

Welcome Back Newsletter

2 September 2020



We are so excited about welcoming everybody back next Tuesday 8th September. It has been a long break and for some children and parents it has been a very long time since they were last at Ash Green. Hopefully, this newsletter will summarise all you need to know before next week.



Breakfast and After School Club will run at each site and Breakfast Clubs will each take place in the Dining Halls. Children will sit with other children ONLY from their class bubble OR with siblings. At the Upper Site (as now) entrance will be to the Breakfast Club door in the KS2 playground. At the Lower Site, the entrance will be the Sunnybank Road gate opposite the church through the KS2 playground to the double doors at the bottom of the Dining Hall steps. This will mean staff can see parents at entrances IF needed and that children can safely go straight into Breakfast Club from 7.45.

After School Clubs will run at EACH site in Half Term 1 to prevent mixing of more bubbles. At the Lower Site we will use the Dining Hall and the exit for pick-ups will be as outlined above for Breakfast Club.

At the Upper Site we plan to use the Portacabin as normal. Again, we will endeavour to minimise contact between children from different bubbles.

All bookings must be made via School Comms.

Free School Meals Benefits – if your child is eligible **PLEASE** make sure you have applied to the Benefits Unit. Thank you.



The school day timings will be unaltered. Nursery sessions will run from 8.45-11.45 and 12.30-3.30. **It is particularly important that Nursery children arrive on time for their session.**

For years 1-6, the school day will be 9.00-3.15. Children can be dropped off and come into class from 8.45 (no pre-school play in KS2 to prevent bubbles mixing). **This should support staggered entry, but also parents/carers dropping off more than one child.**

We have **NOT** staggered start times but classrooms in **KS1** and **2** will be open from **8.45** to enable a steady flow, better distancing and ease in dropping siblings off. If you have children in more than one Key Stage, internal gates will be open from **8.45** to support you in dropping them off and again at the end of the day.

PUNCTUALITY

It is so important that children arrive on time – even more so now during these difficult times.

ABSENCE

If your child is going to be absent then please leave a message **BEFORE** 9.10am.

If no information is received for absent children then their contact will receive a text.

If there is no response to this text we will then ring the contact and if there is still no response we will ring other contacts on the list.

If there is no confirmation of the absence then a home visit will ensue.



ENTRY TO SCHOOL



The big change in Autumn Term – as we have got used to since March – is that parents/carers will **NOT** be able to come into the building to drop off/collect children. Staff will be available each day before and after school to speak to parents/carers **OUTSIDE at the points indicated below**. Parents and carers **CAN** make appointments to speak to school staff by ringing **01422 244613** – Option 1 Lower Site and 2 for the Upper Site.

UPPER SITE

Upper Site EY (start and finish of school) from Clough Lane entrance to the EY unit where a 1 way system operates for parents. When Nursery morning children are picked up at 11.45 and Nursery children are dropped off at 12.30 then, just as normal, the entrance and exit will be on Brow Bottom Lane by the After School Club portacabin.

Upper Site KS1 (Years 1 and 2) from the Brow Bottom Lane entrance next to the After School portacabin and down to the bottom of the slopes that lead up to classrooms where staff will meet and greet children and also bring children out at 3.15. Parents/carers can then leave ideally on to Clough Lane.

Upper Site KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) where possible it would be great for these children to come into the school grounds themselves but we totally understand that some parents/carers would like to accompany their children. Children will use the Brow Bottom Lane entrance by the 'container' and walk in past the back of the kitchen and dining hall to be greeted by staff in the playground before entering through their double year band doors.

LOWER SITE

Lower Site EY (start and finish of school day) from Sunnybank Road entrance (as normal) to the EY unit where a 1 way system operates for parents and Reception children are dropped at the Reception entrance and Nursery children at the Nursery door. When Nursery morning children are picked up at 11.45 and Nursery children are dropped off at 12.30 then, just as now, the entrance and exit will be through the Early Years car park to the Nursery door.

Lower Site KS1 (Years 1 and 2) from Ash Tree Road down the pedestrian path by the staff car park to the top of the outside steps above the KS1 door where staff will meet and greet children and also bring children out at 3.15. Parents/carers can then leave through the car park (will be closed to car access) back on to Ash Tree Road.

Lower Site KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) where possible it would be great for these children to come into the school grounds themselves but we totally understand that some parents/carers would like to accompany their children. Children will also use the Sunnybank Road entrance opposite the church and walk in to be greeted by staff. Years 3 and 4 children will walk across the playground into the LKS2 door and Year 5 and 6 children down the steps into the UKS2 door.

FREE BREAKFAST AND UNIFORM

All classes will go directly to their classroom when they arrive at school where each class will have bagels while they read.

We will return to a policy of wearing school uniform as children return to class bubbles but encourage regular washing and changing of clothes.

LESSONS, PLAYTIMES AND LUNCHTIME

Children will remain in their class bubble for their lessons. On occasion, the class will learn in the ICT suite or Hall but as a single class. Any 'shared room' will be cleaned between classes.

All rooms will be well ventilated and all doors in school propped open to minimise contact and maximise ventilation.

If class bubbles are joined at any time this will be in a double year band, BUT each class will remain separate. For example, at playtime Year 1 and 2 will share a playground (in different class sections). Year 3 and 4 will play out together- in separate class sections- and Year 5 and 6 together. In the Dining Hall they will eat at the same time but Year 1 children will sit in one section and Year 2 in another- children will sit in their class bubbles. On rare occasions such as a Maths intervention group the children from Year 3 and 4 or from Year 5 and 6 may be in a large, spaced room but the class groups will be kept well apart.

