

# The Compass Partnership of Schools

c/o Willow Dene School, Swingate Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 2JD

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**Trust Leader:** John Camp



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this email finds you well.

Last week the Government published its guidance to support schools in opening to all children at the beginning of the next academic year. We have used the guidance to draw up plans for September opening and to review and update school-based risk assessments.

Compass schools have been open since the start of lockdown and since June, have been open to as many children as possible within the current government guidance that limits class sizes to a maximum of 15. I would like to thank all our headteachers and their fabulous teams for trying to give as many children as possible the opportunity to have some time in school before the summer break. This has not been easy, but each school has been determined to do as much as possible. I would also like to thank you all for your support and patience through this very challenging period and for the regular feedback you have given us through lockdown. Our Compass Parent Forum has also been an integral part of our approach and I would like to thank your individual school representatives for their time and dedication over the past four months – they have been superb.

All Compass schools will be open to all children from the beginning of next term. We will still be operating within the Government's guidance and the hierarchy of controls that we have already established to ensure we are COVID safe. This will mean that we will still have staggered starts and ends to school days and will still minimise contact between groups of children. Children will be in class or year group bubbles and will not mix with other children during the school day, in order to maintain social distance as far as possible. Further details of the controls that we have put in place can be found on the updated Frequently Asked Questions document on the Compass Website (<https://compass-partnership.uk/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions-for-parents-and-carers/>). Each school will also initially close earlier on one day of the week so that we can manage teachers' planning and preparation time without having to reduce the teaching hours that children receive. Your school will communicate these details to you directly.

COVID-19 control measures are likely to be in place for some time and we will need to be prepared for local lockdowns and other interruptions to normal service. In the event of a lockdown, or a school closure due to a COVID-19 outbreak, schools will return to the

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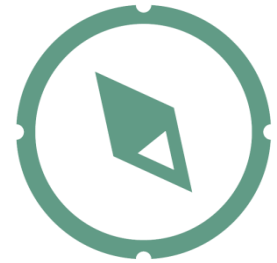
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Compass Online Offer so that children can continue with their learning remotely. Paper packs will continue to be provided for children who do not have access to technology. We will keep you all up to date with developments as they happen.

Trustees will meet during the last week of August to review the local and national picture and to consider the most up to date scientific and government guidance. Should anything change from now until then that affects our opening plans, we will communicate with you at that point.

Our school communities have been strong and resolute throughout the lockdown period and have worked as one to ensure those who need support receive it. Thank you all.

Please do not hesitate to email me should you have any questions or points to raise.

Very best wishes to you all.

John Camp

Trust Leader