

**Headteacher**

Sebastian Gray

Email

admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

Tel

01923 233146

Twitter

@LHS_Watford

AddressVicarage Road
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD18 0DD**Web**

www.lhaines.herts.sch.uk

Facebook

Laurance Haines School

Friday, 5 March 2021

Welcome Back – Monday 8th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward immensely to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 8th March. Whilst we have remained connected with our community throughout this period of school closure and our children have continued their learning through Tapestry or the Google Classroom, we will all be looking ahead to next week knowing that the children will benefit greatly from socially re-connecting with their friends and teachers. Our approach will be to support the children's social, emotional and academic learning through providing opportunities to re-establish relationships, regulate upon their return and be ready for learning in the classroom again. Whilst we want our children to experience the normalities of school again, there are still guidelines in place for us all so that we can continue to prioritise the safety of all. Please read the following carefully so that we are working together from Monday onward.

Attendance

From Monday the 8th March, attendance is mandatory for all pupils. This means that you as parents do not have the option to withdraw your children and keep them at home. If your child is following public health advice, e.g. they are shielding or have coronavirus, you will not be penalised for any non-attendance. Pupils not attending for these reasons will continue to receive remote education, where appropriate. Understandably some of you will have some worries about this return. If your child is required to attend the school site but you are anxious or concerned, please get in touch with the school office and they can put you in touch with someone who can discuss your worries in more detail and provide any reassurance you need.

Pick up and drop off

Pick up and drop off routines remain the same as they did pre lockdown in order to keep each other safe on site and to minimise any unnecessary contact between parents and pupil groups:

- Routes in, around and out of the school must be followed by all
- **Face coverings worn by all parents/carers** whilst on school sites (and ideally, whilst standing in line outside of the school gates)
- Maximum of one parent on site at any given time
- No visitors to the school office
- Soft start and finish times of:
 - Beginning of the day – 8:40-9:00am
 - End of the day – 3:00-3:20pm

Uniform/PE Kit

We expect all children to return to school in full uniform. This will support with reconnecting with the community and will result in a renewed sense of belonging. We recognise that the children will have grown so please do speak to a member of the school team should you have difficulties. As we did across the Autumn Term, we will be asking children to come dressed to school in their PE kits on the day of their PE lessons.

Monday	Year 2
Tuesday	Year 5
Wednesday	Year 1 and Year 6
Thursday	Nursery and Year 4
Friday	Reception and Year 3

“For a better future.”

Technology & Resources at Home

Many families have loaned electronic devices from the schools. Please can these be returned to school before the 19th March. We will use the mobile classrooms on the KS2 playground for parents to safely return the technology, which will need to be registered upon return. All technology will then be reassigned to classrooms to support the children's learning.

Reminders of Reporting Covid-19

We must not forget that the virus is still out there in our community. If anyone in your household develops any of the following three symptoms, your whole household must isolate and you need to arrange testing immediately.

- **a high temperature** – this means you or your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature, but if your child's temperature is over 38 degrees, this qualifies as a high temperature in addition to the feeling hot to touch on their chest or back)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you or your child usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you or your child cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If someone in your household tests positive - all members of your household and anyone the positive case has had close contact with must isolate for 10 days from last contact- this may include your support / childcare bubble. It is essential that you inform us about any positive coronavirus cases or symptoms of anyone in your household/bubble.

Asymptomatic testing for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week that all adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid Covid-19 testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Secondary school and college students will continue to access testing through their school or college. Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or a class being sent home due to an outbreak. It could also be the difference between a workplace having to close for a period or being able to stay open and running. If you have symptoms you must still get a PCR test as previously advised. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests. [Click here to find a local site where you can collect tests](#)
- by ordering a home test kit online – but only if testing cannot be accessed through other routes, as this frees up home delivery for those who need it most [Click here to order lateral flow home test kits](#)
- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees

Collecting test kits

- Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect.
- You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a [local collection point](#).
- The nearest collection point in Watford is: **King George V Park**, Chaffinch Lane, Rickmansworth Road, Watford, WD18 9QD [Get Directions](#)
- Opening times 1:30pm – 7:00pm - 7 days a week.
- You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.
- Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times.

If you have any queries, or would like to speak to someone, please get in touch with your child's school office. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 8th March. Have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards,

Sebastian Gray
Headteacher

“For a better future.”