

Gayhurst Road, Hackney

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Gayhurst Community School

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Plans for the start of term – September 2020

I hope that you are all well and have enjoyed a break over the summer. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school at the start of this new academic year. We are following the most up to date guidance in ensuring that we are opening the school as safely as possible, whilst trying to bring some 'normality' back to school life. We are beginning our re-opening cautiously, with some restrictions still in place, and will then review each restriction on a week-by-week basis. Below are the details for your child and their class.

#### Attendance Expectation:

In March when the Covid19 outbreak was increasing, the Government made it clear that no parent would be penalised for their child's non-attendance at school. The Government has now announced that circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school.

**School attendance will therefore be compulsory again from the beginning of the Autumn term.**

#### Minimising the Covid19 risk:

In order to prepare for all pupils to return full time from the start of the September, and in compliance with Health and Safety laws, essential measures have been put into place including:

- A review of our existing Health and Safety Risk Assessment: Following the Government guidance, advice from the Local Authority and in consultation with Trade Unions, we have written and implemented a rigorous and detailed Risk Assessment in order to make the school site as safe as possible for pupils, parents and staff. The Risk Assessment will be published on the school website on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August
- A requirement that children, parents and staff who are ill stay at home. If children, parents or staff have symptoms of COVID19 (high temperature, new continuous cough or loss of taste or smell) they must be tested as soon as possible
- Robust hand hygiene: pupils and staff will be required to clean and sanitise their hands throughout the day
- Respiratory hygiene: promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Reduced contact (as much as possible) between pupils by:
  - Grouping children together in pods
  - Avoiding contact between pods (wherever possible)
  - Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 – 6)
  - Staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff wherever possible



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- No Assemblies for the foreseeable future
- No clubs before or after school including Breakfast Club

Once again, following the Government guidance, we have had to implement a lot of changes to maintain the safety of our site. These are as follows:

- Staggered times for the beginning and the end of the day
- Staggered times for play and lunch time
- Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will be allowed to walk to school and walk home on their own provided that the parent or carer has given written permission to the school
  
- These are the items allowed to be brought in school:
  - Coats (children will be playing outside apart from extreme weather conditions)
  - A mobile phone can be brought in for children who are travelling alone, if completely essential for safety reasons, to and from school (Year 5 and 6) and it will be collected on arrival to school and stored in the school office
  - PE kit: to be brought into school and left in school and returned to be washed every 3 weeks
  - Prescribed medication can be brought into school

**All items must be clearly labelled with the child's full name and class. The school will not be liable for any lost items.**

- These are the items **NOT** allowed to be brought in school:
  - Bags including Book Bags
  - Packed Lunches (**all** children)
  - Bikes and scooters

School uniform: from September pupils need to be wearing the full school uniform (refer to School Uniform policy on our school website). Children should wear practical shoes that they can take part in PE wearing.

Travelling to and from school: The Government has advised that parents, staff and children should walk or cycle to school if possible. Due to health & safety guidance, bikes and scooters can **NOT** be left in the school grounds. They must be taken home by parents /carers.

Use of PPE: The Government advice is that the majority of staff and pupils will not require PPE.

Changes to the Curriculum: We are aware of the challenges faced by many families trying to educate children during school closure. As much as the school has provided home learning resources, we are aware that the majority of parents are not teachers and cannot be expected to teach children in the same way as educators. We understand that children returning to school in September may have gaps in their learning. Our aim in the first term is to prioritise the mental wellbeing of our pupils together with learning that addresses gaps mainly in core subjects (Phonics, Reading, Writing and Mathematics). We will continue to provide a curriculum that is broad and balanced in which pupils will be taught a range of subjects.

Contingency planning for outbreaks: In the event of a partial or full school closure, children will be able to access a secure online learning platform that will be consistently used across the school to allow interaction, assessment and feedback. If your child needs to remain at home but is able to access learning, a learning pack will be provided.

**Managing suspected or confirmed cases of Covid19 at home and in school:**

If your child or a household develops COVID19 symptoms at home, your child must NOT attend school.

You will be contacted if your child develops symptoms at school as you will be expected to collect your child immediately, arrange for a test and keep the school informed of the test results. Whilst waiting for your test result, you and your child should self-isolate.

Schools have been advised to take swift action when they become aware that someone has tested positive for Covid19. It is a requirement that the school contacts the Local Health Protection Team to seek and follow advice.

**The following arrangements are in place for each class.**

We will be staggering the return of all children next week to allow children and staff to understand and follow the new procedures that are in place.

