



HIGHER OPENSHAW COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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19th July 2021

Important Information for Return to School in September

Dear Parents / Carers,

COVID Regulations from September

As you may know, as part of their 'national roadmap', the Government have lifted COVID restrictions from today. On a local level, Manchester City Council have instructed all schools to continue implementing the measures that have been in place throughout the pandemic. We have been told to maintain rules such as mask wearing for staff, keeping pupils in 'bubbles' and enhanced cleaning until the end of term. For our school this is on Wednesday 21st July. This is because Manchester is categorised as an 'enhanced COVID response area' due to the high number of positive cases that are being reported.

We hope by the time we return in September, many of the processes and procedures that we have been asked to put in place will be removed, including staggered start and finish times. We have planned our return in September on this basis, however if we are instructed to return to how we have operated for the last 12 months school will contact all parents over the summer holidays so please keep checking your parentmail.

From 16th August, it is the Government's plan that any fully vaccinated adult or child under the age of 18 years will not have to isolate if they are classed as a direct contact of a positive case. This is good news for school as it will mean only the person who has tested positive for COVID will need to isolate and not the entire bubble. This will ensure much less disruption to the pupils' learning and reduce the number of staffing issues that we have experienced for the last 12 months.

Start and Finish times

All being well, we will not have to operate staggered start and finish times and will be able to once again invite parents into the school grounds to drop off and pick up. We have decided to keep in place a 10 minute gap between some of the older children and the younger ones, mainly to reduce congestion in the playground and at the school gates as this has been a problem for some time now.

From September the following times for each year group will apply:

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time
Y4, Y5, Y6	8.50am	3.00pm
Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3	9.00am	3.10pm

If you have children with two different start times, then they can all start at 8.50am. Unfortunately, younger children are not able to finish any earlier than 3.10pm so if you have a child in Y4, Y5 or Y6, you will have to wait for their younger sibling to be dismissed.

School gates will open at **8.45am and close at 9.05am in the morning** and then **reopen at 2.55pm in the afternoon**. We ask that you try and time your arrival at school so that the number of parents on site at any one time is minimised. We are trying to avoid having large numbers of people congregating unnecessarily.

School Uniform

Due to COVID restrictions, uniform rules have been relaxed over the past 12 months, however from September our full uniform policy will be in place again. Our Uniform consists of:

- White polo shirt, with school logo (EYFS/KS1 only)
- Or white blouse/shirt (optional for EYFS/KS1)
- White Stiff collar blouse/shirt for all KS2 (so that tie can be clipped on)
- Blue (and red trim) v-neck sweatshirt/jumper with school logo
- Blue (and red trim) cardigan, with school logo (for girls)
- Blue and red striped School tie (elastic for infants, clip on for juniors).
- Dark grey (charcoal colour) trousers
- Dark grey pinafore dress
- Dark grey socks and/or tights
- Plain Black shoes (No trainers)
- Blue gingham summer dress with white socks (Summer Term Apr-July, only)

Please help you child feel part of our school family by supporting us with this policy.

Revised School Calendar

Please see the separately attached school calendar. The Government have now added an extra bank holiday for the Queen's platinum Jubilee next June. **School will now be closed on Monday 6th June 2022** for this celebration. Please note that school starts back for Autumn term on **Tuesday 7th September 2021**.

Thank you for your support throughout this most difficult and challenging 18 months. We look forward to getting back to normality in September.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher

