



Head Teacher: Miss L Casey
(*BEd Hons, MA, NPQH*)

Tel: 020 8303 1858

Fax: 020 8304 2075

email: office@danson.bexley.sch.uk

28th August 2020

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all continuing to keep safe and well and have been enjoying your summer break. Further to my letter on 14th July and following discussions with the Bexley Local Authority and Public Health members on 26th August, Danson will be fully opening for all pupils in September. As a school we are excited about having our children return to school. Years 1 to 6 return to school from Thursday 3rd September, with Reception joining us with their staggered start from the 7th September and Nursery from the 14th September. We look forward to seeing our children back in classes to continuing their learning journey and assisting them on becoming the very best that they can be.

As a school we have continued to work tirelessly with the Local Authority, Public Health, and Department for Education to ensure that we continue to do our best and take every precaution to prevent and reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission and have updated our Risk Assessment in accordance with guidance changes that have occurred during the summer break. The safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, parents and wider Danson community continue to remain at the forefront of our minds. As a school family it is important that we continue to ensure that we observe and adhere to the following:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices, promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Increased and enhanced cleaning of surfaces
- and minimising contact and mixing and maintain social distancing wherever possible

As a school we are proud of the operations and systems that we have put into place for our children to attend and will do our utmost to ensure everyone is safe and well.

'If you are unwell think Covid and get tested'

It is so important that if your child or anyone else in your household becomes unwell or tests positive for Covid-19, they do not come to school and that you notify the school immediately via the school office on 02083031858 or via our new email address C-19queries@danson.bexley.sch.uk.

Anyone presenting with the symptoms of Covid-19; a high temperature, a new continuous cough and a loss of, or change in sense of smell and taste (anosmia) should not attend school and should follow current Government Guidance-***last update 13th August 2020.***

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

We have also included with this letter a flow chart from the Local Authority and Bexley Public Health what you should do if your child or anyone in the household develops symptoms.

We have also included with this letter a Social Story about Coronavirus that you may want to read and discuss with your child to help them prepare for the 'new normal'. It covers basic facts about the virus, ongoing risk and how we can reduce it in a child-friendly manner. At the end you will find a summary sheet and a guide to washing your hands. As a Social Story, this resource provides limited information and is not meant to worry children in any way. If your child might require more factual information about the Coronavirus please go to the following websites.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Routines and Organisation

Within my last letter on 14th July, I shared with you the routines and organisations that will be in place for our September start. Please re-read this letter so that these routines are fresh in your mind and can be shared with your child/children.

Transition for first week back-3rd &4th September 2020-Years 1-6

As discussed in my previous letter on 14th July, to support our children returning to school we wanted to give them the opportunity on Thursday 3rd to return to their previous class with their class teacher to say a final hello and goodbye before they meet their new class teacher on Friday 4th September to begin their new academic year on Monday 7th September.

Morning and end of day collection arrangements

Along with this letter today, you will receive a specific Year Group letter which gives in more detail the locations where your child should be dropped off and collected each day along with a reminder of the school start and end times that were sent to you on 14th July. We would ask for patience and to bear with us during our initial few weeks as these new routines are put into place.

Visitors on site

Please do not enter school grounds time at any time of the day without prior arrangement with the school. Visitors into school buildings will be permitted by appointment only. Contact details will be required at the point of entry and will be held for a period of 21 days after which they will be deleted or disposed of securely.

Preparing your child to return to school

In preparing your child to return to school it is important to:

- Chat and explore with them how they are feelings and any worries they may have so that you can reassure and support them.
- Return to their normal sleep routine before school starts again.
- Chat and explore all things they will start to have to redo again, such as getting up earlier, putting on their school uniform, having to walk/get the car/bus to school.
- Make yourself available as much as possible so that your child still feels they can have quality time with them even when they return to school.
- Share the importance of following the rules and additional Covid19 behaviour expectations.
- Share the positives about returning to school-seeing friends, teachers, learning new things.

In partnership together

We completely appreciate that you and/or your child may be a little anxious or worried about returning to school, please know that it is completely normal and we understand. As a school staff we want to reassure you that we are here to help and support as best we can. Staff will support your child and help them in their return to school after such a long absence by working with them to gain an understanding of what has happened, coming to terms with it and acclimatising and adapting to the new normal. We do also understand that other children will be happy to get back and just want to get into their routines. To support all pupils, as part of their transition and wellbeing back to school all classes with their teacher will complete a mindfulness calendar, which consists of daily five-minute mindfulness activities which will help ground and relax the children. We will send the calendar home to you next week so that you also be a share in completing these activities with your child. Each Year Group will share more information with you in their weekly newsletters and let you know how the classes are getting on.

We know that there is so much information to read and remember, but I want to take this opportunity to say, please don't worry, we are all in this together as a Danson family and will be with you every step of the way.

I hope you all get the opportunity to enjoy the last remaining days of the summer break and look forward to seeing you all soon.

As always, take care, look after each other and stay safe.



L Casey
Head Teacher

We're Going Back to School

Looking Forward Together

*We are going back to school; we might feel sad to say goodbye,
But friends are just like sunshine-they help the tears to dry.
We're going back to school; we might feel nervous at the door,
But joy will soon take over when we see our class once more.*

*We're going back to school, we might forget a rule or two,
But soon we will remember as we gently talk them through.
We're going back to school; we might do things a different way,
But new will turn to normal as we practice day by day.*

*We're going back to school; we might not say that we are scared
But don't forget a problem gets much smaller once it's shared.
We're going back to school; we might have grown-ups who are new,
But we will get to know them and they'll get to know us, too.*

*We're going back to school; we might be facing things unknown,
But doing them together, means we will never be alone.
We're going back to school, where we will laugh and learn and play,
Then head back home for cuddles once we've had a lovely day.*

