



Barn Croft Primary School
Head Teacher: Tracey Griffiths

2 Brunel Road
Walthamstow
London
E17 8SB

Tel: 0208 521 1145

Fax: 020 8520 4306

www.barncroft.waltham.sch.uk

email: school@barncroft.waltham.sch.uk

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Having listened to the announcement by Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, regarding the further wider opening of schools yesterday, I am writing to let you know how we will be moving forward with inviting more children back into school.

On Friday 5th June, I received the following advice from Waltham Forest:

In Waltham Forest, in the last two weeks (May 18th to June 1st), a total of 14 people tested positive – 1 a day, and about 30 times lower than at peak. This is a rate of 5 positive cases per 100,000 people, which is about average for London, and well below the national average. Levels of infection in London as a whole have been reducing more quickly than the rest of England (London has an R value of 0.4, compared to 0.75 for the rest of the country; this information is not available at local authority level).

This is more reassuring that it is safe to begin to return although obviously everyone is quite rightly wary. We have thought long and hard about what we should do at Barn Croft. We want to be able to have a positive impact upon the children who return in the 5 weeks left before the holiday – within the confines of the space we have and the staff numbers we have.

We have therefore decided to invite Reception class back in 2 groups and on a part-time basis from Wednesday 17th June. Reception parents & carers will be receiving a letter with the details later today. Then on Monday 6th July we will welcome back the Y6 children for the last 2 weeks of term. Year 6 parents & carers will receive a letter in the next few days.

Today it was announced that schools will not be expected to invite in children from other year groups before the summer holidays ie years 2, 3, 4 and 5.

However, I would like to reiterate that we are able to have children who fall into certain categories back in school as we always have since closure. These groups have been termed “Key Worker and Vulnerable” children. I want to outline to you exactly who can ask for a place in school under these criteria:

- *If one parent is key worker – please see the most up to date list for key worker/critical workers <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>*
- *If your family has current involvement with social services through the Early Help scheme.*
- *If your child has Special Educational Needs or disability particularly if they have an Educational Health Care Plan*
- *If you and your family have involvement with social services in any capacity (including if you are part of Early Help intervention).*

If you have a child in Nursery, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 or Y5 and you think you fall into one of these categories and you want your child to attend school then please do give us a call and we will discuss this with you. We do not want any parent to be unable to work because their child is not in one of the year groups coming back. If you are unsure if you do fall into one of these categories and want your child to return to school then please give us a call on Thursday 11th June so that we can discuss options. Your child would be in one of our Key Worker/Vulnerable groups. At the moment we have 2 groups – one for Early Years and KS1 and one for KS2 and we have capacity to “grow” these bubbles slightly.

Please also be assured that there will be no negative effect with regards to attendance data if your child does not attend school. It remains your personal choice if you do not want your child to return to school yet.

I know these are still extremely challenging times for everyone. I want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to think about how we can continue to support both you and your children over the coming weeks including the summer holidays. This is challenging because we are a small school with limited staff who have been working hard throughout this time. But we know that it is not just the next 5 weeks – it is another 6 weeks holiday as well. By the time we return in September (however we return!) this will equate to over 5 months away from school. This is a concern to us all and something we take very seriously.

We are looking at ways we can continue to provide the food hampers throughout the holidays and also the Home Learning packs. We will be giving out some additional work with the Home Learning packs based upon our No Outsiders project which will be based upon books read on Class Dojo by the teachers (you will receive more information on this soon). We are also looking at ways we can also arrange online meetings with parents before the summer holidays once the end of year reports have gone out to you as a way to touch base and give advice on what to be working on over the holidays. I am in the process of working out which teachers and support staff will be with which classes from September. We are trying to ensure as much continuity as possible – not changing classrooms for some classes, teachers staying with their classes where possible, teaching assistants staying with the children they work one to one with. We

know that the transition back into school will be hard for some children and so want to mitigate this as far as possible.

I know this has been hard but you have all done an incredible job. We have all felt so supported by our parents and appreciate each and every kind message and gift we have received.

I hope this letter finds you all well. I will also be sending a survey in the next week or so regarding the mental well-being of your children during this difficult time. And we need to find out if your child has access to a device and the internet in order to access online learning so we will be asking you when we call you next. We want to be able to prepare for when we do welcome them all back and we are designing a "recovery curriculum" to ensure that the move back into school is gentle and addresses the emotional health of all the children.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Tracey Griffiths
Headteacher