

12th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware it is the holy month of Ramadan and we understand that this is an extremely important time for many of our families.

We understand that when children reach puberty they are expected to fast however we are aware that 98-99% of boys at primary school are not required to fast because they have not yet reached puberty. Some girls reach puberty before they leave primary school as girls mature earlier than boys. However we also understand how children will be excited and keen to join in with their families at this important time.

The daylight hours are very long at this time of the year and so anyone who fasts may feel tired, find it difficult to concentrate and can be at risk of dehydration. Even so we are also aware that it is very important that normal routines and activities continue throughout Ramadan. This would of course apply to teaching, learning and assessing at school. We need to ensure that our children continue to learn to the best of their ability therefore school requires that every pupil participate in all elements of the curriculum.

However, vigorous exercise such as football and chasing games will need to be avoided by fasting children during **playtimes and lunchtimes**. Whilst children are participating in **PE lessons** they may have to sit out and rest at times to ensure their wellbeing. If a fasting child is due to go on **a trip** they will need a snack and some water with them just in case their health and wellbeing is compromised and they need to break their fast. If we work together we can ensure our children meet the requirements of their faith and maintain their wellbeing.

If your child has reached puberty and you feel it is appropriate for them to fast on some or all school days during Ramadan **to inform us, please write a letter or email the school: admin@claragrantsch.uk stating your child's full name and class** (rather than asking your children to tell us), as we need to be aware of which children may be fasting and when to ensure wellbeing. Grace our lovely cook will also need to know how much food to order and cook for our children in advance as we must avoid food waste and wasting money. You may wish to take your child/ren home to rest at lunchtimes.

We would expect all children and their families who have chosen **not** to fast for whatever reason to be respected for their decision.

For families observing Ramadan may we wish you well in your challenge and Ramadan-ul-Mubarak.

Many thanks,

K J Symons

Karen Symons

Head Teacher

26th March 2021

End of term letter

Good afternoon Mums, Dads and Carers,

Happy Independence for Bangladesh day! 50 years today! We have had a lovely week celebrating Bangladesh here in school. There has been a hive of crafting activity and research going on which will be shared across the school on our return, in a whole school celebration assembly. I cannot wait. Photos will be appearing on our Twitter page very soon and in the newsletter next term. <https://twitter.com/ClaraGrantE3>

We have had a very successful return to school with no outbreaks of covid 19 and really good attendance. Thanks to the hard work of the teachers, teaching assistants, children and their families the children have continued to make progress over the latest lock down – outstanding! We can now look forward to a successful summer term.

What to do if your child tests positive for Covid-19 over the Easter holidays

In preparation for the forthcoming holiday, I wanted to make you aware of the procedure we have put in place to maintain our obligation to safeguard our community members throughout the holidays and into next term.

Your support will, as always, be greatly appreciated.

If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19 on either the 27th, 28th or 29th March please email the school: admin@claragrانت.towerhamlets.sch.uk to inform us of your child's name and class and then arrange a test for your child. When the result is received send us another email informing us if it is positive or negative. In the event of a positive test we will then notify all other parents/carers of those students deemed to have been in 'close contact' with your child, as they will need to isolate for 10 days.

If your child has symptoms between now and 12 th April 2021, you will need to book a test and in the event of a positive test you must follow PHE guidance and isolate. Can you also inform school via email in the event of a positive test - if the isolation period extends into the new term, then you will need to let us know. If your child tests positive, then it would be really useful if you could forward a copy of the confirmation email (or a screenshot of the text) to admin@claragrانت.towerhamlets.sch.uk for our records.

Here to help

If any families are struggling at the moment or may do over the holiday please contact the school for support and advice: admin@claragrانت.towerhamlet.sch.uk

Dates for your calendar:

Summer Term 2021

12th April First day back to school

16th April Assembly-Bangladesh Independence Celebration

23rd April Easter bonnet parade/competition

6th May School is closed as it is a Polling Station

11th May School photographer in – classes and individuals only due to covid restrictions currently in place

13th May Eid

21st May Clara Grant's World Book Day

Half term is **31st May to 4 th June**

8th June Year 6 Trip to South End (TBC)

17th June Science - Professor Bubble Workshops

21st June Clara Grant's birthday

25th June Summer Fayre (TBC)

2nd July Year 6 and rest of school transition day

Week beg **12th July** – Sports days and Year 6 Leavers event (TBC)

Last day of term is Friday **16th July**

Once again thank you for your continued support, we have made an excellent team over this difficult period and come out stronger as a community.

Enjoy the two week Easter holidays we will see you all on the 12th.

Stay safe and well,

Kind regards,

K J Symons

Karen Symons

Head Teacher

1st March 2021

Happy St David's Day!

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and keeping safe. We are delighted that school will open for all pupils on Monday 8th March 2021. The government guidance states that all children are expected to attend school from 8th March and that this will be mandatory.

