



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. I would like to update you on our position regarding what you will have heard from the government and in the media over the last few days about the potential re-opening of schools. As I am sure you will appreciate, the situation is both complex and fluid, with changes and new guidance appearing daily. This makes planning very challenging. We all want our children back in school, learning and being with their friends again. Teachers want to be back doing what they love doing. We all want a return to normality. However, our priority at school will always be the health, safety and wellbeing of all of our school community.

The Local Authority is fully aware of the challenges that surround this development for schools and settings and it is, like ours, the Council's view that the safety of our children and staff is the most important priority. We are therefore reassessing our risk assessments in light of the new DfE guidance and will inform the Local Authority by Thursday 21st May, as to what offer of places we can safely make, after taking account of the national advice and guidance. Priority must be given to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. The priority of places safely available has to be risk assessed in this order: Reception, Y1, then Y6, as per Government guidelines. However, we reserve the right to risk assess in a way which matches the needs/requirements of our school community and the environment that they will be working in.

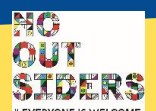
Our plans need to be carefully considered and would be subject to consultation with the Governing Body, staff, unions and parents.

Local context is important in these decisions. Regionally, the North-West had the highest number of new cases of COVID-19 last week. In addition, each school is different and will therefore have different considerations to take into account.

Headteachers have been asked, at this point, not to make any announcement to our school communities at the present time, until all information is collated and reflected upon. However, I understand that some parents, rightly, would like more information in order to support any decision they may make in sending their children back in to school. Some information and elements that have been considered in the plan that may help you at this time are listed below. I must hasten to add that this list is not exhaustive and still subject to change.

Class 'Bubbles'

- Children will probably be assigned to a specific, smaller group - this should not mix with other 'bubbles'
- Teachers would not mix with other groups and will be timetabled to be together with a 'bubble'
- Playtimes and lunch times would be with the class bubble – always two members of staff in each bubble at any given time





Aspire to be Amazing!

Health, Hygiene and Safety measures in place

- Staff and children to wash hands regularly using soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- Children and staff to sanitise hands upon arriving and before leaving school.
- Doors and windows to be open as much as possible for good ventilation.
- Clean/disinfect toys and surfaces throughout the day; gates and door handles, phones, tablets etc.
- Reduce toys available to play with to those most easily cleaned. No playdough, sand, water, dressing up, soft furnishings etc.
- If any children or members of staff display symptoms, then all agreed guidelines will be followed as they were before school closed for the majority of pupils.

Clothing

- Clothing would need to be washed on a daily basis – therefore, school uniform may not be required, considering the need for a quick turnaround

Social Distancing

- Physical contact such as handshakes and hugs avoided.
- Staff, pupils and adults on site should endeavour to stay 2m apart where possible.
- Focus for social distancing is between adults – recognition that social distancing between younger children would not be possible at all times.

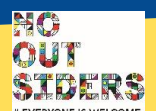
Increased Cleaning

- Toilets to be deep cleaned at the end of each day and cleaned during the day.
- Tables and contact points cleaned regularly through the day.
- Equipment that has been used (and that can be cleaned) identified by the teacher at the end of the day to the cleaner so that those objects can be disinfected.
- No toys brought from home.
- Resources that cannot be cleaned according to the instructions must be packed away until after the COVID-19 epidemic is over.
- iPads wiped several times daily and between use.
- Contact points should be cleaned by cleaner at least once daily, including taps, toilet flushes, toilet seats, table surfaces, door handles, handrails, armrests, light switches etc. However, staff will be required to clean surfaces and touch points when used.

Drop off and pick-up procedures

- Staggered drop-off and pick-up times
- One-way system in and out of school – no congregating of parents

This will be a long journey back to any kind of normality. If, at any point in the next few weeks, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 come back into school, it will absolutely not be 'business as usual'. Sadly, it will not be like the school the children left in March. The changes we are planning are fundamental to the way school will run.





Ashton Hayes Primary School

Church Road, Ashton Hayes, Chester, Cheshire CH3 8AB

Headteacher: Mr Matthew Hover BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH



Telephone 01244 307408

admin@ashtonhayes.cheshire.sch.uk

www.ashtonhayes.cheshire.sch.uk

Aspire to be Amazing!

Trust is such an important word in our vocabulary. I recognise the trust that parents place in school every day even in normal circumstances, but especially in the current situation. That trust is precious and I will never take it for granted. I understand that at the moment things can feel uncertain, unclear and worrying. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to plan for the future and to support our pupils.

Thank you for trusting us and for your ongoing support and understanding. You are all in my thoughts and those of all the staff at Ashton Hayes.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Hover
Headteacher

