



Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide an important update with regard to our return to school for all pupils on Monday 8th March 2021. As an academy we are looking forward to welcoming back our children and their families in the safest way possible. We are following Government Guidance and have put some key measures in place to ensure that our children, their families and our staff are safe.

We have now completed our comprehensive risk assessments, which have been approved by our Trustees. The letter outlines the arrangements for returning to Ash Croft and also some of the key information from the Risk Assessment. We hope to reassure parents that we are doing all that is reasonably possible so that it is safe for all children to return to school.

Returning to School Arrangements

The following arrangements have been put into place, so that we can manage and organise the academy well:

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all children and therefore we expect all children to come to school every day. If your child is unable to attend school then you should inform the school office. We know that the best way for all children to catch up and make good progress is to be in school every day.

Uniform

We ask that all children come to school wearing their full school uniform and sensible shoes. We understand that while shops have been closed children may have outgrown some items. If this is the case and your child needs to wear an alternative please do let us know.

PE Kit

It is important that children wear the appropriate clothing for PE. Rather than getting changed at school we ask that children wear their PE Kit on their specified PE days. They can wear their jumper over their kit to keep them warm and looking smart. Please ensure that all jewellery has been removed prior to coming to school.

PE days are as follows:

Rauf- Monday and Friday
Rowling- Thursday and Friday
Rundell- Wednesday (double session)
Cowell- Tuesday (double session)
Dahl- Thursday and Friday
Donaldson- Monday and Friday

Equipment

We ask that children only bring the items that they really need. This should be

- Packed lunch if needed
- Coat
- Book Bag

*Please ensure that all mobile phones remain at home.

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Drop off and Collection Arrangements

These will remain the same as before the Christmas break. The one way systems will also continue to be in place.

Main Gate -

- Donaldson class (drop off at 8:45am, collect at 3:10pm)

Playground Gate -

- Dahl- (drop off at 8:45am, collect at 3:10pm)
- Cowell- (drop off at 8:50am, collect at 3:15pm)
- Rundell- (drop off at 8:55am, collect at 3:20pm)

Front Side Entrance –

- Rowling and Rauf (drop off at 8:45am, Rauf collect at 3.15pm, Rowling collect from the Main Gate at 3.20pm)

We ask that when dropping off or collecting your child that a face covering is worn unless you are exempt. This is to support our children and the whole academy community.

Childcare Arrangements

If your child is looked after by another member of your family, a friend or a childminder they are part of your childcare support bubble. If your child shows symptoms or test positive then you should let the bubble know so that they can self-isolate. Similarly if a member of the childcare support bubble tests positive then your child should self-isolate and not come to school.

Public Transport

Where it is necessary to travel on public transport a face covering should be worn and maintain social distancing where possible. All children should wash/sanitise their hands and remove their face covering when they come into the academy.

Lunchtime Arrangements

Lunchtimes will continue to work as before. Children in Donaldson class will eat their meals in the hall. The rest of the school will eat in their classrooms to maintain bubbles. The children have staggered lunches, so that they have at least 20 minutes each to play outside too.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the return to school please contact the academy by email using info@ashcroft.theharmonytrust.org

Curriculum

We will be returning to a full and broad curriculum and will be prioritising the key learning and the securing of basic skills so that all children can make the very best progress. This will include talk and communication, phonics, reading and writing and the key skills in maths; number and counting and calculations. Children will also access a wide range of subjects including arts, sports, music and drama.

Remote Learning

In most cases all children will be in school accessing our onsite provision. We will continue our home learning offer and all children will receive weekly tasks via purple mash. We ask that parents encourage their children to do these tasks as it will be an important way to catch up and practice their key skills.

In the event of a child having to stay at home because they are self-isolating or because there is a bubble closure then we will provide work in the same way that we have done during lock down.

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Preventing the spread of infection

The key measures that we continue to take is to prevent the spread of infection by doing the following:

1. Minimising contact with those showing symptoms or having received a positive test.

- **People are not allowed on site if they:**
 - Are showing symptoms, or who has a family member showing symptoms of Covid-19 **(including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one)**
 - Are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
 - have had a positive test on Lateral flow device or through PCR test (even if asymptomatic)
- **The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:**
 - A persistent cough
 - A high temperature
 - A loss of or change to taste or smell
- We request that anybody with symptoms informs school as soon as possible and then obtains a Covid-19 test, informing the school of the results as soon as they come through.

