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17th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your children safe and well and that you are enjoying some family time together. I am writing to you to provide you with some information about next academic year. Given that most restrictions have now been lifted, much of daily school life will see a return to normality.

Timings of the school day

8.40 - Gates open, soft drop until 8.50am
8.50 - Gates close and children arriving after this will be signed in through the office
9.00 - Registers taken promptly, any child arriving in class after 9am will be marked late

10.10 - 10.25 - Assembly (Mon-Weds) 9.00 (Thurs)) & 10.25 - 10.45 (Friday)

10.45 - 11.00 - Break

Lunchtimes:

11.45-12.45 - Reception

12.10-1.10 - Year 1 & 2

12.35-1.35 - Year 3-6 (Years 3 & 4 will eat at 12.35 while Years 5 & 6 play and Years 5 & 6 will follow at 1.00pm when Years 3 & 4 will play. There may be points where all 4 year groups are on the playground but this will be for a short time only)

3.15 - End of the day

If your child is in reception please refer to the staggered finish times for the first 3 weeks that you were given prior to the holidays.

Drop off and collection

Children should be dropped off and collected from the classroom door. On the first day back children (Y1-6) will come home with new "collection arrangements" forms, please complete this and bring it back to school the following day. Only children in Years 5 and 6 may leave the classroom on their own, if you would like your child to do this, you must indicate this on the form.

Summary of changes following the lifting of restrictions on 19th July

- "Bubbles" no longer exist - children can and will mix freely with children from other year groups
- Instead of bubble closures, Test and Trace will work with the confirmed case to identify close contacts. Children who have been identified as close contacts of a confirmed case will be contacted by Test and Trace and advised to get a PCR test. As of yesterday, anyone under the age of 18 will NOT have to self isolate if they have had contact with a confirmed case - they will be asked to take a PCR test and if this is negative they will be able to return to school.



- Whole school and key stage assemblies will resume
- Children will no longer sit in forward facing rows
- There will be no staggered drop off and collection times/points
- Parents and carers are no longer required to wear face coverings - this is now solely at your personal discretion
- Children are allowed to sing together
- After school club will operate from The Hangar (in between Year 5 and 6 and accessed from the key stage 2 playground) Breakfast Club will continue to operate from the hall. Children from different year groups will be free to mix with one another.
- Trips and visits will resume. We will use any money that we have remaining from previous contributions and then will ask parents and carers to contribute on a trip by trip basis rather than asking for £30 from each family upfront.

Keeping Safe

- We will have in place a scaled down system of controls as follows:
 - **Ensure good hygiene for everyone** (children will continue to wash their hands regularly and will continue to be reminded about good respiratory hygiene - adopting a *catch it, bin it, kill it* approach.
 - **Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes** (we will maintain the enhanced cleaning routines that we have in place, though children will now be free to share equipment)
 - **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated** (windows/external doors will be open as long as a comfortable classroom temperature is achieved, when spaces are empty, doors and windows will be opened fully in order to ventilate them.)
 - **Follow public health advice on testing, self isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19**
- Our latest risk assessment which outlines the system of controls is attached and will be available on our website in September
- Our Outbreak Management plan is also attached and will be available on our website. This plan essentially outlines the fact that if we were to have a school/local outbreak of COVID-19, it may be necessary to return to control measures such as Bubbles, staggered starts etc.
- Staff will continue to be encouraged to do asymptomatic testing twice a week.
- Please do not send your child to school if they have any of the key symptoms, any child sent to school displaying these symptoms will be sent home:
 - High temperature
 - New continuous cough
 - Loss or change to sense of taste or smell
- We will continue to follow the latest [government guidance](#).

Attendance

- Attendance for all pupils is mandatory and it is critically important that all pupils attend school.
- Unfortunately our whole school attendance figures are poor and must improve - we will be planning new incentives and rewards for pupils with the best attendance and would ask that you ensure that your child attends well. It is critically important if we are to close the gaps in children's learning that enforced school closures have caused.
- We will not authorise any term time holidays (except in exceptional circumstances) and holidays of 5 days or more taken in term time will be subject to fines.



- We would also ask that appointments such as routine dentist and optician appointments are made out of school hours.
- If your child has to self isolate we will provide remote learning for them - they will have the option of joining live English and maths lessons via Google Meet and there will be work equivalent to what is covered at school, posted to the Google Classroom. This is a statutory duty placed upon all schools; it is up to parents and carers to decide how much remote learning is manageable for their child. Please note that remote education will ONLY be provided “where a child’s attendance would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around COVID-19.”
- If your child is unwell or is told that they must isolate, please call the school office to inform us of the reason for their absence.
- More information about whole school strategies to improve attendance will follow in the autumn term.