In order to keep everyone safe we will continue to maintain the social distancing and hygiene measures that were in place in September. They were very successful as any cases caught outside of school were kept out or isolated to prevent transmission. I ask you all to continue to follow the guidelines/rules set out in the updated parent guidance provided.

As the guidance explains there will once again be staggered start and finish times to ensure that 'bubbles' don't mix.

Year 5/6 8.40 am until 3.10 pm (Friday 1.10 pm)

Years 3/4 8.50 am until 3.20 pm (Friday 1.15 pm)

Years 1/2 8.55 am until 3.30 pm (Friday 1.20 pm)

Reception 8.55am until 3.30 pm (Friday 1.15 pm)

Morning Nursery and full time Nursery 8.55 am drop off. Part time children picked up at 11.30 am and full timers picked up at 3.30 pm.

Afternoon Nursery children to be dropped off at **1.00 pm** and picked up at **3.30 pm including Fridays**

Fern Street will be closed to traffic at drop off and pick up times apart from Friday lunchtime. If you drive your child to school make sure you have or apply for your **street permit** (not parking permit) or you will get a penalty fine for driving along the street.

Children will sanitise their hands as they go into school. Hand and respiratory hygiene will be essential throughout the day. Please remember the guidance also states that if you or any of your household becomes ill you must follow government guidance -stay at home, get a test, self-isolate and inform the school and any close contacts.

Staff in school are now able use a Lateral Flow Device Test twice a week to test for COVID-19. If these are positive, or there are any other positive cases of COVID-19 in your child's class, we will inform you immediately and ask you to keep your child at home to isolate.

Parents and carers you **must** please wear a face mask and maintain at least a 1m distance when dropping off and collecting children. Please follow the signs and one-way routes when dropping off and collecting to ensure that there is no close contact.

We will be continuing to use our **chrome books** and **tablets** in class from Monday 8th so please ensure you return the device you borrowed so your child will be able to use it! Sue

Brian will issue receipts once the serial numbers have been checked against her records. Thank you.

On return to school we will be quickly re-establishing school routines and expectations as well as working hard on identifying children who have found lockdown particularly difficult emotionally or academically. We will conduct assessments so as to plan appropriate teaching to support children to make progress.

As a school we value feedback from you and know that communication is vital for us all to feel your children are safe and happy. However as I will need to continue to reduce face to face contact between you and our staff please continue to use the school class dojo and google classroom or teacher/school email to communicate with us and we assure you that if we have any concerns regarding your child we will be contacting you.

Dates for your calendar:

World Book Day is on 4th March – the teachers have activities planned for that day so they will let you know what to expect.

The **book fair** has been postponed to the **10th May**, we will have workshops for that week and will have a dress-up to coincide with the workshops. The £1 Book tokens will be distributed during the book fair week for children to use.

Red nose day is on 19th March - further information will follow.

2021 marks 50 years since the independence of Bangladesh. To mark the significance of this we are planning to celebrate Bangladesh Independence Day (**26th March**) during that week. Please contact Rushnara/ come to a coffee morning if you are interested and have some ideas to contribute.

On **Friday 26th March** Year 6 will be taking part in a Poetry workshop and it is the **last day of term**. We will all be finishing by 1.30 pm in a staggered approach. It will be a non-uniform day and you will be updated on your child/ren's progress.

Once again thank you for all your support over the lockdown period, I have really missed your children and am looking forward to welcoming them back,

Kind regards,

K J Symons

Karen Symons
Head Teacher

12th February 2021

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I hope you and your family are safe and well,

Thank you for your fantastic support during this half term. I understand this is a really challenging time for families and appreciate all that you are doing to support your child/ren's education and keep them in their learning routines. Without you this would not have been so effective.

Remember there are good days and bad days and you will have ups and downs, everyone does. Keeping them motivated can be tiring so use the staff who call home to help you by talking to your child for you. Thank you for the many kind messages of support, they are very much appreciated by the staff who are all working incredibly hard in difficult circumstances.

I would like to remind you that the upcoming week, Monday 15th to Friday 19th February, is our half term break. This means that there is no requirement to upload work to Class Dojo or Google Classroom. It gives everyone-pupils, parents and staff, the opportunity to take a break from screen time and gives us all the chance to 'recharge' those batteries. This has not been an easy half term but we can look forward to better weather, longer days and enjoying the outside a lot more.

We are very excited to launch our very own Twitter page. Twitter is a great way to communicate school news, photos, videos and upcoming events and we hope by using Twitter we will further improve communications between the school and our community. <https://twitter.com/ClaraGrantE3>

To our fabulous CG children, I am extremely proud of how you are managing the remote learning. It is wonderful to see the engagement from so many of you, I love seeing you in your live sessions and it is great to see new learning taking place. I know many of you would just love to be back in school with all your friends and the staff. I can tell you, the staff feel exactly the same-we would much rather have you all in school!