2. Use of Face Coverings

- Adults (unless exempt) are expected to wear face coverings in all communal areas and when within 2m of other adults
- Adults are expected to wear face coverings when working closely with individual children
- Children are not expected to wear face coverings in school (although if using public transport the rules regarding face coverings will need to be followed for the journey)

3. Good hygiene

- **Hand hygiene**
 - Hand gel on entry
 - Very regular handwashing throughout the day with a ready supply of soap and hand towels.
 - Teaching about how to wash hands properly
 - Monitoring by staff
- **Respiratory hygiene**
 - Encouraging “Catch it, Kill it, bin it” when a child coughs or sneezes (a supply of tissues will be available at all times)
- **Enhanced cleaning routines**
 - Additional cleaning of regularly touched surfaces throughout the day (including desks, door handles, toilets etc.)
 - Enhanced cleaning routines daily

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4. Minimising contact and Social distancing

- A bubble system will continue to be in place – this will be based on class / Year group bubbles. Each bubble will be in their own space and will not mix with other bubbles as much as possible. Where bubbles have to mix, this is kept to a minimum and is tightly controlled and monitored
- Every child will have their own space to work at with their own pencils etc. Equipment will not be shared across separate bubbles without controls being in place.
- We will try to encourage social distancing as much as we can with older pupils but please be aware that although we will encourage this, we cannot guarantee children will keep apart. The main way we will minimise contact is through the bubble system which limits contact beyond a consistent group.
- Access to corridors, entrances and exits, toilets and other shared areas will be arranged so mixing bubbles is minimised and enhanced cleaning is in place.
- Breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered so children will have limited contact with other bubbles
- The start and end of day will be staggered so there are fewer children coming into school at the same time.

• Coming into school

- We encourage only 1 parent to bring and collect their child. Parents will be asked to maintain strict social distancing whilst on site and at the school gates. Parents are asked to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting their children.
- We encourage parents to avoid public transport as much as possible. If this is not possible, please make sure you follow the Government rules for using public transport.
- There will be very few visitors on site. If parents wish to see a member of staff, they will be asked to make an appointment and strict social distancing will occur.
- Children coming in should only bring the minimum which is needed for the day (e.g. lunchbox, water bottle, outdoor clothing).
- Uniform is expected to be worn. We ask that clean clothes are worn daily as much as possible.
- The office will not be able to respond in person to all queries. Unless urgent, please phone or email the office and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

5. Ventilation

- Ventilation is encouraged as much as possible. Windows and non-fire doors will be kept open as much as possible.
- Children will be encouraged to learn outside where possible
- Classrooms will be kept as warm as possible whilst maintaining ventilation. Please make sure your child has a jumper and warm outdoor clothes whilst the weather is still cold.

6. Asymptomatic testing

- Staff who wish to are taking part in twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing to try to identify any asymptomatic positive cases. At primary schools this is not being extended to pupils.



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Lateral Flow Testing available for all households with children at school.

The government has announced that all parents with children attending school are able to order test kits for their household. This means that households will be able to test themselves and take appropriate action if they receive a positive test result.

For more information, click the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

If you would like to order tests for your household click the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

In the case of a positive test result in our school

- If a person shows symptoms in school, they (siblings and support or childcare bubble) will be sent home immediately and we request a test is obtained as soon as possible
- If the test is positive, we will contact Public Health England and any staff or pupils who have been in close contact with virus will be sent home to self-isolate. We have monitoring systems in place to identify which children and staff are close contacts
- We will follow Public Health England guidance
- We will keep our parent community informed of any positive test results.
- Specific cleaning arrangements will be followed
- We encourage families with positive tests to engage with the track and trace process

We will keep monitoring and reviewing our systems to make sure they are as safe as possible.

We are doing everything we can to keep everyone as safe as possible. We cannot eliminate the risk of the virus but we will put procedures in place which should help to prevent an infection from being transmitted in school. This plan is subject to change in light of Government advice and safety consultations with Unions and our other partners.

Thank you for your continued support and patience. We look forward to welcoming you back on March 8th.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Trail
Head of Academy

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