School lunches will return to normal in terms of our wonderful kitchen staff producing meals. For children on packed lunches, rest assured that we will follow the same procedures in 'class bubbles' so that lunch boxes are stored in class areas for each class at each site to avoid any mixing of bubbles.

A Busy Break!



Both sites have been re-decorated since July. We have also got new CCTV systems at the Upper Site.

Deep cleaning of the school, including kitchens have been undertaken. The staff team has been in more than ever, 'putting our school back together' and preparing classrooms for the children's full return. It is no exaggeration to say that some of us have been in school more days than we have been at home.

We have also been working hard to re-design our curriculum with fantastic new units of work for our children to enjoy – details of which were sent home alongside pupil reports.

We will be re-launching our school website in Autumn with the chance for parents/carers and children to look through all the units of work they will study.

BUBBLE WORKING!

You have probably heard lots about 'bubbles'! Just to clarify, this is about children staying with their class mates in class, on the playground and at dinnertime and wherever possible at all times!

The theory is that because we won't mix bubbles, any infections do not spread and in the unlikely event of children becoming ill, this would not affect larger numbers. This is why we will be having no 'playing out' before 9am, staggered playtimes and lunchtimes and no assemblies initially. All these measures will keep us all safe but will not compromise children's enjoyment or achievement.

For all children it has been a long break and for some children an incredibly long time since they were last at school.

If your child seems anxious about their return to school here are some tips to help...

Be positive and talk and listen to your child. Don't dismiss any worries even if they seem unrealistic.

Remind them that it's OK and normal to feel worried, and that other children will be worried too.

Some (but not all) children may be worried about leaving their families. Reassure them that you will be safe and school knows how to contact parents. Explain the drop off and collection arrangements.

Be patient and prepared to explain what the drop off and collection arrangements are more than once and what will be happening at school. This may be helpful for younger children.

Explain who your child can get support from while they're at school e.g. teacher, pastoral lead etc.

Encourage your child to get plenty of sleep and limit screen time before bed. Put normal school-time, bed-time routines back in place.

If you or your child has any particular needs, worries or concerns that you want to share with their teacher, let your school know.

Make sure you are ok and seek support or advice if you need it. There will always be somebody at school to listen to your concerns – so please ring.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

SOME FACTS AND PROCEDURES

Of course it is a concerning time for everyone with the existence of Covid-19. People's worries have also sadly been exacerbated by a lot of rumours and myths and the guidance has changed so many times too!

The most up to date guidance has been incorporated into our Risk Assessments and all that we do.

EXTRA CLEANING

We will continue to employ additional cleaning staff through the school day to ensure the highest standards of hygiene in toilets, corridors, classrooms and shared areas. Prior to summer this worked exceptionally well and will be an outstanding support to our already excellent cleaning systems.



CLASSROOM HYGIENE

Just as before the summer, every room will have stocks of hand sanitisers and wipes to support the children and regular hand washing will be ensured. Class staff will also be issued with anti-bacterial spray and cloths to ensure surfaces are regularly cleaned. Classrooms and corridors will be ventilated to ensure the cleanest and freshest environment supports our children.



FACE COVERINGS

As you will know, Primary school children are NOT required to wear masks in school. It is also not advised that staff wear face coverings although staff may choose to wear face coverings in communal areas.

If your child travels to school by bus or taxi and you want them to wear a mask to travel (under 11s do not need to) a disposable mask must be disposed of as normal, a re-useable mask must be placed in a sealed bag to be stored safely.



SYMPTOMS AND TESTS

We sincerely hope all our children, staff and families stay well. Here are some reminders and updated guidance which should answer all questions.

SYMPTOMS: The symptoms of Covid-19 are: a new, dry, persistent cough; a temperature of over 37.8°C; a loss of taste or smell.

If anyone in the household has those symptoms **all** household members should self-isolate and the person with symptoms should take a test. If anyone in the household is showing these symptoms, nobody from the household should attend school.

If a test is **NOT** taken, the person displaying the symptoms must self-isolate for **TEN** days and all household members for **FOURTEEN** days. This is the same as if a **POSITIVE** test result is returned so it is essential a test is taken.

If a test for someone with symptoms returns a **NEGATIVE** result then no further self-isolation is needed.

ARRANGING A TEST

School staff will support parents and carers in arranging tests if children are displaying symptoms. Tests can be booked online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. We will ask parents and carers to inform us immediately of the results of the test.

If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to COVID-19, they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can also stop self-isolating.

If someone tests positive, they must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to the setting only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

CHILDREN DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS

We know that we will have children and staff who will have coughs and high temperatures this year. The difference this year of course is that we will have to send children – and siblings – home who display these symptoms and support parents and carers in arranging a test.

If a child is displaying symptoms we will ensure they are comfortable and cared for in a safe, isolated space. We would phone parents/carers and ask them to collect their child and any siblings. We would support arranging a test and ask parents/carers to let us know the result.

The great majority of tests will be negative and children – and siblings – can then immediately return if well. Households would no longer need to self-isolate.

In the very unlikely event that a child were to test positive for Covid-19 we would support the child and family as always. The child would self-isolate for 10 days. All other household members including siblings who attend the school would self-isolate for 14 days.

If a child (or indeed a staff member) tests positive then the Health Protection Team would advise on who must also self-isolate. This would be likely to be the whole class bubble for 14 days.

In the event of a class bubble being sent home to self-isolate, we would advise parents and carers on guidance and also provide work for children.