Please play, read, make and get outside for fresh air and exercise during your screen free week. Online learning will start again on Monday 22nd February. Please be on time to your live lesson.

Free School Meals: Families eligible for means tested free school meals vouchers, you will receive the vouchers for the period Monday 22nd February – Friday 5th March, after the half term holiday.

I would like to take a moment to think of the kindness of others this half term and thank them. We have been incredibly fortunate to have received a donation in the form of a £5,000 grant from the Charity of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators. This will be used to buy more chrome books for school to lend to our families. A parent from another school who runs their own business donated £50,000 to Tower Hamlets schools so we received four chrome books from that donation. Fern Street Settlement continues to support our community by providing activity bags, help with any issues families have and support with food. Also Poplar Harca at the Linc centre have been providing a range of much needed support to the residents in the area. Finally thank you to Lloyds who continue to support the CG family with their time, money and refurbished devices.

I am including some links for you that you may find useful:

Parenting support

<https://maudsleycharity.org/familiesunderpressure/>

Families exercising:

<https://www.youthsporttrust.org/family-activities>

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/at-home/>

Working from home:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/coronavirus-parents-working-from-home/>

Child anxiety about covid

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6ksy9q>

Please visit our 'covid' section on our website for more information.

Parents and carers I am so looking forward to welcoming your children back to school. I really hope that it will remain to be Monday 8th March. I will write to you shortly after the half-term break with any further news of a wider re-opening.

Until then, please stay safe and well and please do make contact if you need any support or help or would like to talk, please contact the school via admin@claragrantsch.uk

Kind regards,

K J Symons

Karen Symons
Head Teacher

January 2021

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

As you are aware, due to the high levels of covid in Tower Hamlets and our hospitals struggling to cope with the high number of cases being admitted, we will need to continue to offer a much reduced in-school provision along with our remote learning at home for your children. Our nursery is open but due to staffing issues, we are unable to invite all our nursery children back at this time as it wouldn't be safe. We will keep you updated if this changes and more can attend.

Although our school is open, we have limited staff available to look after the children onsite on any given day. With this in mind, I need to keep attendance at a safe level. We have a responsibility to ensure our critical worker parents can carry on working; provide a place for children who have an Educational, Health Care plan; or who we have been advised need to be placed in school. At the same time, class teachers are providing remote learning/feedback and teaching assistants are providing remote interventions, whilst both are making welfare and support phone calls from home.

This looks like it will continue until the February half term but may be extended further if rates are continuing to cause concern.

I know many of our families have been very poorly with this virus and many have lost loved ones and this is the same for our staff too. I send my sympathies to you all. There is help available for those who are grieving or feel unable to cope. Please contact **Rushnara**, our parent partner, on **07955 736 776** for advice Tuesday to Friday up until 1.30 pm or visit our website for further information. Alternatively, call or email school.

Contact kmiah28.211@lgflmail.org for IT issues between 8.30 and 4 pm Monday to Friday.

Thank you for completing the IT questionnaire. It has given us a real insight into the support needed for your children to access the remote learning fully. We have previously distributed 58 chrome books from the Government and 30 school chrome books for children to borrow and are now waiting for the Government to give us more devices. As you know, in addition, I have been working hard to try and secure funding from other avenues so that we can help your children. 15 of our families have benefitted from this so far.

Those entitled to means tested free school meals will be receiving vouchers from **Edenred** via your email in the same way you did in the last lockdown. Keep an eye on your emails.

I know this is an incredibly stressful time for us all at the moment and I am sure you are very anxious and fed up with the lockdown. Please know we are here for you and use your phone call from school as a way to communicate your concerns.

Juggling different aged children's learning, live sessions, IT equipment, your own work as well as running a family is a massive challenge. We are all trying our best and our best is good enough. Be kind to yourselves and your children. We all have our good days and bad days. Try to make time for fun and to be outside getting fresh air and exercise.

Thank you so much for everything you are doing; you and your children are incredible.

Take care,

Karen Symons
Head teacher

31st December 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I hope you are well.

The Government yesterday afternoon updated its guidance regarding the start of term in January and has advised that primary schools in Tower Hamlets should not fully re-open to all students and staff following the Christmas holidays until Monday 18th January. This is due to the rapid increase in positive cases in the area and hospitals struggling to cope.

However, the school will still be open from Tuesday 5th January for students classed as vulnerable and for children of critical workers just like the last lockdown.

All other students will receive their learning remotely for the first two weeks of term from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 15th January and they will be expected to engage fully with this. Registers of engagement will be taken. Thank you for your support in this.

Students working at home will access their work via Google Classroom or Class Dojo (and Zoom). Work will be set for lessons for each day of the week and students should complete them. Following on from feedback from parents and carers from the last lockdown students should log in to meet with their teachers every morning when a register will be taken. The teacher will explain the expectations for the day. At the end of the day they should log in again for feedback and/or a story.