**Year 5 and 6 children will begin school on Wednesday 2nd September.**

**Year 5 and 6 children will begin school at 09:00am. The school day will end at 3:00pm.**

In order to maintain social distancing, parents and carers will not be able to enter the school playground and specific gates have been given to each class. Please drop off and collect your child from the following gates:

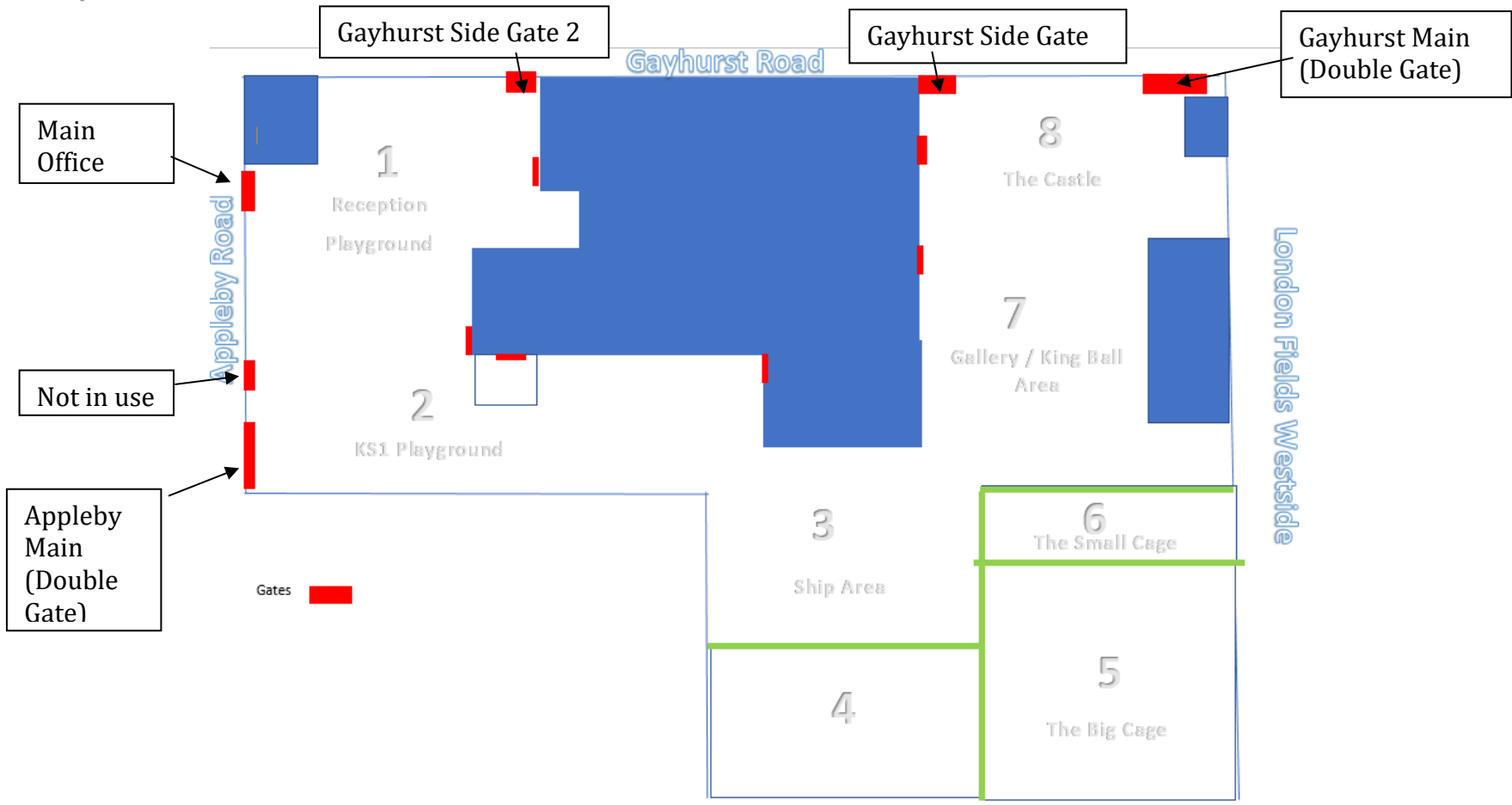
<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Gate</b>
5J – Japan	Jack	Appleby Road Double Gate
5W – Wales	Winnie	Appleby Road Double Gate
5/6M – Malaysia	Marsha	Gayhurst Road 2 Gate
6C – China	Cheryl	Gayhurst Road 1 Gate
6T – Tonga	Thomas	Gayhurst Road Double Gate

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Pedro  
Associate Headteacher

# Map of the school site



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