



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

Tel: 020 8303 1858

Fax: 020 8304 2075

email: office@danson.bexley.sch.uk

4th March 2021

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all continuing to keep safe and well. Further to my letter on 22nd February and following discussions with the Bexley Local Authority and Public Health members on 23rd February, Danson will be fully open for all pupils on Monday 8th March. As a school, we are excited about having our children return. All year groups with the exception of our Ladybird PM Nursery pupils will all return to school on Monday 8th March. Staggered times and Year Group specific gates from the Autumn Term will remain the same. We look forward to seeing our children back in classes to continuing their learning journey and assisting them on continuing to become 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. We have updated our Risk Assessment in accordance with guidance changes that have occurred during this second lockdown. 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
- minimising contact/mixing and maintain social distancing wherever possible

As a school, we continue to be 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. Please see attached to this email the routines and organisation information.

'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 Covid-19 specific 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 15th February 2021.***

<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 again with this letter a Social Story about Coronavirus that you may want to read and discuss with your child to help them reset and prepare for returning to school. 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/>

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

Just as children responded differently to lockdown, they will do the same returning to school. Some will be delighted to back in the routine of school, being with their class teacher, the attention they receive and the contact with their friends. Others may struggle giving up the freedom of home and the attention of family.

Sometimes it may seem easier to avoid talking about the difficult things coming up. Instead, try to talk to your child about it. Ask how they are feeling about returning. Remind them of the positives, seeing their friends and seeing their teacher again. Children will be reassured if you are steady and calm.

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 this second lockdown by again working with them to gain an understanding of what has happened, acclimatising and adapting back to school life as we did in September.

To support all pupils, as part of their return 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 as they did when they returned in September. Each Year Group will share more information with you in their weekly newsletters and let you know how the classes are getting on.

Remote Learning in Spring 1

I would like to thank SLT, the Class Teachers and Pupil Support Assistants for making our Remote Home Learning such a success. I am so proud of your unswerving determination and hard work in making sure our little ones have continued their learning journey. I would also like to thank the office staff, premises, midday day meals and cleaning staff for continuing to keep our building up and running.

Parents, thank you SO much for supporting your child with their home learning during the first half of our Spring term. You have done a stellar job, with so many giving your hearts and souls every day to support your children to be the very best that they can be while you have continued with your home and work commitments. You have been your child's superheroes. To our Key Workers, our other superheroes, we have been honoured to support your children in school.

We know that there is so much information to read and remember, but I want to take this opportunity to say, please do not worry, we are all in this together as a Danson family and will be with you every step of the way. On behalf of the Governors and staff at Danson thank you again for your continued support and understanding during this difficult time.

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

L Casey

L Casey
Head Teacher