Years 5 and 6 9.00 am and 3:00 pm Google meet

Years 3 and 4 9:30 am and 2.30 pm Google meet

Years 1 and 2 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Class Dojo - Zoom link

Nursery and Reception 10:30 am and 1:30 pm Class Dojo - Zoom link

Students whose parents are both critical workers (or one if a single parent) who require school provision during the two first weeks of term starting on Tuesday 5th January from 8.00 am to 3.30 pm should email the school by Friday 1st January before 12.00 pm **if** they have **not** already spoken to Asma Bibi today. Please use this email: admin@claragrantschool.org

We are working to organise free school meals for children who are entitled to the means tested free school provision. We will be in contact.

We appreciate that this change is short notice and may inconvenience you but it is essential that we closely follow all Government guidance on COVID-19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community. Please remember our staff will be home-schooling their children during this time too.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing your child, either in school or online.

Kind regards,

Karen Symons
Head Teacher

5th November 2020

Good afternoon mums, dads and carers,

I am sure you are starting to feel more anxious again as we face our next lockdown situation. We have worked really hard as a school and as a community to keep COVID 19 out of our school and this will continue as the term continues. Thank you for your support with this.

According to the data, very few primary age children contract the virus and if they do, it does not cause problems for them in the same way as it does for older adults. It is understood that most children who have had COVID, caught the virus from contacts outside of school not from school. The data also suggests small children do not spread the virus in the same way as the older children and adults. In addition closing schools has an impact on the children's physical and mental health as well as their learning. It is for these reasons the Government has insisted schools stay open. Clara Grant will remain open whilst we are advised it is safe to do so, so that your children's wellbeing and learning can continue to improve.

As we are keeping our rooms well ventilated and the weather is starting to get colder it will be important your children have **extra layers** of clothing. We understand the extra layers will not always be school uniform but that is ok. Extra t-shirts or cardigans/ zipped hoodies for example will help. If you provide a mask for your child to wear they need a small plastic bag to keep it in, a sandwich bag is perfect for this as they zip close. Please help keep us safe by maintaining your distance and wearing a mask (unless you are exempt of course).

Thank you.

Remember

If you or your child have coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Get a test (Ring 119 or book online <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>) and stay at home

If you have any concerns or need help please send an email to admin@claragrantsch.uk

Stay safe and well,

Karen Symons
Head Teacher

16th October 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

As we head towards half term I have been thinking about how well we have all done working together as a community to keep our children safe at our school. As parents and carers you have managed to stay patient whilst dealing with the new normal. Change is often difficult and queuing always will be so thank you for your support and understanding.

Your children have been amazing, they have adapted so well and are now back in routine. Their stamina and concentration will improve as the days go by and this will help them with their learning.

I am happy to announce that Tower Hamlets have supported us with the closure of Fern Street at the start and end of the day. Thank you to the parents, committee members and staff who helped my campaign by sending their own emails and informing contacts who could help. Once the signs have been erected we will be able to close the street. Parents who normally drive please think ahead to where you will park going forward.

Year 6 parents, the deadline for application for Secondary Transfer is approaching. Please contact us if you have not submitted your application form and we will help.

Year 2 parents, in November your child will be taking part in their phonics screening so please help them practise over half term.

Don't forget the 'Meet the Teacher' information with the email contact details is on our website in the parents section. Please make sure we have your **email address** so we can send you information.

News

- I am happy to announce that our year 3 teacher Nora is now happily married, congratulations!
- We are now using SMART School council, it is a way for our children to have a voice and communicate with each other and the adults in school. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SpNhac-Zks>
- Surveys. Parents and carers answering our survey monkey questions have been really helpful please continue to participate we do take note.
- We are trying to generate funding to help our families with access to online learning going forward. We will let you know how we get on. Our year 2 teacher Aine and her family have been super generous in this respect and bought 20 Amazon tablets for our children to use if we have to lockdown as a bubble or as a school again. Thank you so much!
- Year 5 will be performing Shakespeare this year.
- The children have an opportunity to take part in a competition to design the picture of our Clara Grant Child

YouTube Kids is mostly safe, but there's a small chance children could see nudity, violence, or harmful, unhealthy content.

You may have heard about or seen [some videos that look like they're for kids but are clearly not](#). These videos may use familiar characters from kids' TV shows, such as Caillou or Peppa Pig, or they may use cartoon graphics such as cars and trucks. The videos have seemingly

child-friendly titles and begin normally, but then become strange and even extremely disturbing. Whoever creates these videos has figured out how to use tags (the code that helps Google categorise content) to fool the algorithm. There have been cases of disturbing videos popping up in the children's app, including a well-publicised incident of “suicide instructions” spliced in a cartoon video.

