



Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

OUR FULL SCHOOL REOPENING Monday 8th March 2021

We are really looking forward to our full reopening next Monday and we can't wait to see all our children back in school!

Please be aware that from Monday 8th March, it is mandatory for all primary pupils to be attending school, and it is of utmost importance that your child is in school, as long as they are well with no COVID symptoms.

Attached to this letter is some further FAQs for your reference about our re-opening procedures and this covers the period between 8th March – 1st April. We will of course continue to keep all our measures under review in line with all DFE guidance and will let you know of any changes with as much notice as possible.

If you have questions on any of this information, please do feel free to email these to info@ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk and we will respond accordingly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N Meehan
Executive Headteacher

Mr R Austin and Miss H Beacham
Co-Heads of School

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What are our protective measures?

You will see that in our plans for re-opening, we will take many measures to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus. This includes encouraging social distancing at all times, but we cannot guarantee that children will always stay 2 metres from each other.

Our control measures include:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in the household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges.
- Cleaning hands more than usual – wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap, and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene and promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.
- Minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).

The school will avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one group, to ensure bubbles (see below) are kept as separate as possible.

For PE lessons, outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible, but also our large, well-ventilated hall will be used when outdoor provision is not possible.

Staff in primary schools will also continue to self-test with LFDs twice a week at home on a voluntary basis.

Who will be wearing PPE?

Many of our staff, including teachers in the classrooms, will continue to wear face coverings. Staff will always wear face coverings in shared spaces and corridors. All staff working in close contact with groups of pupils will wear visors or face coverings. PPE will be worn by staff caring for a pupil who is unwell and awaiting collection.

DFE guidance continues to state that primary school aged children are not required to wear face coverings at school. Therefore, whilst this is not prohibited, we do not encourage children to wear face coverings on their return to school, as they are not always able to handle them correctly and, for obvious reasons, the staff will be unable to assist them.

How will the classroom be organised?

Class sizes will be up to 30 as usual. All year groups will be a ‘bubble’ together, but separate from the rest of the school, sharing breaktimes and lunchtimes together, as we had in the Autumn term.

In the classroom

- Children will be front facing and usually sitting in rows for their learning.
- Pupils will be regularly reminded of hand washing throughout the day, including before snack or lunch time, after going to the toilet or sneezing.
- Children will be reminded only to cough or sneeze into a tissue or into their elbow and to touch their face as little as possible.
- Classrooms will remain well ventilated throughout the day, with windows and doors open as much as possible.
- Outdoor learning will be encouraged as much as is possible, especially as the weather turns warmer.

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What will our curriculum look like?

The first week back will include some welcome back activities, to reconnect back to school and promote well-being and good relationships, as well as revisiting again our rules and procedures. Our priority will of course be to address any significant gaps in pupils' knowledge and ensure that we are swiftly assessing where children are in terms of their progress and attainment in reading, writing and maths. Beyond this, we will continue to provide a broad and exciting curriculum through a wide range of subjects.

What will happen around the school?

Information posters around hand washing, social distancing and other hygiene measures are displayed across the school site to ensure everybody is aware at all times.

As much as possible, we will ensure that children have plenty of time outside in fresh air, weather permitting, in their separate groups.

Safe distancing in toilets will be monitored as much as is possible. Posters about handwashing will be in every restroom.

What will happen if my child or someone in my child's group becomes unwell?

Government guidance states that all children showing symptoms should be sent home immediately and self-isolate for 7 days, while their household self-isolates for 10. This includes showing a temperature, or presenting with a persistent cough while they are at school. If a temperature is recorded at school, and a child is subsequently sent home, for the protection of the school community the decision will be final and non-negotiable.

If a child displays symptoms, we strongly advise that they are tested for COVID-19. If a child tests negative, they can return to school. If a child tests positive, all children and adults from their bubble will have to self-isolate for 10 days.

We will seek advice from Public Health England should we have a confirmed case of coronavirus.

In the event of a child becoming unwell or needs first aid, pupils will be taken to the medical room as normal. If necessary, parents will be contacted and advised how they can collect their child safely. Pupils will be kept at a safe distance from others in the medical room and our staff will remain sensitive to the child's needs whilst we wait for the swift pick-up from their parent.

What if my child is off for 10 days?

If your child is required to self-isolate, remote education will continue to be provided; the exact nature of this will be dependent on the nature of the closure. For example, a whole bubble closure would mean remote Zoom live teaching (dependent on staffing at the time), as in the model from this current time. If an individual is self-isolating, then our two-week home learning packs will continue to be available on our website for each year group.

What does my child need to bring in everyday?

If your child is in Year 3 upwards, they need to bring in their own book bag, stationery (pencil, pen, colouring pencils), and a water bottle, which will be kept near them through the day and a break time snack. Children will need to take responsibility for packing and unpacking their own bags. We will provide pencils and stationery needed for our children up to Year 2.

Year 6 children may bring mobile phones to school if they are not being escorted to school by an adult, and it will be looked after during the school day as normal.

What will my child need to wear?

All children should wear full Ashford school uniform.

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Children can wear their PE uniform on their PE days; your child's teacher will let you know which days these are.

What will happen at break and lunch times?

The school will operate a staggered break and lunch time, as in the Autumn. Playground areas will be zoned off for individual bubbles.

Primarily children will eat in the hall, though those having packed lunches will eat outside when the weather is nice enough, as we usually would during the summer months.

School dinners need to be ordered in the usual way ahead of time.

How will the staggered times work at beginning and end of the day?

In line with guidance, the school will continue to operate staggered start and finish times, using both entrances, as outlined in last week's letter, and listed here again:

Mornings

Reception classes – main gate entrance from 8:30am
Year 1 and 2 – main gate entrance from 8:40am
Year 3 and 4 – new gate in front of hall entrance from 8:40am
Year 5 and 6 – main gate entrance from 8.50am

The school will offer a 'soft' start in the morning to enable our families of more than 2 children to 'drop off' a younger or older sibling.

Afternoons

Classes will be released from the same doors as in the Autumn term.

Reception class – finish at 2.40pm
Year 1 and 2 – finish at 2:50pm
Year 3 and 4 – finish at 3.00pm
Year 5 and 6 – finish at 3.10pm

We will keep all these times under review as we move in to the summer term.

For the safety of the school community, please be punctual.

Parents and carers, once they have collected their children, should leave the school premises promptly and safely. Please make sure you are wearing a face covering on site and maintaining social distancing when talking with parents or staff. When on the school site, we ask that all parents keep their children beside them as much as possible to avoid mixing with other bubbles.

Where possible, please keep to one adult dropping off and picking up children from school.

How will the school office operate?

The school office is staffed during opening hours to receive phone messages and emails. Please do not visit the school office unless it is absolutely necessary, but, if you do, please keep to all our safety protocols, using hand sanitiser and ensuring your face covering is worn correctly, over mouth and nose.

What will happen next?

It's important that you speak to your child positively about what the school will look and feel like on their return, so they are excited and pleased to be returning on Monday 8th March. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns about your child returning to school.

Please be reminded that class email accounts will not be monitored after Monday 8th March, so all enquires or comments will need to be directed to the info@ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk account.

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