Thursday, 4th March, 2021.

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Colleagues,

**Covid-19 Update Letter.**

I hope this letter finds you all well.

Well, the end is in sight and you will all soon be able to either go to work or watch daytime TV in peace! I cannot tell you how much we are looking forward to having the school full of children again; we all miss the buzz of learning and all their smiles!

**Q. Do all pupils HAVE to come back to school on Monday, 8th March, 2021.**

Yes, unless you have just returned from abroad (see note at the end of the letter). The Government and Local Authority have made it very clear that all children of primary age must return to school this coming Monday. Please make sure your child is ready and prepared (as much as possible) to return to school on Monday, e.g. get them back into their bedtime routine asap so that they are fully rested for hard work, when they return. Please make sure that your child is up in plenty of time so they are on time for school. It is important that they don’t miss the start of any lessons.

**Q. What should we wear - uniform or our own clothes? (Pupil)**

Uniform remains optional until the end of the school year. This is to help with cost and reduce the need for parents/carers to feel the need to go out and buy new uniform at this point in the school year. However, I would still recommend clean clothes every day. My advice would be to alternate with school uniform (if it still fits) every other day.

**Q. Is Home from Home (before and after school club) re-opening?**

The morning session of 'Home from Home' will re-open on Monday from 7.30am and the afternoon session will also open but it will ***close and all children must be collected by 4pm***. This is a change to the timings prior to Covid.

**Q. Will school still close at lunchtime on Fridays? (Colleague)**

Yes - for the time being. However, if all goes to plan and the virus continues to recede, we aim to go back to a full weeks opening after the Easter holidays.

**Q. Can my child wear a facemask when in school? (Parent)**

No, unless there are exceptional circumstances and you have made school aware of these This is not recommended as children tend to touch the front of the masks - lots. This has the effect of 'virally loading' the child's fingers (if the virus is present) and they can then pass it on from their hands.

**Q. Why are you only just writing to us now (officially) about the schools' plans for re-opening to all pupils? (Parent)**

My sincere apologies if you feel this letter is a little late. We have been planning for a safe return in light of the new Government guidelines. These plans were approved at our Governing Board meeting, yesterday.

**Q. What time will we start and finish school? (Child)**

The same times as before Christmas and the same doors. We have not (yet) changed these arrangements because we were all used to them. Here is a reminder:

|  |
| --- |
| **Timings of the day 8th March to 26th March** |
|  | **Arrival** | **Entry / Exit Door** | **Going****Mon-Thurs.** | **Going****Friday only** |
|  **N** | 08.15am | Nursery Door | 11.15am | 11:15am |
| 12.00pm | Nursery Door | 3.30pm | - |
| **R** | 8.45am  | External Classroom Doors | 3.00pm  | 12:15pm |
| **1** | 9.00am | External Classroom Doors | 3.15pm | 12:30pm |
| **2** | 9.00am | Y2 (south) Glass Stairwell | 3.15pm | 12:30pm |
| **3** | 8.30am | Y2 (south) Glass Stairwell | 2.45pm | 12 noon |
| **4** | 8.45am | North Glass Stairwell (next to Home from Home) | 3.00pm | 12:15pm |
| **5** | 8.30am | Dining Hall Doors | 2.45pm | 12 noon |
| **6** | 9.00am | Dining Hall doors | 3.15pm | 12:30pm |

However, after Easter we will look at 'tightening' the school day (if the virus continues to decrease) so that we can really maximise every minute for learning. Watch this space.

**Q. My child was loaned a tech device (iPad, laptop etc) by school. What should I do with it? (Parent)**

You will be contacted by Mrs Longmire, our School Business Manager over the next few weeks and asked to return your device on a certain day. Please try to work with us on this and stick to the day allocated for you as Mrs Longmire will need to sign for and make a proper record of its return to school.

**Q. Are all adults still expected to wear a facemask if we are visiting the school? (Parent)**

Most definitely and please do observe and follow our one-way system around school.

**Q. What safety measures are in place at school to ensure the safety of pupils and staff? (Colleague)**

Lots! Please do have a look at our whole-school Covid-19 Risk Assessment for full details. These have been updated this week, in-light of the new guidance from central Government:

<https://peelpark.eschools.co.uk/website/whole_school_risk_assessment/504718>

**Q. Will school still be giving out the lunch packs to those of us who have been receiving them? (Parent).**

No. As school is back in session from Monday then we will be providing school meals as we have always done, pre-covid. However, if you are struggling for food and/or provisions, then please call school and ask to speak with Mrs Noble, who may be able to help. Please feel free to email knoble@peelpark.bradford.sch.uk

**Q. What do I do if my child is ill? (Parent)**

Book them a PCR test! Even if it is just a 'cold' or 'sore throat' etc. In our experience here at Peel Park the vast majority of pupils (and staff) who have had the virus have NOT had the typical symptoms (at first) of a temperature and cough etc; they have presented with a sore/scratchy throat, headache, cold etc (not all at the same time). Better to be safe than sorry!

**Q. Are teachers being tested for Covid everyday? (Parent)**

Staff have been given/offered Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) packs where they are expected to test themselves twice a week.

**Q. Will all our teachers be back in school? (Pupil)**

Yes, most of them will be. However, a small number of staff are still being instructed, by the NHS, to shield. We (and they) are hoping to be back to work asap.

**Q. Will we have to go into lockdown again? (Pupil)**

We cannot answer this at the moment but we sincerely hope not! To protect us all I would firmly recommend that people have the vaccine when offered it and continue to observe social distancing and mask wearing etc, at all times.

A message from the Governing Board of Peel Park:

**The last twelve months have been a real challenge and test for us all. However, the end is (hopefully) in sight and your child(ren) will soon be back in school and re-connecting with friends and teachers; something we are very much wanting and looking forward to.**

**Home schooling is not easy - we understand (some of us have had to provide this too, whilst working from home) and it is times like these that we appreciate the value that our teachers bring to our children's lives and their life chances. I am sure you will join with me in thanking all the staff at school for their regular contact with you and your children during the lockdown and the help they have offered during very difficult times.**

**Next week cannot come quickly enough and we look forward to hearing about all the great learning that will be taking place and that our children are back doing their best, as always!**

**The Governing Board of Peel Park**

**Important!**

**If you or your children have been abroad (and we know several parents and/or families have, as we have seen their journeys on Facebook) then you MUST follow the legal requirements re quarantining for ten days when returning from the country you have visited. Please see this link for more information:**

<https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

If you have any more questions and/or ideas then please do get in touch with me:

head@peelpark.bradford.sch.uk or 07792 402654 (text is better between 8am and 6pm).

Stay safe and remember - **hands - face - space and good ventilation.**

Assuring you of our best intentions at all times.

Yours Sincerely

Lloyd Mason-Edwards

Mr Lloyd C. Mason-Edwards - Headteacher