Some of your children are talking about and playing games about ‘Momo’ and ‘Pennywise’. Both are inappropriate and are causing problems for children in school as they are frightening.

Please watch what your children are accessing either on line or through the games they play

- Be aware of what your child is doing don't let children be on the internet alone in bedrooms.
- Ensure you have a filter on search engines like Google or controls on You Tube
- www.thinkuknow.co.uk contains lots of useful tips for children and parents to stay safe online.
- Look at the content and listen to the chat around the games they are playing on PS4 or X box for example. They may hear foul, sometimes sexual language, racist name calling or hurtful comments.

Please talk to your children about **‘play’ fighting**. We cannot have this in school as it goes against our COVID safety practices and usually ends up with someone getting hurt and the fight turning into a real one. The children seem to be watching many films or programmes about fighting and wrestling and they are trying to copy.

Remind your children to always **‘Be Kind’**

We are a rights respecting school and everyone has the right to feel safe and happy at school. Make sure you explain this to your child so they are not the one who is unkind to others. We do not have to like everyone but we do have to respect them. Let's work together to keep Clara Grant a **bully free** school.

Let's work together to keep our children safe and happy.

Take care and have a lovely half term when it starts on **Friday 23rd October**, we will see you on Monday 2nd November.

Karen Symons
Head Teacher

1st September 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I am delighted to be writing to you today as your Head Teacher and look forward to working in partnership with you and your family to ensure your children have a safe and happy journey through our school. We are all very excited to welcome your children back to school. We have really missed them all.

Please read link here: [The Clara Grant Primary School Parent Guide for the Return to School September 2020](#) carefully as there are **lots of changes** this year to where and when you drop-off and pick-up your children and we will **not** be open on a **Friday afternoon** for Reception to Year 6. Do not worry, we have not changed how much time they spend learning and have support in place for working parents.

This week the staff have been preparing the school ready for a safe return for all the children. Please help by preparing your children for the changes.

1. Be positive and reassuring
2. Remind them they will be with their old teacher at first
3. Provide your child with their own **water bottle** and two of their **asthma pumps** and **Epi pens** if they use them
4. Be punctual at drop-off and pick-up times and be at the right place at the right time
5. Be prepared for bad weather as your child will be lining up outside at the start and end of the day
6. Provide warm clothes with their uniform as the windows will be open
7. Send in their name, class and sandwich choice – Tuna or Cheese by Friday 4th September by email: admin@claragrantsch.uk (yr 1-6 only)

We have worked hard to plan and prepare but I am sure we will need to adapt and change as we notice what is working well and what is not. Please be patient with our staff and other parents.

After reading the guidance, if you have any questions or need translation please email admin and we will get back to you as soon as we are able to.

Arrangements

Please note this is the drop off organisation in the morning starting on 7th September for the **first week plus Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th only as your child will be in their old class and old year group from last year. This is so they are with familiar adults and a familiar room so will feel safe and happy.** Then for the 16th September, you can refer to the parent guidance for the new year group your child will be in going forward.

For example, if your child was in Elisha's Reception Class last year they will return as a reception child, enter through the reception gate at 8.55 am (pick up at 3.30 pm) on Knapp road and be in Elisha's classroom at first. On Wednesday 16th September they will move up to be in Year 1 in Jane's class and enter through the Fern Street gate at 8.55 am. Pick up will be in Fern Street at 3.30 pm (Friday at 1.20pm)

Drop off in the morning

Last year's yr 1-5

Parents will line up on the pavement opposite the school and the children Yr 5 to Yr 1 are to line up in class lines in **Fern street**. They will walk in to meet each teacher who will collect their class, the children will sanitise their hands at the second gate. Please think about bringing umbrellas or wearing waterproof coats in case bad weather occurs during pick-up and drop-off times.

The times will be staggered starting with **last year's Year 5** at 8.40 am, **last year's Years 3/4** at 8.50 am and **last year's Year 1 /2** at 8.55 am. If you have children in each bubble, please wait with your child/ren.

Pick up times in the afternoon

Parents will line up as shown in the diagram to collect their child it will be **Year 5/6 at 3.10 pm (Friday 1.10 pm)**, **Years 3/ 4 at 3.20 pm (Friday 1.15 pm)** **Years 1 /2 at 3.30 pm (Friday 1.20 pm)**

Parents/carers will need to wear a mask, maintain 1 metre distancing and leave as quickly as possible once they have their child/ren.

Please remember to provide a letter of consent if you want your year 5 or year 6 child to walk home alone.

Last year's Nursery please use the Nursery Gate

Morning Nursery and **full-time** Nursery to be dropped off at 8.55 am and part time children picked up at 11.30 am.

