



APOLLO ACADEMIES TRUST

# HOWARD JUNIOR SCHOOL (AN ACADEMY)

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**Together Everyone Achieves More**

February 25th, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, the Government have shared their plan for **all** pupils, in **all** year groups, to return to school full-time from **Monday the 8th of March**. We are looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during these unprecedented times. As a school, our amazing remote learning offer has been highly successful and that is thanks to our wonderful pupils, supportive parents and incredibly hard working staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure they are providing the very best learning opportunities for our pupils.

Following the Government guidance intended for the safe re-opening of schools- we have detailed some of our plans and preparations to ensure the safe return of our pupils. Please familiarise both yourselves and your children with our procedures to ensure we can work collaboratively and effectively to make the return to school as smooth and successful as possible.

## Procedures for March 2021 onwards

### **School Arrival/departure**

The school day will begin at the previously allocated times-

Arrival Time	Group
8:30	Year 6
8:40	Year 5
8:50	Year 4
9:00	Year 3

Children are to maintain social distancing where possible whilst entering the playground and will line up sensibly with their class staff member. Parents must leave their child at the gate and are unable to enter the school grounds before school- this ensures both staff and pupils are kept as safe as possible whilst entering the school premises. We must ask that you maintain social distancing whilst waiting at the gate and request that you stick to your allocated time to prevent large groups of parents and pupils at the gate each morning.

We will also continue with staggered departure times, whereby parents are able to enter the school grounds to collect their child at the allocated times- these are **altered and changed** as follows:

Departure Time	Group
2:50	Year 3
3:00	Year 4
3:10	Year 5
3:15	Year 6

Please respect that this will be difficult to monitor (although we will try our utmost) and if you have a child that is in year 3 or 4 and a child that is in year 5 or 6- it would be encouraged that you arrange for your year 5 or 6 child to walk to meet you outside of the school gate at their allocated time- at an allocated place, as we would prefer that you leave the playground as swiftly as possible to ensure that social distancing can be adhered to as effectively as possible.

### **Class 'Bubble'**

We will continue to reduce contact and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination.

Our intention is to:

- group children together
- avoid contact between groups
- arrange classrooms with forward facing desks
- and to ensure staff maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

Until we are advised otherwise, our use of Class 'Bubbles' will ensure that cross-contamination is avoided at all costs as pupils will be seated side by side and facing forwards. They will also remain in their 'Bubble' groups for the duration of their time in school. Lunch will be eaten within the 'Bubble' and recreational times and PE sessions will be staggered and will ensure pupils remain in their 'Bubble' groupings.

### **Lunch/Tuck**

Throughout the school- lunch and break times will continue to be staggered as our large communal hall space will not be able to be used by a mixture of year groups. Children are welcome to bring a packed lunch or a lunch will be available to purchase at a cost of £2.25- this will be a set hot boxed meal- which will be distributed to and eaten in class. This will be provided for those pupils in receipt of Free School Meals, unless they wish to bring in their own packed lunch- please be aware that from the 8th of March- the Free School meal vouchers from Edenred will no longer be available. Lunch boxes are sanitised upon entry to the school and will be stored in each of the pupils' class 'Bubbles' until their intended use.

Tuck will be available to purchase, pupils can choose between a biscuit, fruit, sausage rolls and drinks.

**Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school daily, this can be re-filled throughout the day but must be brought in from home.**

### **Laptops**

If you were allocated a laptop during this Lockdown, please keep them at home to use to support homework and to complete the reading diary log.

### **System of controls at Howard Junior School**

We will continue to have a number of systems and controls in place at Howard Junior School to keep our pupils and staff at as little risk as possible.

**These can be found on our school website: <https://howardjunior.co.uk/covid-systems-controls/>**

### **Behaviour**

As is expected of all our pupils- we must ensure exemplary behaviour is modelled at all times. An area that is as important as ever to ensure that we keep our pupils and staff safe. Rewards and sanctions as outlined in our behaviour policy will continue to ensure the 'Bubble' system remains a safe and welcoming environment, as addendum to the behaviour policy can be found on our website which indicates how some areas have been updated to suit the current climate.

## P.E- Physical Education

We have been advised by the Government, that as is a Curriculum requirement- sport activities will continue to take place. Pupils will be kept in consistent groups, sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups, and contact sports will be avoided. During our PE sessions- outdoor sports will be prioritised alongside our sports coaches, and large indoor spaces will be used where it is not, maximising distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene.

PE kits will need to be brought into school on a Monday and taken home on a Friday- once in school- they will not be touched until their intended use and will be sanitised upon entry.

## Clubs- including breakfast club-

We believe that mixed after-school clubs and breakfast club will be logistically challenging for us at this time but in line with Government guidance we will be reviewing this in the coming weeks to ensure they can be carried out as safely and effectively as possible. **Please await an update on all clubs, including breakfast club.** This is a measure we feel will support our initial use of 'Bubbles' and will ensure that we have as many measures in place to keep our pupils at as little risk as possible. We hope to have further information on this as we continue to monitor and update our risk assessments following our return to school.

## Uniform

As was the case during the Autumn term- we will be adhering to our usual uniform policies on our return on the 8th of March. Uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of our school and will provide normality and inclusion.

## Homework/ Reading Record

We will continue to use Showbie to share and celebrate our pupils' homework and will continue to monitor your child's reading progress via the reading diary section of Showbie. We will reward points progress and encourage our pupils to read at home each night.

## School Contact

In order to keep you, our pupils and staff safe- we aim to limit face-to-face contact wherever possible. If you wish to get in touch with the school, it is advised that you make telephone or email contact and we will respond/advise accordingly.

As I'm sure you understand, we are doing our absolute best to ensure we have as many controls and systems in place to protect the health and well-being of our staff and pupils. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and patience during this time and we look forward to another successful term at Howard Junior School.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,  
GREGORY HILL  
Headteacher

