

WestbridgeAcademy

Bolingbroke Walk
Battersea London
SW11 3NE

Tel: 020 72281293

Email: office@westbridgestepacademy.org

Website: www.westbridgestepacademy.org

Twitter: @WestbridgeAcad

Headteacher: Diane Thompson

Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Welcome Back

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well and that you have had an enjoyable summer break.

The Westbridge staff team are looking forward to warmly welcoming you and your family back to Westbridge on Thursday 3rd September 2020 and a return to something a little closer to normal.

We do recognise however, that there will be some challenges ahead, which require your continued support, as we know that some of our families might be feeling worried about returning to school on the 3rd September. Please speak to us about any concerns that you may have, as we will do all that we can to reassure you and to keep our community safe.

As advised in previous communications, in order to keep our school community safe and to deliver high-quality learning experiences, while adhering to government guidelines, we will make some changes to our school routines and procedures. Please ensure that you discuss the changes with your children, as this will alleviate any concerns they may have and enable us to make the return to school as smooth as possible.

Attendance

All children from Year R to Year 6 are expected to return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2020.

Nursery children will return to school during the week beginning 21st of September 2020.

If your child is absent through illness, please notify the school office (by phone/email) in the normal way.

Beginning and end of school day

In order to maintain social distancing, we will change our routines at the start and end of the school day.

There will be staggered times for drop off and pick up:

Year group	Beginning of school day	End of school day
Year R	9am – Year R playground	3pm - Year R playground
Year 1	9am – KS1 soft start entrance	3pm - KS1 playground
Year 2	9am – KS1 soft start entrance	3pm - KS1 playground
Year 3	8.45am – KS1 soft start entrance	3.15pm - KS2 playground
Year 4	8.45am – KS1 soft start entrance	3.15pm - KS2 playground
Year 5	8.45am – KS1 soft start entrance	3.15pm - KS2 playground
Year 6	8.45am – KS1 soft start entrance	3.15pm - KS2 playground
Nursery	The start of term will begin the week beginning 21st of September 2020	

In order to keep the entire school community safe, it is essential that you:

- Take full responsibility for ensuring that you and your children are socially distancing from other families
- Arrive promptly for your allotted drop off and pick up time
- Leave the playground promptly once you have dropped off/collected your children
- Ensure that one adult per family drops off and collects children

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Class groups

Each year group (of up to 30 children) will remain together throughout the day and will not mix with children from other phase groups.

Phase groups

Where needed, phase groups will be allowed together. Phase groups will contain a maximum of two classes e.g. Nursery and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 and Year 5 and Year 6.

Break time

Each phase group will play in a designated area to maintain social distancing and avoid coming into contact with other groups.

Lunchtime

We will stagger lunch times to maintain social distancing and avoid different phase groups coming into contact with each other.

Extended clubs

In order to avoid different year groups coming into contact with each other, breakfast, after school and extended clubs are cancelled until further notice.

Uniform

All children are expected to wear our full school uniform each day. If there are genuine extenuating circumstances that may prevent your child from wearing an item of school uniform temporarily, please inform a member of staff.

Uniform list

- Plain, sensible black shoes

(Trainers, plimsolls or canvas shoes are not part of our school uniform. Shoes with too much decoration or additional colours are not part of our school uniform).

- Purple Westbridge sweatshirt (with logo)
- Purple Westbridge cardigan (with logo)
- Purple Westbridge jacket (with logo), or any alternative jacket that is practical for school
- Black skirt or black trousers
- Lilac gingham dress
- White polo shirt
- Lilac hijab
- Purple Westbridge book bag/backpack, or any alternative bag that is practical for school

Westbridge sweatshirts, cardigans, jackets, book bags and rucksacks **can only be purchased online** from

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www.stitchdesign.co.uk

PE Kit

- Black jogging bottoms, or black shorts
- White T-Shirt
- Plimsolls or trainers

Curriculum

Our curriculum will focus on supporting children's health & wellbeing, new routines, co-operative learning and introducing our new academy values (PUPAC).

