

27.8.2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have had a lovely summer holiday so far, It's not over yet, but I wanted to let you know about some important updates and information before our return to school next Wednesday.

Lots has changed since we were last in school, including guidance from the government that affects some of the ways we are able to work in school. We will of course be taking a cautious approach initially, as the return to school in September can often be a challenging time for the children with big changes to routines. Here are some of the ways that we will be changing:

- We will no longer be operating in strict **class bubbles** meaning that children will be able to play in any area at playtimes and mix with children from other year groups outside. We will of course be spending most of our time with the children from the same class, but will be able to work together with other classes and share together in assemblies. These will be outside initially or in smaller groups.
- All classes will be eating **lunch** in the hall rather than in classrooms. This means a new exciting menu that is available for you on parent pay. We will of course be staggering times for classes as we want to keep numbers to a minimum in crowded or communal areas.
- **Contact tracing** is now the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace who will work with the confirmed case or their parents to identify close contacts.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. A letter from the Local Authority is attached and explains this in more detail.

This should mean far less disruption to our education provision for all children.

- Your children should not come to school if they have **symptoms**, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice.
- **Face coverings** are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law, but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This means that there is no requirement for parents to wear a face covering at pick up and drop off, although you are perfectly welcome to, if you would feel more comfortable.
- When **dropping children off** in the morning we will continue to use the one-way system, as this has proven to be efficient. There will be a member of staff at the gate in the morning to pass on messages and to welcome you all. There will only be **one time slot in the morning**. We will open the gate at **8:40** and expect all children to be in school by **8:50**. Our new reception children will come in through the school front door also between these times.
- When collecting children at the **end of the day** we will be opening the double gates to the field for you to enter the playground. We will be opening the classroom doors to hand over the children at **3:10** for all classes. Once you arrive, please stand where you can be seen by the class teacher and your child will be handed over to you. If you have more than one child to collect, please go to the younger sibling first. Please then leave through the single side gate and around the one-way system back to the road. As we all know, there is no requirement to maintain social distance, but it seems to me to make sense to avoid close

contact with large numbers of people and therefore to put in a route that keeps people flowing in the same direction. Please be mindful of other people's space as some of us are more comfortable mixing than others.

- We would still like your child to **bring very little** into school. Most days your tote bag (still available to buy on parent pay) is big enough. Please don't bring rucksacks, we do not have the space to store them. You will only need your reading books, a snack and a water bottle. You will not need toys or pencil cases.
- Please bring in a draw string bag with a change of clothes in. This will go on your child's peg, and will be used if children fall in the mud, have a toilet accident or get soaked in the rain. This does not need to be school uniform.
- The table below shows the days that your child will be doing PE and Forest School. On PE and Forest School days they should come dressed for the activity. On all other days, **school uniform** must be worn. If you ordered a new school hoodie last term, they have been delivered and will be sent home during the first three days of school. FS and PE session will commence in the first full week of term (wb 6/9/21).

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
<b>PE</b>	Peregrine Sparrowhawk		Kestrel Buzzard		Owl
<b>Forest School</b>	Kestrel	Sparrowhawk	Owl	Peregrine	Buzzard

- **Before and after school sport clubs** will commence in the wb 13<sup>th</sup> September and House of dance will begin on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Please see email dated 15/7/21 about clubs for details of how to sign up on the individual providers' websites.
- You may have seen in a letter and on social media that we are taking part in a village event: **Ashton Altogether**. As we were unable to hold our Hey Day in July, but have been lucky enough to be able to team up with AHSRA and St John's Church to put on an exciting community event on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Our PTFA have been hard at work planning and preparing for this event and would really appreciate your support on the day, either by volunteering to help out on a stall or at least by coming along and enjoying the event. A large amount of the proceeds will go to the PTFA and therefore back to supporting our children in school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you all back to school on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September and can't wait to make a brilliant start to the new school year.

Until then, enjoy the last few days of the holiday!

Yours sincerely,



Mr Gilbert