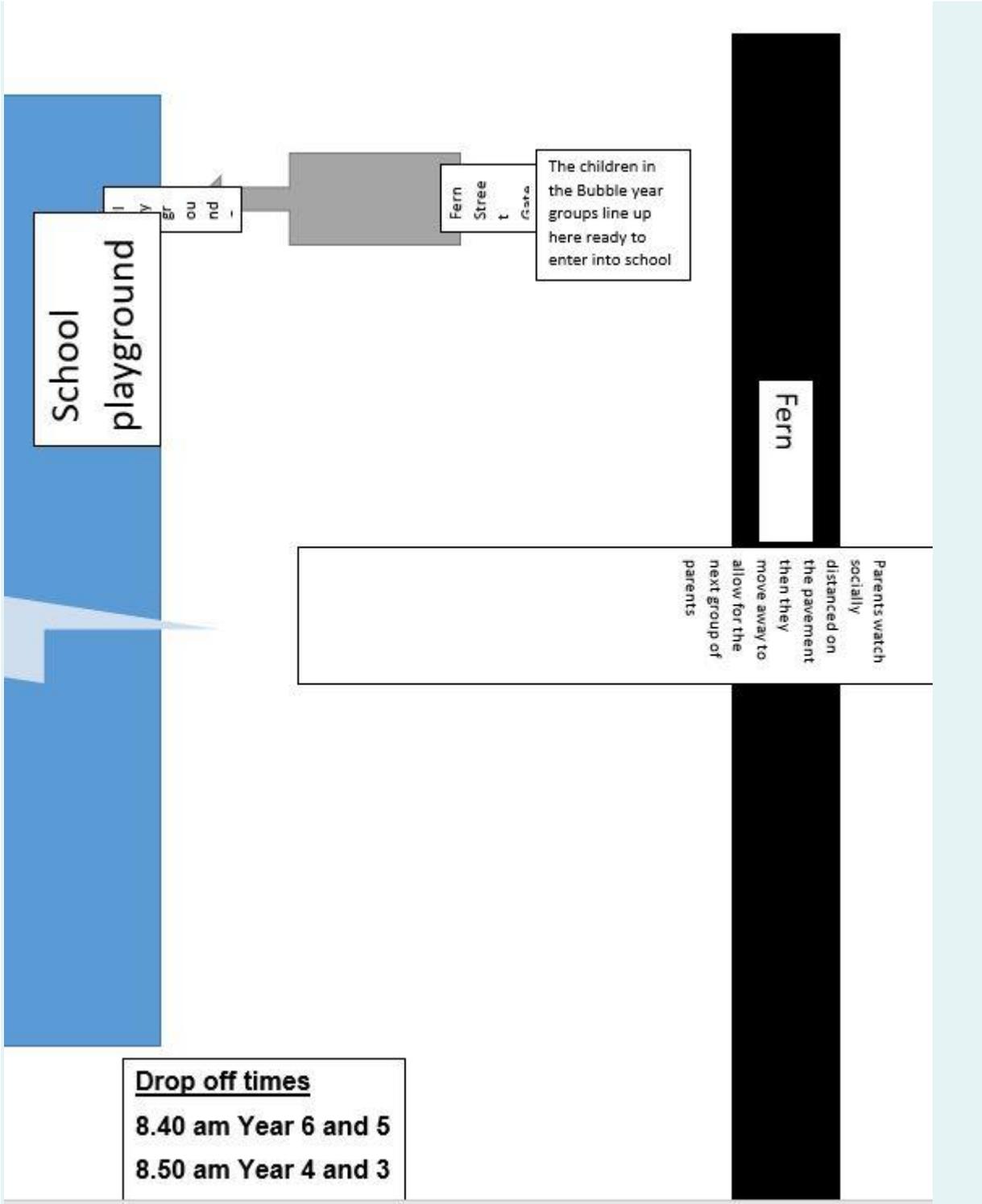
Afternoon Nursery children to be dropped off at **1.00 pm** and Full-time and afternoon children to be picked up at **3.30 pm (Friday also 3.30 pm)**

This is to allow cleaning of resources whilst full timers are having lunch

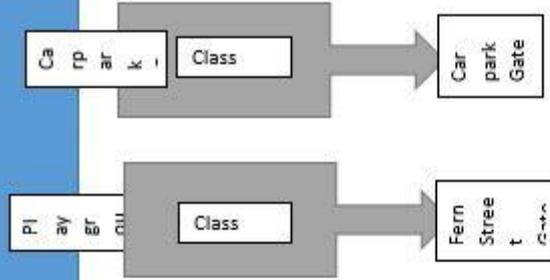
Last year's Reception children please use the Reception Gate at 8.55 and pick up at 3.30 pm **(Friday at 1.10 pm)**

Kind regards,

Karen Symons
Head Teacher



School playground



The parent with children in the Bubble year groups line up here ready to collect their child

Parents watch social distancing on the pavement until it is their turn to line up and pick up their child

Fern Street

Pick up times
3.10 pm -Year 6 and 5 (1.10 on Fridays)
3.20 pm -Year 4 and 3 (1.15 on Fridays)
3.30 pm -Year 2 and 1 (1.20 on Fridays)

