

PRINCIPALS ALLAY FEARS



“We have done everything in our capacity to make the school safe for the kids to come back. We have held several meetings with parents, too. The kids will first return to labs as they have not had any practical class for 11 months. These are Class-XII students who need to do intense work in labs before they are exam-ready. Not only practical but written work, exams and doubt-clearing classes also are important as online classes have limitations

—**Rupa Sanyal Bhattacharjee** |
PRINCIPAL, SOUTH POINT

Canteens to remain off limits for now

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Kolkata: Though schools are re-opening, much of the fun has been taken out of it. Not only will the new normal seating arrangements make it difficult to be boisterous like earlier, another prime attraction — the canteen — will not serve the lip-smacking samosas, chowmein, chilli chicken, rolls, etc.

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students swear by these. The ‘chief’s chowmein’ at La Martiniere for Boys has been a favourite not only for the students since ages, but also their parents. “Our canteen remains crowded all the time and we keep checking the quality. However, we shall not be allowing it to run now,” said principal John Rafi.

Some of the new age schools, like DPS Ruby Park, serve fancy items at their canteens — such as vegetable corn soup, burgers, Chinese samosa, pasta and grilled sandwich. “Ha-

KIDS WILL MISS FAVOURITES

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► Most schools have either sealed their canteens or are allowing the sale of only packed food, like

cakes and biscuits, for the time being

► All schools have asked parents to send lunch boxes and water bottles

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food like cakes and biscuits for the time being. All schools have asked parents to send lunch boxes and water bottles. Some have even scheduled the day in such a way that the classes end before lunch.

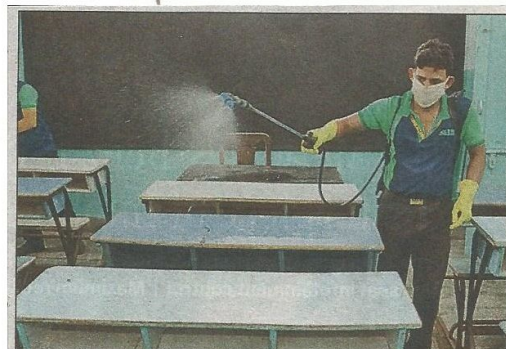
Students for generations have drooled over the rolls and chowmein at the South Point School canteen. “But times are not conducive and we cannot allow the canteen to operate now as it will cause crowding,” said principal Rupa Sanyal Bhattacharjee.

Almost every school has its own version of the food and

ving canteen food is totally safe and my parents did not object ever, but now we shall miss the fun,” said Ayushman Sarkar, a Class-X student.

At some schools, like Heritage, where food is served by the school is an incentive, only fruits that can be peeled and eaten and some dry packed snacks will be served. “We are keeping the pantry closed for fear of the infection,” said principal Seema Sapru.

Nava Nalanda principal Arijit Mitra said that the canteen will be shut and the school will get over before lunch time.



(Top) An official points to new normal classroom rules at the Heritage School and (above) a classroom being sanitized at South Point School

‘Bio-bubble’ method to sanitise all touch points

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South Point High School has called in its Class-XII science students, who will start practical classes. The school has put in place a “bio-bubble” method of sanitising all touch points, designed to prevent the virus from settling on them for at least three months. All labs have been sanitised and sealed, waiting for the pupils.

DPS Ruby Park has called half the strength of its students from classes IX to XII on Friday. Each half will come in on alternate days. The school has sanitised buses and provided thermal guns for first set of screen-

Times View

Every norm in the rulebook must be followed. We cannot afford a misstep here. Any failure will be a huge setback for the education sector.

ing to happen at the bus itself. Till late on Thursday, a fresh round of checks was performed and re-done. “We are really feeling excited to have them back,” said vice-principal, Indrani Chattopadhyay.

At Heritage School, meetings were held on campus between parents, the principal and senior teachers on Thursday. While most parents told

principal Seema Sapru that they were willing to send kids, some asked whether simultaneous online exams would be held, too.

Welcome cards have been designed and will be handed out to each student walking in on Friday at Lakshmi Pat Singhania Academy. All students from classes IX to XII will come to Ram Mohan Mission from Friday. Some schools, such as the La Martiniere schools, will reopen on Monday with Class XII students. Some others, like Loyola High School, have decided to wait for a week, assess the situation and then reopen, said Fr Rodney Borneo, the principal.