



The Town Hall Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PU
Web: www.wandsworth.gov.uk

Date: 21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government has announced plans for re-opening schools. Almost all schools in Wandsworth have remained open for some children throughout lockdown, and, in line with the guidance, they are now making plans to expand their intake, with many pupils returning from Monday, June 1st. The Government has identified pupils in nursery, reception, year 1, year 6, year 10 and year 12 as a priority.

Every school is different. As a Council, we support our headteachers and governors in the decisions they make for their schools and communities to stay well and stay safe. They will need to amend timetables and, if necessary, consider which pupil groups to welcome back first. We will not apply a 'one size fits all' solution to reopening.

All schools have undertaken risk assessments and are introducing the most rigorous steps to ensure the highest standards of hygiene, including regular cleaning and hand washing. They will make the best possible arrangements for social distancing based on their own unique settings. This has been supported by expert advice from the Council's Director of Public Health.

Some parents and carers might have concerns about their children going back to school. We can assure you that no decision will be taken lightly. If your school welcomes back your children on Monday, June 1st, then it is because its Headteacher and governors have judged it is safe to do so.

The Wandsworth Council Back to School Offer

As a Council we decided that we wanted to go above and beyond the national guidance. The councillors and leaders of the Council have worked to put in place the following 8 additional measures:

- **Expanding our flagship "School Streets" programme to block traffic outside any school that requires it for social distancing during drop-off and pick-up.**
- **Making parks and outside facilities available free of charge to schools.**
- **Offering the free use of other Council buildings if any school needs extra space.**
- **Procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for any school that needs it.**
- **Working with SEN transport providers to keep our vehicles safe for the most vulnerable.**
- **Providing our own Free School Meal vouchers scheme to support the national system when necessary.**
- **Providing free mental health support to Wandsworth teachers during this tough time.**
- **Providing nearly 1,000 laptops, data vouchers and dongles for Wandsworth children, through the Council's own Power to Connect scheme (with Battersea Power Station) and government programme. If you have an old laptop or tablet, please consider donating it for us to refurbish at www.powertoconnect.co.uk**
- **Providing car parking for teachers**

These have been challenging times for everyone. We want to thank all our children for their patience and parents and carers for helping with home education. If you or your child have any worries about mental health, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) has produced mental health resources for young people, via the link below.

https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/wandsworth/fsd/docs/camhs_-_urgent_help_and_crisis_info_-_covid-19_-_final.pdf

We have also included links below to Wandsworth's Autism Advisory Service, and SEND local offer of support web pages on thrive online. They contain resources which we hope you find helpful.

<https://thrive.wandsworth.gov.uk/kb5/wandsworth/fsd/service.page?id=q2Hxo3YORJk>

<https://thrive.wandsworth.gov.uk/kb5/wandsworth/fsd/advice.page?id=wRWe4fZ0AXw>

We hope you will join us in thanking our schools for their dedication. In partnership with the Council they have been creative in supporting remote learning and helping our communities, especially children of key workers and vulnerable children. We must now all work together and do all we can to support schools to re-open safely.

Yours sincerely,

Will Sweet



Councillor William Sweet
Cabinet Member
Wandsworth Borough Council
(Education and Children's Services)

Ana Popovici



Ana Popovici
Director of Children's Services
Wandsworth Borough Council