes each day.
- We suggest that as soon as your child returns home from school they shower and change out of their clothes, which should then be washed as quickly as possible. This will reduce the risk to others in your household.
- During the warmer weather, **please do not send your child with a coat.**

What about other items?

- Children may bring an individual water bottle with them.
- If it is cold, they can bring a coat or if it is hot, they can bring in a hat.

- Book bags and reading books can be brought in and go home with children.
- Children will need their full PE kit for September including Fit Friday Uniform.

What about PPE?

- You may wish your child to wear PPE whilst travelling but they must not wear it when they come into school.
- This is because a child is unlikely to wear a face mask for the entire day (particularly when running around outside) and therefore will want to take it off. This poses a bigger risk than not wearing one.
- Staff will generally not be wearing PPE which is why the social distance measures are in place in all rooms (including staff areas).
- Staff will only wear PPE if there is a risk of contact with bodily fluids i.e. first aid, or if they are involved with helping younger children use toilet facilities. They will also wear it if they are looking after someone who displays possible COVID symptoms.
- In these cases, the PPE will be disposable gloves & aprons. They may also be wearing a clear visor.

Can my child mix with friends or relatives who may be in another bubble?

- Unfortunately, no. Each bubble needs to stay within itself both in the classroom and outside in the playground.
- Each bubble will be given allocated space and times to be in the playground every day, but they will not be able to play with children from other bubbles who may be in a different area.

What about social distancing in the classroom ?

- The children will be encouraged to sit on the carpet at a distance from their peers.
- We will utilise outside space as much as possible too.

What will the Early Years look like?

- Reception classrooms will be in four groups, allowing for smaller class sizes.
- Every reception space will also have an outdoor space for the use of their bubble.
- We will of course make use of this for as many activities as possible, in addition to break and lunch play.

How will you look after my child's well-being?

- This has been a challenging time for everyone and that includes children.
- Many of our families have experienced illness, change in family circumstances and bereavement.
- We realise that many children may be scared to be outside with others, whilst others will be looking forward to it but find the restrictions they must follow difficult.
- Our Pastoral Team will advise staff within the bubbles on ways to explore this with children and help them adjust to this 'new normal'.
- Staff will also receive additional training in relation to supporting children's mental health and how to support those who have experienced bereavement.

What if I need to speak to the school? Can I come into the front office?

- If you need to contact the school, please do not come to the school office.
- If you have any further questions or queries about any of the information in this letter than please do contact us on the details below.
- If you need to speak to someone you need to call or email us.
 - Tel: 020 74765336
 - Email: info@star.newham.sch.uk

I hope that we have addressed many of your questions and concerns. The staff are working hard to prepare for the next school year. Please remember that we are all in this together. Be kind to yourself and your children. There are lots of ideas and well-being strategies on the school website. Above all, don't give up now. I will be using the holiday period to make sure my family are as fit and healthy as we can be. A healthy diet, plenty of exercise and caring for your family's well-being is the best thing we can all do right now. I am thinking of you all.

Best wishes

Ms Von