



Garden Suburb Junior School

Childs Way • London • NW11 6XU



Tel: 020 8455 3269 • E-mail : office@gsjs.barnetmail.net • Website : www.gardensuburbjunior.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Eileen Bhavsar BA (Hons) MSc • Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs Lisa Berger BEd (Hons)
Administrator / School Business Manager: Ms Andrea Bailey

31st August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our children back for the start of the new school year on Thursday 2nd September.

Please email the school on welfare@gsjs.barnetmail.net if your child will not be able to attend on their first day, giving us the reason for their delay.

We have now moved to Step 4 in the government's response to the pandemic, and our school systems will reflect this. This email is to ensure you are fully informed as to what this will entail in school. Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

We no longer need to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that assemblies can resume, and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at the start and end of the school day and at lunchtimes.

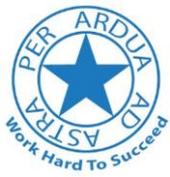
We have an **"Outbreak Management Plan"** which covers the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. We believe that our existing playground and lunchtime rotas will make this smoother to implement.

If there are any confirmed cases of Covid-19, close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and the school will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. The school may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial





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- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Children who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.

The school will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases, or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise us to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

Face coverings are no longer required in law, but it is expected and recommended that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where we may come into contact with people we don't normally meet. Face coverings should be worn by adults who use public transport, and we will ask visitors to the school building to wear a face covering (unless they are exempt). School staff may choose to wear a face covering in certain circumstances.

Control measures

We will:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.

- We will continue with frequent and thorough hand cleaning.
- Reinforce the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, using resources from The [e-Bug COVID-19 website](#)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available in the medical room, for use if we have a suspected case of COVID-19.

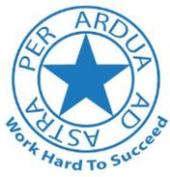
1. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.

- We will continue with our thorough cleaning routines.
- Each class has a "hygiene box" containing sanitising equipment to keep surfaces clean.

1. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

- We will ensure our classrooms are very well-ventilated, with external doors open if available. In reception and year one, we will use our outdoor classroom areas as much as possible.





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- We have purchased a small number of air quality monitors, for use in rooms with less natural ventilation, so that we can assess when the room needs ventilating.
- We will identify any poorly ventilated spaces and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site.

1. Follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

- Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).
- If anyone in our school develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. Staff have been asked to undertake twice weekly home tests (LFD tests) whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. These LFD tests are available free from local pharmacies, and we do encourage parents to continue to use them if possible.

Confirmatory PCR tests

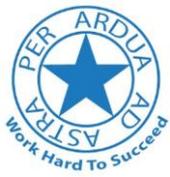
Staff and parents with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend. Further information is available in the guidance on [supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#).





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We will ensure that any **contractors** in school are aware of the school's control measures and ways of working.

We are sure that parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending our school, we can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Our decision will be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

School Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Where a child is required to self-isolate or quarantine because of COVID-19 in accordance with relevant legislation, we will provide learning for the child to carry out at home (unless they are unwell).

We are keeping our website updated with current information, including our current Risk Assessment and Outbreak Management Plan. You can access these here:

<https://www.gardensuburbinfant.co.uk/page/?title=Back+to+School+in+September+2021+Managing+Risks+related+to+Covid%2D19&pid=1595>

We are looking forward to seeing our children back in school very soon. Staff will be at the front gate every morning, if you have any questions.

With kind regards

Mrs Eileen Bhavsar

Head Teacher