N
u
r
s
e
r
y
c
h
i
l
d
r
e
a

N
u
r
s
e
r
y

R
e
c
e
p
t
i
o
n
G
a
t
e

R
e
c
e
p
t
i
o
n
c
h
i
l
d
r
e
a
n
d
p
a
r
e
n
t
l
i
n

K
n
o
w
l
e
d
g
e

Drop off time

Nursery morning
and fulltime
children 8.55 am

Nursery afternoon
children 1.00 pm

Reception 8.55
am

Pick up times

Nursery morning
11.30 am

Nursery afternoon
and fulltime
children 3.30 pm

all week

Reception 3.30
pm (Friday
1.10pm)

July 20th 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We have come to the end of our school year and what a strange year it has been. I am happy to say everything went well and the children and staff have enjoyed their time at school during lockdown. Everyone has stayed safe and we have not had any reported cases of COVID 19 for any of our children or staff. I would like to say a big thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting your children with the online learning and home activities.

On a sad note, some of our families had to be evacuated due to the crane accident. We hope you are doing as well as can be expected. Please see our website for help with dealing with these difficult times.

As you know Susan Ward is now retired from Headship after 27 years at Clara Grant. We are postponing her celebrations until we are able to give her the send-off she so deserves. We have also said an emotional goodbye to our year 6 children who are off to Secondary school next term. Thank you to all who were able to attend on Friday. Good luck children, please stay in touch.

Finally, I would like to wish you well and thank you for your patience and support during this really difficult time, I look forward to seeing your children in September, we have missed them. More information will be available closer to our return date in September but [here...](#) you will see a snap shot of information.

Take care,

Kind regards,

**Karen Symons
Head of School**

June 26th 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We have come to the end of our second week of phased further opening and I am happy to say everything went well and the children and staff have enjoyed their time at school. In addition, thanks to our very talented Douglas the staff and children in school have been enjoying our Clara Grant Song. I hope you have too!

On a sad note, we would like to send our condolences to all our families and staff who have lost loved ones recently, this is a really tough time to lose someone special. Please see our website for help with bereavement.

If you remember the children are in 'bubbles' with the same members of staff and area to learn and play in. The number of children in a bubble cannot exceed 15 and at the moment we are up to 10 per bubble. This means we are able to take more children onto our waiting list. If you want your child to return before the 17th July and you haven't already done so, could you please send an email to admin to make your request.

Key workers and vulnerable children are the top priority followed by Year 6, 1, Rec and Nursery. I'd like to thank you in advance for your patience with this matter. I'm really sorry we cannot take all of your children but as always and as previously mentioned our top priority has to be keeping all children and staff as safe as we can by minimising the risks.

We continue to receive regular updates from the government regarding safety measures and we are adjusting our measures where we feel it is safe to do so. We always make our decisions based on the welfare of our children and staff and the families they go home to.

We will be planning for the **September** return next week and will let you know how we hope to run as soon as we have finished assessing the staffing and classrooms available.

Take care, stay safe and thanks again for your ongoing support.

**Karen Symons
Head of School**

10th June 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Thank you for your patience, I know you have been waiting to receive information about the school opening to increased numbers of children for a while. We had to be thorough.

The children coming in next week have received a personal invite from us as their parents or carer emailed us confirming their wish to attend as initially requested. The children are from our nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 classes unless they are a Key worker child. No other children will be able to come to school at this time as we need to reduce the risk whilst socially distancing with a reduced number of staff.

We have completed our purchasing of PPE, training of staff, preparation of the site, planning and risk assessment. Initially when carrying out our preparations the 'R' rating for London was 0.4, this week it has increased to 0.95 which is very concerning. If the 'R' rate continues to rise we will not open to more children on the 15th June.

If it is safe to open we will be socially distancing and maintaining hygiene procedures as best we can. Please see the website for our information pack. Families receiving free school meal vouchers, will stop receiving them once their child starts back with us as they will receive a school meal instead.

To reassure parents and carers who are unable to send their child to school, the children at school will be receiving the same online learning as the children at home using the computers in school. This is to ensure equal access to the curriculum for all our children.

I'm really sorry we cannot take more of your children in at this time but our top priority has to be keeping all children and staff as safe as we can by minimising the risks

Take care, stay safe and thanks again for your ongoing support.

**Karen Symons
Head of School**

22nd May 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

Thank you for filling in our survey and sending in your child's name so we could plan for their phased return.

So far, I have received 41 changes to the original guidelines which were sent out just over a week ago. Staying on top of this whilst risk assessing and planning is an ongoing challenge.

Many of our staff are shielding themselves or their family members and will be unable to return to school. They will stay safe and continue their hard work from home. This means your child may not have the teachers and support staff they would normally have.

