



**Ashwood Spencer Academy**  
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22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

## Return to School: Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

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Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you for your patience and cooperation this far and for our EYFS, Y1, Y6 and Key worker parents for informing us about your plans for returning to school. We feel that we have worked as a true home-school partnership and we are very grateful for the support from you all. We understand the level of uncertainty at this time and can see from the responses that many of you are concerned about children returning to school. School is going to look very different once it reopens for some more children, but as always, we will endeavour to make each day a positive, warm experience for your children and yourselves.

Following the government's announcement last week school will be opening for the following three year groups: Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**. The school will be having a further clean w/b 1<sup>st</sup> June, and staff will work hard to create safe yet inviting working environments for the children. After careful consideration and taking into account the government's guidance along with our available resources, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June we will **ONLY** be open to the children of key workers and vulnerable children.

Any decisions taken on returning to school sites are mindful of and subject to change, depending on advice and guidance from HM Govt, DfE, Public Health England, & the British Medical Association. To comply with the government guidance and to try to ensure the safety of both the children and adults, we have had to make drastic changes to the way our school operates. The staff are committed to reassuring the children and providing them with the best possible experience during the school day.

Our plans for children returning are being developed in line with the following 3 principles:

1. Ensuring that we have taken every possible step to maximise safety procedures and minimise any health risks to children and staff.
2. Children returning to school to understand how they can stay safe whilst at school.
3. All staff have been given adequate time to prepare high quality and consistent care and learning for the following 3 groups of students:
  - Children of Key Workers, Blue Light Workers and children eligible for time in school already attending school-based-care.
  - Children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 6 that may return to school for learning.
  - Children not returning to school that need continuing home-based schooling and support.



**Please note the following:** all of which follows published guidance;

- We will be operating school with staggered start and finish times:
  - Reception – start time 9:30am, finish time 2:00pm
  - Year 1 – start time 9.15am, finish time 2.30pm
  - Year 6 – start time 9:00am, finish time 3:00pm
  - Key Worker Provision and vulnerable children – start time from 7:30am, finish time as agreed
  
- Each year group will be allocated a specific entrance to arrive at and leave school from:
  - Reception - Amber Street – Nursery Entrance
  - Year 1 - Addison Road
  - Year 6 - Nightingale Road
  - Key Worker Provision and vulnerable children – Amber Street – Main entrance gate and walk straight through to the Downstairs Hall
  
- Only one adult to bring your child to school and collect them from school. Social distancing must be adhered to at all times when on the premises. We trust that social distancing will also continue on the areas surrounding the school also, though we cannot enforce any measures that are not on school premises.
  
- All parent/carers must be contactable during the school day, should we be unable to contact a parent/carer the school will follow the Safeguarding Procedures.
  
- If a child presents with any symptoms of Coronavirus, they will be isolated and parents/carers will be contacted to collect them immediately. They will also be asked to put a mask on to ensure that symptoms are not spread.  
We also ask that parents contact school as soon as possible if they believe their child has been exposed to coronavirus.
  
- The children will be allocated their class and informed of their teachers prior to their return to school; this will be communicated to parents/carers via Class Dojo:
  - Your child will be placed in a class with a maximum of 7 children; they will remain with this group the whole time they are in school and will not mix with any other children or staff.
  - Your child will be in school 2 days a week – again, the days will be communicated with you along with class information on Class Dojo. Either Monday and Tuesday **or** Thursday and Friday. School will have a thorough clean each Wednesday.
  - Due to the guidance we are following, your child may not be with their normal class teacher or teaching assistant, or even in their normal classroom.
  - The curriculum will be adapted to meet the needs of the children and support everyone's mental health and wellbeing.
  - Within the classroom the children will be allocated an individual desk space and social distancing will be observed.
  - The children will be allocated their own pencil case and will not be sharing resources.
  - We have planned breaks throughout the day where the children will be able to access their designated outdoor play area.
  - PE and games will be non-contact only – PE kits **will not** be required.
  - The playground will be marked out, showing where to drop your child off at the start of the day and where to collect them from at the end of the day.



- If you have children in multiple year groups, please bring all of your children at the latest drop-off time and collect at the earliest collection time.
  - If you are collecting multiple children, you will have to leave through each entry/exit point and go to the collection point for each child's year group. We cannot allow parents to walk across playgrounds.
  - There will be frequent hand washing throughout the day.
  - Children are not required to wear school uniform but are required to wear fresh clean clothing every day.
  - Children do not need to bring anything to school - **please DO NOT send your child to school with a bag or pencil case** as these materials can carry the virus for a long time.
  - We will be providing lunch, a snack and drinks for all children that attend school. **Please DO NOT send your child to school with a packed lunch, snacks or drinks.** Parents/carers who are eligible for Free School Meal vouchers and send their children back to school should note that these will either stop or reduce as the children attending school and having a meal whilst there. More details will follow.
  - We believe it is important to touch base with all children and their families prior to returning to school. If your child is due to return to school, class teachers will be making individual contact with yourself and your child to discuss their thoughts and feelings about returning to school and to assess if any additional support is required to support their transition back into school during the w/b 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- If you are a 'Key Worker', please contact school if you require breakfast club, and provision can be arranged.
  - For children in the Key Worker Provision and those who are eligible for your children to be in school full-time, arrangements will remain the same as they have done for the partial school closure thus far.

As a school we understand your concerns about sending your children back to school, we do not want any parent to feel pressured into sending their child/children into school therefore **no action** whatsoever will be taken against families whose child/children do not attend.

Work will be provided for all children who are not attending school. It will now be predominantly online based, but for parents who identified when asked that they do not have internet/device access, paper home learning packs will be **available for collection from school**. More details will follow about this.

As part of our duty of care, courtesy phone call 'check ins' will still happen for those children who are not in school to 'keep in touch'.

I am sorry to say that, at this point, it is unlikely that we will be able to celebrate our Year 6 children completing their final year at Ashwood as we typically would. We are liaising with Secondary Schools to ensure that transition, though it may be different, will be beneficial in preparing the children for the move. We are looking at alternative ways to mark this important milestone in the children's lives and will keep you posted with ideas.

If your initial decision was not to send you child/children to school but change your mind and would like them to attend, could you please contact school on 01332 348356 to discuss a start date.



I would have loved to have contacted you today to say it's safe to all come back to school but, unfortunately, it is not the case. In order for us to put the necessary safety measures in place, including social distancing, we need time to embed this new way of working with smaller numbers first.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Kindest Regards,

Paula Baines-Chambers  
Principal