

28 August 2020



**Southwark Inclusive
Learning Service**
2 Davey Street
London SE15 6LF
T: 020 7525 1150
F: 020 7525 1190
E: admin@sils.
southwark.sch.uk
www.silsschools.org

Dear parents/carers,

School reopening to pupils – Monday 7 September 2020

As you're aware, the government has announced that schools should fully reopen from the start of

the autumn term, on the basis that:

- The prevalence of coronavirus is decreasing
- The new NHS test and trace system is in place
- There is greater clarity about measures that need to be in place to create safe environments in schools
- Time out of school is detrimental to children's development, and
- There is a low risk to children becoming severely ill from coronavirus

In view of the above, staff at SILS have been working hard to make the school a safe and enjoyable learning environment for all, and **we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 7th September 2020**, at the following times:

- Years 8 & 9 – 9.30 a.m. (Davey Street)
- Year 10 – 9.30 a.m. (Porlock Hall)
- Year 11 – 10.00 a.m. (Porlock Hall)

As you prepare your child for their return to school, I feel it's important to explain what you can expect from us and what we will expect from all of our parents and carers.

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory from September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we'll be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

If your child had been staying at home due to shielding, the government paused this guidance on 1 August. That means your child should be able to come back to school in September.

However, if you've received clinical or public health advice that your child should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We will be offering remote education to these pupils.

Safety measures

When your child comes into school, we will have the following protective measures in place:

- **Robust hygiene measures:** will include, hand washing facility at school entrance, hand sanitizers and wipes in classrooms, increased cleaning of surfaces during the school day and notices to encourage good personal hygiene
- **Organisation of classes:** pupils will be taught in small bubbles in one base room, with an allocated teaching assistant and individual stationery packs. We will discourage pupils from bringing unnecessary items into school (e.g. bags, coats, etc.)



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- **Movements and social distancing:** we will operate a one-way system along corridors and staircases. Breaks, lunch times and end of the school day will be staggered to keep year groups separate. Social distancing will be maintained during breakfast and lunch, which will continue to be provided.
- **Safety and uniform:** we will maintain routines around wandering and searches, with staff and pupils wearing appropriate face covering and observing social distancing. **School uniform remain mandatory** and pupils and staff will be encouraged to wear face coverings in corridors and spaces outside the classroom.

We will aim to share these changes and expectations with pupils on their first day back at school. Tutors and pastoral leads will also reinforce the expectations regularly by tutors, and we ask that you support our efforts to keep your child safe by reinforcing the measures.

Also, do note that measures are in place to respond accordingly to Public Health England Guidance if a pupil or staff member develops symptoms at school or if there's a confirmed case of corona virus at the school. In all instances, pupils and staff who are ill or living in a household with someone who is or who has symptoms, must follow 'stay at home guidance'. If your child becomes unwell at school, we will contact you and undertake safe supervision until they can be picked up. A copy of the school's risk assessment is published on the SILS website and can be provided on request.

Curriculum

Although we will need to make some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we will be doing our best to maintain an ambitious, broad curriculum, starting with a catch up programme at the start of the autumn term. The catch up programme will enable us to reteach aspects of last year's curriculum and rebuild learning across all subjects.

Pastoral support

As the lockdown and time away from school may have been a difficult time for your child and other pupils, our PSHE, SEAL, emotional curriculum and interventions will be revised to include topics to address some of the issues that pupils may have experienced.

The pastoral team – tutors and heads of year will maintain regular contact about your child's progress, but **please let us know if you think your child might need extra support on their return**, or if they feel anxious about coming back or if your family have experienced bereavement.

Finally, we are extremely grateful for the support we have received from you. We will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice.

Yours sincerely,

Yomi Adewoye
Headteacher



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