COVID Recovery and Catch Up

- As you would expect, our “Recovery Curriculum” is a major school development priority - and our detailed school development plan will be available to view on our website in September.
- We have various interventions planned for children who need them and parents and carers will be given information about these in due course. In addition, every subject leader has re-designed the curriculum for their subject to ensure that gaps are filled and that children do not move on to the next stage of their learning until they are ready. Teachers will also be ensuring that children who are ready for further challenge, are not held back.
- Speaking and listening in the early years and phonics and early reading are focus areas as well as retention and recall in maths. There will be workshops for parents and carers about these areas as well as a meeting for Y5 and 6 families about the end of key stage 2 expectations and SATs (dates will follow).
- We are still looking for reading volunteers - specifically to help with Guided Reading in Year 1 and Year 2 from 9.00-9.30am every day. If you think you might be able to help please get in touch - you do not need any experience and training will be provided. If you are interested in a career in teaching or as a teaching assistant, this experience could prove to be invaluable! Please contact Sally Helps s.helps@bigginhillps.com

Communicating with you

- There will be a virtual *Meet the Teacher* video uploaded to Google Classroom on the first Monday back. This will help you to get to know your child’s class teacher a bit more as well as providing key information about this year (PE days etc)
- A curriculum map will also be sent by the end of the first week so that you can see what your child will be learning about this term.
- A list of classes and class teaching teams can be found at the end of this letter and I have also added class teacher’s email addresses so that you can get in touch with your child’s class teacher quickly and efficiently. If you would like to book a face to face meeting with your child’s teacher please feel free to do so.
- We will continue to send weekly newsletters, monthly safeguarding bulletins and spotlight articles about aspects of our work and of course our website contains a wealth of



information!

- Thank you to those of you who completed the Google Forms about our draft behaviour policy and interim homework structure. We will be using your feedback to make some slight adjustments and a separate letter will follow about this early in the new term.
- The first parent consultations of the academic year will be held in October.

Visitors

There will now be a COVID Test and Trace sign in QR code for any visitors to the school, alternatively people can choose to leave their contact details. This is to assist with Test and Trace in the event of any in-school confirmed cases.

Uniform

Please refer to the letter that we sent at the end of term in relation to this. Full school uniform including black school shoes, is expected from the first day back. Children may continue to wear summer dresses until half term. Ties should be worn and hair accessories should be in school colours. PE kits may now be left in school for the whole half term, they will be sent home for washing at the end of the half term.

Events

- An updated version of the family calendar is attached. We hope to be able to hold various special events throughout the school year and are excited that we will now be able to invite parents and carers to some of these and to class assemblies once again. We will keep date changes to a minimum so please do make a note of key dates.
- Our residential for Year 4 and Year 6 are planned and meetings about these will be held in due course.
- There will be swimming blocks for Year 4, 5 and 6 (more information will follow).

We are so looking forward to a positive and productive year with your wonderful children - see you all on Wednesday 1st September.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Freeman

Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Scroll down for class teachers and class names grid



R Tim Peake Class	R Eileen Collins Class
Charlotte Powell c.powell@bigginhillps.com	Emma Churchward e.churchward@bigginhillps.com
Sam Thorpe Claire Jones/Mita Gordon Mary D'Monte	
Yr1 Gravett →Eugenie Clark Class	Yr1 Potter →Greta Thunberg Class
Jo Gilham/Sarah Clark j.gilham@bigginhillps.com s.clark@bigginhillps.com	Helen Lucas/Julie Turner h.lucas@bigginhillps.com j.turner@bigginhillps.com
Lisa Bourn Jenny Snelling	
Yr2 Longstaff →Jesse Owens Class	Yr2 Carle →Josephine Baker Class
Sinead O'Mahony s.o'mahony@bigginhillps.com	Anna Windover/Mary Burgham a.windover@bigginhillps.com m.burgham@bigginhillps.com
Davina Mew Linda Archer	
Yr3 Cooper→Lek Chailert Class	Yr3 Rosen→Marcus Rashford Class
Christina Castledine c.castledine@bigginhillps.com	Emily Reed e.reed@bigginhillps.com
Debbie Mason Laura Horgan	
Yr4 Doherty→Louis Braille Class	Yr4 Strong→Leonardo Da Vinci Class
Linda Buchanan l.buchanan@bigginhillps.com	Oliver Day o.day@bigginhillps.com
Gemma McLaren Hayley Rooney	
Yr5 Bond →Mo Farah Class	Yr5 Frost →Ida B Wells Class
Emily Farrell e.farrell@bigginhillps.com	Heather Wigfield h.wigfield@bigginhillps.com
Emma Gray Ali Scriven	
Yr6 Elphinstone →Jessica Ennis-Hill Class	Yr6 Woodfine→Laura Dekker Class
Rebecca Elliott r.elliott@bigginhillps.com	Andrew Devlin a.devlin@bigginhillps.com
Faye Shepherd Bonnie Whittaker	

