



FLORENCE MELLY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT!



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Thursday 4th March 2021

Welcome Back After Another Lockdown!

Dear parents/carers,

Earlier this week I promised you all that I would write to you to make you aware of some tweaks to our systems as we prepare to welcome all of our children back to school on Monday 8th March 2021. Before I do this, I would like to thank you all for your hard work and patience during this third lockdown - you have been nothing short of amazing! You have taken to the challenge of remote learning brilliantly and your enthusiasm, energy and commitment has been first class. I am under no illusions - remote learning is hard and I say that as a Headteacher. I had to teach my own two children at home for a week - I couldn't wait to get back to my own school! It was exhausting! Throughout this lockdown, I have loved watching the high levels of interaction on our Class Dojo and I have enjoyed seeing our children participating happily despite the obvious problems a lockdown brings. I will however, be glad to see the back of remote learning. We have all come such a long way in twelve months but I (and my team) are delighted to be welcoming all of the children back! We cannot wait!

On that note, **I would like to remind you that the first day back (Monday 8th March) is a non-school uniform day.** We are encouraging the children to come to school wearing clothes to reflect the 'rainbow' theme of the day - bright and colourful.

Also, our morning childcare club, which is available from 7:45am will continue but starting from Tuesday 9th March. **There will be no morning club on the first day back sorry.** There will still be a £2.00 a day charge, per child, for this service.

So that we can welcome the children back to school safely, we have spent considerable time looking at how we can improve what we do. To be honest, the vast majority will remain exactly the same and we have always felt that the plans we have put in place are effective - plans that put the safety of our school community first! I do need to make you aware of one important change though.

We have changed the arrangements for when you pick your child/children up at the end of the day.

Starting on Monday, we will be staggering the pick-up times, meaning that you will have a set time to pick up your child/children depending on which year group they are in or whether they have a sibling in school. We feel that this is a necessary change to help minimise the number of people on the school yard at any one time. We are only changing the arrangements for the pick-up at the end of the day and not the drop-off in the morning. There seems to be a steady flow of arrivals in the morning rather than the high density of people, in quick succession, at pick-up time.

Although we think this new approach will be better, it is important to note that we have not yet run through this new system. On Monday, it'll be the first time we 'have a go'. All of us, in it together. Please bear with us and be patient. We are trying our very best to get this right and to keep everyone as safe as possible. It is hard, whichever way we approach it, to safely get 470 children off the school premise and home each evening - we think this new system will help.

What is vital is that you arrive to pick your child/children up at the correct time and on time. Punctuality is so important. Please see the table below for further details.

Year Group	Pick Up Time and Gate
Nursery AM	11:30am at the early years gate located on Bushey Road
Nursery PM	3:30pm at the early years gate located on Bushey Road
Reception	3:00pm at the Early Years gate located on Bushey Road
Year 1	3:00pm via the main gate located on Grandison Road
Year 2	3:00pm via the main gate located on Grandison Road
Year 3	3:10pm via the main gate located on Grandison Road
Year 4	3:10pm via the main gate located on Grandison Road
Year 5	3:20pm via the main gate located on Grandison Road
Year 6	3:20pm via the main gate located on Grandison Road
If you have more than one child in school please follow our 'Sibling Pick-Up' arrangements!	3:30pm via the main gate located on Grandison Road

I cannot emphasise enough, the importance of arriving to the school site at the correct time. This is vital if the new system is going to work. Staff will be on hand and available to talk through the new arrangements and guide parents/carers where necessary, for the foreseeable future.

If you have a child in afternoon nursery or reception AND another year group - please pick-up using the main gate, located on Grandison Road at 3:30pm. Our staff in our nursery and reception will bring these children out through the playground side classroom doors and not the back of the school. That is so you can easily collect both/all of your children.

So to clarify...

- **We have a new pick-up system at the end of the day.**
- **There are specific times you must come to school to collect your child/children. Please see the table above for further details.**
- **Children with siblings in school will safely remain in class, supervised, until 3:30pm.**
- **Please arrive to school on time - this is vital. Your child/children will not be available to collect until the times specified above.**
- **The first day back on Monday 8th March is a non-school uniform day, with a 'rainbow' theme.**
- **There will be no morning childcare club on the first day back. This starts on Tuesday 9th March from 7:45am.**

For further updates, information and to read through our risk assessment, please visit our COVID-19 dedicated webpage: <https://florencemelly.org/parents/covid-19-updates/>.

Thank you. Take care and stay safe.



Mr Leach
Headteacher

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