



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Thursday, we will be welcoming back our whole school community. We are looking forward to seeing all of our pupils – including our new EYFS children - and starting our new school year together.

We do not underestimate how much change has occurred since March or how this may have affected our families. It has been a very difficult few months. We appreciate that the abrupt closure of school and how dramatically life has changed for everyone, in such a short period of time, will have affected our school community, in ways that we may not yet realise.

However, we are prepared and positive for the new term. We are committed to listening, learning and working hard to enable pupils to settle back into school life, reunite with their friends and get back on track, to reach their potential.

We are guided by government policy and legislation that sets out [our responsibilities and actions for re-opening school to all pupils](#). As with other areas of risk within a school setting, we are required to manage and reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus as far as is reasonably practicable, recognising that it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk altogether.

Our risk assessment is a working document that should and will change over the coming weeks and months as we: adapt to all pupils returning to school; review our controls and activities and; react to new government guidelines and legislation. During this evolving situation, we will monitor and follow the Department for Education (DfE) and Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) guidance and update families about any necessary changes.

Set out in the other attachment, are some of the measures that we are taking to help ensure a full and safe opening of school next week. We will also publish and update the measures on our website. We will not currently be publishing our full risk assessment as it is a large, eighteen page document, with references to staff and other areas of school life not directly associated with families. As a working document, it will be reviewed and amended constantly. The attached measures have been taken directly from the risk assessment and are those most relevant to our families.

There have been several significant changes in government policy and guidance over the last few days and weeks that relate to the full opening of schools. Frequent changes or last minute updates in DfE guidance and legislation can make it difficult to effectively prepare, respond and communicate the changes to families, in good time. To put it into context, last night there were more than sixteen changes made to key guidance that directly affects how schools are to open, in a few days' time. The updates include guidance about local lockdowns, school meals, attendance and face coverings. We will of course ensure that all relevant and necessary measures are put in place

*'Inspiring, nurturing and achieving excellence together'*

Headteacher: Ms Anna Lippa

Telford Road, London Colney, St. Albans, Herts, AL2 1PH

Telephone: 01727 767772, Fax: 01727 767770, E-mail: [admin@bowmansgreen.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bowmansgreen.herts.sch.uk)

and change our policies and practice where necessary. I will discuss this guidance with staff and governors next week and update parents accordingly.

For pupils who have not been at school since March, some aspects of school life will most certainly look and feel different. We want all pupils to feel reassured, safe and happy to be back and we will try our best to get the balance right between managing risks and maintaining everything that is fun, essential and secure about school life. We will listen to their views and questions about their changed school environment and provide honest, age-appropriate answers. School is not the same as it was a year ago because life is not the same as it was a year ago and we are all having to adapt and learn to live differently. Your child can still, however, have a fantastic year, enjoy school and thrive.

There remains some significant change and challenge ahead but I am confident that we will build upon our successful wider opening before the holidays and continue to provide a good education, effective nurture and support, for all pupils. This time of year always brings change for a school community – change that is necessary and positive, helping us to learn and grow. There is much that we cannot control or change in these unprecedented times but there is a lot that we can do, to continue to make Bowmansgreen a happy, thriving school community. Your children have new teachers, classrooms, topics and activities to look forward to, as well as new staff and pupils to welcome and get to know. As always, they will show us how understanding, resilient and adaptable they are.

Please remember that this is all new for us too and as a school staff, we are also learning how best to teach and work in this new climate.

There have been a few queries about the staggered start and finish times and how to manage dropping off/collecting more than one child. There is not one set answer to this and different solutions will suit different families and classes better. If families are not easily able to stagger the drop-offs/collections, please choose one of the start and finish times for both/all children, discuss it with each class teacher via the school office - to agree what works best for both home and class - and then see how it goes for a few days, before confirming arrangements with the office.

If you have contacted school with a question or issue specific to your individual circumstances and it has not been addressed by this update, we will contact you before your child starts on Thursday.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. A Lippa  
Headteacher

*'Inspiring, nurturing and achieving excellence together'*

Headteacher: Ms Anna Lippa  
Telford Road, London Colney, St. Albans, Herts, AL2 1PH  
Telephone: 01727 767772, Fax: 01727 767770, E-mail: [admin@bowmansgreen.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bowmansgreen.herts.sch.uk)