



Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

**Democratic Services
London Borough of Hounslow
Hounslow House
7 Bath Road
Hounslow
TW3 3EB**

3rd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the summer break, which has been a most unusual one, we do hope that you have managed to have some kind of a break and are ready for the return back to school. We are aware that for many of our families, the past five months have been an anxious time and incredibly worrying for all.

As we start a new school year it is vital that all our children and young people return to school. This is the right approach we know Coronavirus has not gone away and that we all need to keep ourselves and each other safe. However, our children must not suffer educationally or socially and right now school is the best place for them to be.

Over the summer our Headteachers and their school staff have been working tremendously hard on their plans to welcome back all school-aged children and young people from September, which we are very grateful. All of their hard work and preparations help to ensure a very safe start to the new school year, and we fully support all that our school community have been doing. Schools in the borough have opened successfully over the last two days and it has been heartwarming to see large numbers of children returning, full of excitement and settling into the new routines and expectations quickly.

We know these are still unprecedented times, we are confident in our schools' ability to keep your children safe. We know that you might still be worried. However, schools and our colleagues from Public Health, are monitoring the local Covid-19 situation every day and have robust measures in place should any issues arise.

Can I please remind you not to gather at school gates at key points in the school day as this prevents the smooth and safe transition of children entering and leaving school. We as adults need to model the use of social distancing and following one way systems to our children and young people.

The current levels of confirmed cases in our borough are being tracked daily, our testing levels are high, showing you are being vigilant, and our cases are low. Obviously, things can change quickly. So, it is important that we continue our guard.

You can support your school by following the national guidance, making you're your children understand what they need to do when in school and keeping up to date with the latest local news around Covid-19 by signing up to the Council e-newsletter at: www.hounslow.gov.uk/covid-updates

For further information and advice, parents can view the Council's webpages www.hounslow.gov.uk/back-to-school'

Finally, we want to thank all schools, parents and carers for all your support and help over this challenging period. It is important that we continue to work together, remain vigilant and ensure that our children continue with their education.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Bruce', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Councillor Tom Bruce
Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services