In the Early Years, we will also focus on:

- The prime areas of learning (including communication and language, personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and physical development)
- Addressing gaps in language, phonics and maths

And in KS1 and KS2, we will focus on:

- Addressing gaps in phonics, reading, writing and maths
- Developing knowledge and vocabulary

Improvements

We have been working hard to make improvements to our learning environment and several areas in the school have undergone maintenance work during the holiday. This includes some redecoration, new classroom computers and smartboards.

General support and preventative measures

- Children will wash their hands on arrival and will wash their hands regularly throughout the day, taking note of the hand washing posters, which are displayed next to the hand washing facilities.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the KS1 playground before school.
- Children will be reminded about the importance of hygiene (hand washing and catching their sneezes in tissues or their upper sleeve, if tissue is not available, etc.) and how to take precautions, while remaining positive.
- Children will be reminded to maintain a safe social distance from children who are not in their phase group and adults at all times (though we recognise that there are occasions where this will be difficult to do so).

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- All learning spaces will contain tissues and hand sanitizer (if access to soap and water is not readily available).
- Westbridge is cleaned on a daily basis, with high touch points (door handles and stair rails, etc.) cleaned at least twice each day.
- Staff will have access to PPE if they are unable to maintain their social distance, e.g. when administering first aid to children, etc.
- There's no government guidance that currently recommends the regular use of face coverings for primary school staff or pupils when in school.
- The school building will be separated into zones and groups of children will only be able to access their specific part of the building, which includes bathroom facilities, corridors and playgrounds.
- Children will be encouraged to walk on the left-hand side of the corridor.
- Movement will be reduced around the school - groups will spend the majority of their time in their own classroom during the day.
- Children will be provided with their own set of stationery (e.g. pencils and pens).
- Other resources that are needed for activities (e.g. sports, art and science equipment) can be shared and will be cleaned between groups using them.
- Children will sit at the same table, within their group, where possible.
- Water fountains will not be used, so please send your child with their own water bottle each day. We have disposable cups which the children will have access to use throughout the day, but sending your child in with their own water bottle is preferred.
- Outdoor equipment/apparatus/play equipment/climbing frames will not be used unless they have been cleaned between each group.
- If a child, or member of staff reports that they feel unwell on the school premises, we will make arrangements for them to go home as soon as possible.

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

To protect others, you must stay at home if you or someone you live with has symptoms of coronavirus. You should NOT attend school.

If you, your child, or anyone you live with has the following symptoms you and your entire household must follow the official guidance to stay at home:

- A new, continuous cough and/or
- A high temperature above 37.5 degrees
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If an individual has symptoms of coronavirus, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

If a member of your household has symptoms, then all household members (including all children) must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household showed symptoms.

If a child displays symptoms of coronavirus while at school, they will be discreetly separated from their group and you will be asked to collect them immediately from school.

If either a member of staff or a child tests positive for Covid 19, the school will contact the local health protection team to get advice about what the next steps should be for the children and staff within the affected class/phase.

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Please contact NHS 111 online or call 111 for further support and advice regarding the coronavirus.

Communication

We work hard to have positive, up-to-date communications with you whilst ensuring the safety of the entire community. Even though we miss face to face communication, for now, in order to keep everyone safe, please do not enter the school building unless you have an appointment – instead, please make use of phone and email communication.

As you know, our main form of communication is through Parentmail so please ensure that the office has your most up-to-date contact email address and other contact details. If you need any support in logging in or you have any questions about Parentmail, please phone the school office.

We also use our **website** to keep you informed about what is happening and each fortnight, we will upload our newsletter as well as sending home a paper copy. You can find key information about our curriculum, policies, holiday dates and much more: <https://westbridgestepacademy.org/>

Much of our work is shared on **Twitter**, which is a great way for you to see the rich curriculum we are offering your children. You can follow us on Twitter **@WestbridgeAcad**. If you need any assistance signing up to Twitter, please contact the school office.

We anticipate that the year ahead will be filled with excitement, challenge and rewarding experiences. We look forward to working in partnership with the entire school community, as together we will achieve greatness, ensuring that our children are happy and have the opportunity to fulfil their potential in a positive environment which is strengthened by our STEP Compass.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone, or email.

For further information regarding government guidelines on school reopening in September 2020, please use this link: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Thompson
Headteacher