

Headteacher: Monica Forty

Ben Jonson Primary School
Harford Street
London
E1 4PZ

t: 020 7790 4110
f: 020 7790 7701
e: admin@benjonson.towerhamlets.sch.uk
w: www.benjonson.towerhamlets.sch.uk

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Important information from the Headteacher
School closure, opening in September 2020 and new classes

Dear Parents and Carers,

One of the challenges of the pandemic and the changing requirements from government is the impact it has on schools. From the outset you have all been supportive in responding to the many changes which we have had to make at short notice. Below are two changes that we have had to make to prioritise the safety of the children.

School closure for the summer term

To support the deep cleaning of the school during the holidays, we need staff on-site to prepare the classrooms to facilitate this. Therefore, school will need to be closed to children on the last day of term making their **last day in school Thursday 16 July**. I know that this will be inconvenient for some of you, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your understanding.

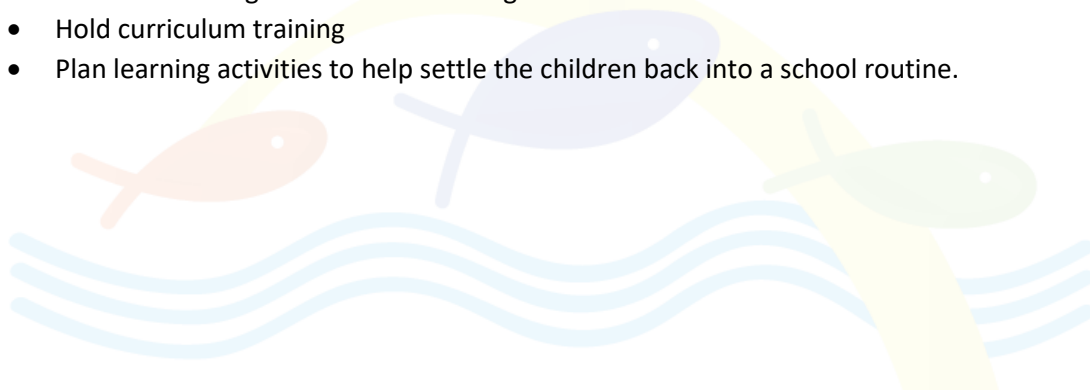
Opening in September

As you will have heard in the news, all schools will be open for **every** child in September. The government have stated that coming to school is now compulsory “unless there are good reasons for any absence”.

We are really pleased to know that the school community will be back together again at Ben Jonson. Of course, I understand you will be a little apprehensive about returning to school as, indeed, are we; school will look and feel a little different as we put in arrangements to make the school as safe as we can. We have completed a risk assessment and have put stringent health and safety processes successfully in place for the children who are already in school. So, I am confident about meeting the government’s requirements for opening to everyone in September.

As you know I have always taken a measured approach to opening; doing so only when I feel the school is ready. To this end we are taking 4 (out of 5) of our INSET days at the start of the term to ensure the school and staff are ready for your children. This means that staff will start school on Tuesday, 2 September and the new start date for all children at Ben Jonson will be on **Monday, 7 September 2020**. This is a change from the original published dates due to the current situation. We are planning now for September but that is eight weeks away and, as we know, things could change in those weeks. So, we need the four INSET days to:

- Go through the new arrangements for children with staff
- Prepare the classrooms and the building in line with government expectations
- Deliver mandatory health and safety training
- Deliver mandatory child protection training
- Undertake ‘Google Classroom’ training for all staff
- Hold curriculum training
- Plan learning activities to help settle the children back into a school routine.



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I will include more information about what the school is doing to meet the government's requirements for opening the school in September in the newsletter we are sending out next week.

Class lists and 'Meet your new teacher' drop in session

On the website we have posted up the new class list for 2020 / 2021 with the names of the teachers and their new classes.

We have also published a list of the dates and times of the 'Meet your new teacher' drop in sessions next week. This will be an informal chance for you and your child to:

- Say good bye to their old teacher
- Say hello to their new teacher
- Return any school books and resources
- Pick up their report, and collect a summer learning pack.

This event will take place in the Key Stage 2 playground and you will need to come via the Commodore Street entrance.

Over 77 children came to the Ben Jonson home learning help desk this morning. It was good to see so many of you. I was also really pleased to hear that many of the children are looking forward to coming back to school in September! I am also looking forward to seeing those of you who I have not had a chance to meet since the school closed for most of the children back in March!

Best wishes



Monica Forty
Headteacher