You may have read that ideally the children should be in what is being described as a 'bubble' with the same members of staff over the term. The number of children in a bubble cannot exceed 15 and so we will need at least twice as many rooms as normal. We will be socially distancing as best we can but for the early years children and year 1 this will be extremely difficult as young children need adult intervention and forget to stay away from their friends very easily. However, they will be with the same children in a small group as our children will not mix with any other groups as they will be based in different parts of the school. Regular handwashing and additional cleaning will be taking place.

We have planned for the 32 children who are eligible and have registered to return in groups of 8. Initially these will be the only children to come in.

Entrance gates will be assigned and parents will need to follow the guidelines in the information pack we send out to you. Movement around school will be managed, playtimes and lunchtimes staggered and hygiene systems put in place. For these reasons we will have to limit the number of children coming into school.

The week of the **1st to the 5th June** school will be **closed** to children and used to train staff, prepare spaces and organise resources for individual children to use. Lots of toys, books and soft furnishing have to be removed and signs for social distancing displayed. We will invite each child in via email with their start days and timetable. Teachers will need to continue to provide on line support for home learners so the day will be **shorter** to accommodate this unless you are a key worker.

Please follow the link below for full guidance on key or critical workers. Those of you who have already provided letters from your employer will not need to resend them. If you have not provided one please send it in to admin@claragrants.towerhamlets.sch.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

I know some of you will be very disappointed in this news as the headlines imply that a lot more children will start school on June 1st. We have liaised with the local authority and with other trusts who find themselves in exactly the same situation. The children at school will be receiving the same online learning as the children at home using the computers in school but of course they will have access to outside space too. I'm really sorry we cannot take more of your children but our top priority has to be keeping all children and staff as safe as we can by minimising the risks

Please be patient with us as we will review this every week and as soon as we can safely accommodate more children we will.

Our risk assessment and an overview of our plan will be available on our web site very soon and we will send a text to alert you.

Take care, stay safe and thanks again for your ongoing support.

**Karen Symons
Head of School**

Eid-al-Fitr Mubarak for the 23rd/24th!

13th May 2020

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I hope you are all still safe and well. Ramadan Mubarak to all our Muslim families. A big hello to all of your lovely children, I hope they enjoyed watching the video messages from us. I am sure that you heard the announcement made by the Prime Minister on Sunday evening or you will have heard about it through social media and/or the press. You may have been relieved or concerned to hear about the schools opening.

Please rest assured that we will not start to re-open to more children until we are sure that we have carried out our risk assessment and we can do it in a way that is safe for your children and our staff. In addition, you will not be fined for non-attendance if you have concerns and choose to not send your child to school during the summer term.

Currently, pupils' learning at home is education, and so it should be as productive as possible. Children, as you know, feel safer and learn more in routines, so we will continue with the google and Dojo classrooms and the weekly tasks on our website.

Government's intent

On Sunday night we were all informed schools would be reopening to children on a phased basis, prioritising the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 first. In addition, the government indicated that they would like to see all primary school children back in school for at least a month before the end of the school year.

The government have produced information for parents so please click below to view the booklet as it may answer some of your questions although we are all waiting for greater clarification on safety.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Clara Grant's next step

We have devised a short survey on 'survey monkey' which is shared via our text service to indicate your intent to take up a school place or not. Please take a moment, before Friday 15th May, to complete it as this will help us with our risk assessment for reopening. We will then keep you informed of our decisions.

Once you have completed the survey if you intend to send your child to school please email admin with your child's name, year group and class teacher.

In the meantime, stay safe and well,

**Karen Symons
Head of School**

If you are not eligible for Free School meals (only about 130 children out of 467 at our school are) but are struggling to feed your family please get in touch with the school, we do have access to food parcels.

6th April 2020

COVID - 19

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. The staff at Clara Grant are missing your children so much, it is a very strange time for everyone but we are still one big community. The school maybe closed to your children but we are here to support you all. Please ring or email us if you need anything.

Summer Term

Schools across the country including Clara Grant, will continue to be closed after the Easter holidays until further notice. Clara Grant staff will continue to look after the children of key workers and vulnerable children with a small number of staff starting on 20th April.

Following government advice, key worker children should **only** be sent in to school if there is absolutely no way the child can be cared for at home. This is so we can reduce the risk of exposure to the virus thereby supporting our NHS. Key workers will have provided a letter from their employer stating they are critical to their service and need to email Karen Symons using:

msymons@claragrantsch.uk **each** week to secure their child a place.

Parents of children with an **EHCP** will need to do the same. Please do not bring your child without confirmation of their place from Karen.

Following the Easter holidays, it is important that your children continue their learning at home. If you have issues getting onto **the google or Dojo classroom** please ring school for advice.

Online safety is more important than ever, these websites have useful advice for parents and carers.

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/>- for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- <https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety> - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- <https://parentinfo.org/> - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents>