

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Last Monday evening the Prime Minister announced children currently learning at home will return to school on Monday 8th March. We are delighted to be opening the gates of the playground and the doors of the classrooms to all pupils and truly hope that the current lockdown is the last our children experience during their time at Krishna Avanti Primary - Croydon.

This letter contains information you need to know about the expanded reopening of the school. There are not many changes to the advice the Government gave schools in September, but it is important you know what you need to do to keep our community safe when schools reopen.

The biggest issue with the expanded opening of any school is not the number of children coming in to the school, but the number of adults who will now be mixing in our community. In order to keep your child safe, we would ask that wherever possible, only one adult brings your child to school and collects them at the end of the day. This will reduce the numbers of people moving around our community.

To help with the flow of people we will ask you to adhere to the timetable below for the start and end of the school day.

Class	Entry/Exit Point and Time	Exit Time	Entry/Exit Point
Reception	Main gate straight into Reception outdoor area 8.00am	2.20	Entry and Exit through main gate Collect children from the car park area
Year 1	Playground gate straight into classroom 8.10am	2.30	Entry and exit through the playground gate. Collect children from an orderly and distanced line outside the classroom.
Year 2	Bicycle Shed gate, into classroom 8.00 am	2.20	Enter through playground gate and exit from bicycle shed gate. Collect children from an orderly and distanced line outside the classroom.
Year 3	Playground gate, up the stairs into Year 3 classroom 8.00am	2.20	Entry and exit through the playground gate. Collect children from an orderly and distanced line outside the double doors leading to staircase.
Year 4	Main gate Up the main staircase into Year 4 classroom 8.10am	2.30	Entry and Exit through main gate Collect children from the car park area

Our concern for the spread of Coronavirus among our parent community means that we will be constantly reviewing the procedures to keep you safe. We would ask you to keep a safe distance from other parents and wear a mask at peak times. All of the above should mean the return to school is as safe as possible.

The return to school: Questions and Answers

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister we have received a number of telephone calls, emails and social media requests asking for details about things that are clearly causing worry or concern. In order to support you to have all the facts you need about the return of all children to education in England, we have put together answers to the most commonly asked questions. We hope that they give you clarity, peace of mind and a sense of certainty in an uncertain time.

Do I need to send my child back to school?

The simple answer is yes. School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March. This means every child should return to school under the usual rules. These rules state that it is a '*parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)*'. If you have any concerns or anxiety or circumstances that are making things difficult, please just give us a call.

What measure have you put in place to reduce the risk of Coronavirus?

All schools are following the advice of Public Health England and have in place a system of controls to reduce the risk and create an inherently safe environment. This includes, regular hand washing, prompting a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, maintain enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, and keeping the site well ventilated. At KAPSC we will operate year group bubbles in the playground to maintain social distancing.

Will children be tested each week at the school?

The Government has confirmed that primary school children will **not** be regularly asymptotically tested due to low levels of transmission between younger aged children but will continue to need to come forward for tests if they have symptoms. However, all staff in England do have access to lateral flow tests and are encouraged to take these tests twice a week so that we can play our part in reducing transmission of the virus quickly and minimise impact on children's learning.

Will adults be wearing face covering?

DfE guidance, in primary and early years settings is it recommended that staff and visitors wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained between adults.

What will happen if there is a case of Coronavirus at the school?

If we receive information that a member of the school community (children or staff) has tested positive for Coronavirus, we report this to Public Health England. Depending on the circumstances a number of children or a whole class group may be sent home. If this is the case the class involved will be contacted with full details of the closure and the rest of the school will be informed too. All learning for those classes will immediately switch to online platforms.

What can I do to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus and keep the school open?

The simple answer is follow the rules. We would urge everyone to follow the Government advice and ensure they play their part in following the rules and keeping the whole community as safe as possible.

What can my child bring to school?

Children are encouraged to travel light. The school has most of the tools they need to do their work, so a book bag, piece of fruit – no crisps or chocolate please (for break times) and a bottle of water is all that they will need. Please ensure their water bottle and belongings are clearly marked with their name. Please ensure you send your children in wearing their PE kit on **Wednesdays** to avoid bringing in additional clothes for changing.

How will you help my child catch up in lost learning?

It is really important to remember that every child has had a different experience during this period of time. Some children have been in school with the teachers, some have been learning every day at home, some have not engaged with home learning very much. This means that everyone will be at different points in their learning when they return. However, children have always been at different points in their learning and teachers are skilled at supporting all children in a class whether they are working well above the year group standards or below. All teachers will be looking to assess the gaps in learning as soon as the children return to the classroom. Where teachers find skills are missing, they will recap and revise before moving on. In some cases, additional support will be given to children in the school to cover lost learning or to ensure that those who are doing well continue to be stretched and challenged. There is also an amount of catch-up premium provided by Government to all schools and we will be looking to ensure we use this to support the largest number of children possible. We have already committed to the National Tutoring Programme and will be targeting some pupils to take part in the programme.

Will you just focus on teaching English and Mathematics?

There is no doubt that developing progress in reading, phonics, writing and mathematics is a priority. However, we plan to increase these skills through embedding these focus areas through a full broad and balanced curriculum. At the moment our main priority is to ensure we have happy children in our school and that we stay true to our vision on confident, creative children with a lifelong love of learning. Allowing children to rekindle friendships, have fun and express themselves is crucial at this time. It is also a priority to ensure they have time to talk, reflect and get excited about the future. We will also be looking at creative ways to engage the whole community and keep morale high.

Will school meals be on offer when you fully open?

Yes. The team at Govindas have been exceptional in supporting the school during the closure, providing hot meals to the children on site each day. This will continue and the kitchen will be fully open for the provision of food for pupils, including ensuring food meets the standards for school food in England.

Will I receive vouchers once the school is fully open?

Vouchers issued to Pupil Premium families from Edenred will stop when the school reopens on Monday 8th March. All schools will be allocated funding from the council to issue one £15 supermarket voucher to every FSM pupil during Easter Holiday.



KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL (CROYDON)
Southbridge Place, Croydon, CR0 4HA

Telephone: 020 8353 4253
Email: kaps croydon@avanti.org.uk
Website www.avanti.org.uk/kaps croydon

Interim Head - Ms Kekshan Salaria

What are the lunch time arrangements?

Only one classes per time will enter the hall for lunch, eating in allocated zones. This allows more than ample distancing. The class to enter and leave together, supporting the organisation of space in all indoor and outdoor areas.

Will After School Clubs be operating?

At present there are no plans for after school activities before the Easter Holiday. We will review the offer after the Easter Holiday.

Will the children be able to go on school trips again?

Our school trips are linked to the learning happening in the school and designed to give the children experiences. Currently the Government guidance says there should be **no trips**, but as the rules on the road map change we will risk assess whether we can resume them again.

We hope this helps answer some of the questions we've been asked over the last couple of days. We also hope it has helped to reassure you that your child is going to be supported, excited and wanting to come to school every day once March the 8th is here!

[Guidance for parents and carers](#) about attending education settings in the spring term 2021 - updated ahead of 8th March.

Ms Kekshan Salaria

Interim Head of School

Krishna Avanti Primary School Croydon