



Ark Ayrton Primary Academy

Friday 27th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed the Summer break.

I am writing to inform you of some of the COVID-19 arrangements we will have in place at the start of the new Autumn term. As always, our main priority has been and continues to be the safety of the school community.

The key changes are:

Start and end time arrangements

Our start and end times for all children will be 8.45am-3.45pm.

We will be keeping our entrances for each year group the same as they were in the Summer, however if you have children in multiple year groups, we ask that you drop all of your children to the youngest child's entrance. Teachers will be on gates in the morning if you need to talk to them. In order to minimise contact between parents at the gate, we are offering a soft start every day from 8.40am. This means that gates will open at this time and children can come in as soon as they arrive, wash hands and go straight up to class. This will hopefully reduce the amount of parents waiting outside for the gates to open.

Reception – Reception Gate
Years 1 and 2 – Main entrance
Years 3 and 4 – Side entrance
Years 5 and 6 – Green Pitch

At the end of the day, all gates will be open and parents are welcome to enter via the gate which is easiest for them.

Reception and Year 1 children will need to be collected from the Reception playground.

Year 2 and Mrs Down's Year 3 class will need to be collected from outside the hall underneath the blue canopy.

Mrs Allen's Year 3 class and Years 4-6 will be collected from the main playground, where the children will line up outside.

As soon as you have your child, please leave the playground via any gate.



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Council England

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While on the school premises, please respect the personal space of everyone and maintain a sensible distance. The virus has not gone away and we still need to be sensible with how we conduct ourselves, in order to protect our school community.

For the first few weeks, our new Reception children will have different start and end times in order to allow for a smooth transition and these have been communicated with you already.

Bubbles

We will no longer operate bubbles in the new term, which means that assemblies and larger group activities will resume and children from different classes and year groups will be able to mix. We are taking a slightly staggered approach to this over a couple of weeks.

Face coverings

The government has removed the need to wear face coverings on school premises. However, they recommend that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not usually meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school. We appreciate that some staff and parents may wish to wear face masks at school, and they can do so if they wish.

Close contact tracing

Schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19, and this will be led by NHS Test and Trace. From 16th August, children under 18 years old identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive will not need to self-isolate and will be advised by NHS Test and Trace to take a PCR test. Children aged 18 years old will be treated as a child until four months after their 18th birthday and will then be treated as an adult.

Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak at the school or in the local area, we may be advised to reintroduce bubbles and face coverings and may be asked to support NHS Test and Trace with close contact tracing. If this becomes necessary, we will communicate this to you.

COVID-19 testing

Testing remains essential in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within our school community. We will continue to encourage staff to take rapid lateral flow tests twice a week during term-time and the holidays if staff are on site.



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Isolating if travelling from abroad

Keep in mind that you and your family may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. You should plan your trip so that any self-isolation should also fall within the school holidays.

The government can change the red, amber, green classification of countries on short notice. You will need to respond to the latest rules on international travel, even if you have already left the UK, while also minimising the impact on your child's education. You can find out more about the travel rules here: www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england.

Where possible, we will provide remote education for children unable to return from abroad due to COVID-19 travel restrictions while they are abroad.

Staying safe

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. If you are worried about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk> or by phoning 111. There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19, do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

We will continue to ensure children have regular handwashing opportunities: before and after eating, after breaks, changing rooms etc. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school, and we will make sure that children wash their hands often. The school will continue with enhanced cleaning arrangements, paying particular attention to surfaces that are regularly touched. We will also keep spaces well ventilated and will not allow anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to enter the site.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, please **do not** send them to school. They must either have a test, or if you do not want them to be tested, they have to isolate for 10 days.

I hope this letter offers reassurance with the measures we are taking to ensure a safe start to the Autumn term.



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If you have any concerns or questions about the arrangements, please do come and speak to me, so that I can discuss these with you.

We all recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that everyone has had to make, so we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support to date and, as we move into the new school year.

We are all looking forward to seeing you at the gates, from 8.40am on Monday 6th September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Bennett-Acres
Head of School



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