



Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Wednesday 2nd July

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the autumn term. I am very excited to be welcoming all children and families who are joining our school community for the first time and also those who are returning after the summer. I know many families may be anxious about the coming term so I want to reassure you that a lot of thought and preparation has gone into ensuring that the school meets the reopening requirements of both Ark Schools and the Department for Education including the completing of a lengthy risk assessment.

Our approach to school reopening now sees us go from ‘bubbles’ of 15 children to class and year group bubbles. Children will remain with their year group peers all day and will not be mixing with other year groups at any point. We will be re-introducing more normal lunches and break times and PE sessions will increasingly make use of the local pitch to ensure children get plenty of outdoor time whilst avoiding year groups mixing.

If your child/children have any medical conditions that make them vulnerable when returning to school during this time, please contact that office immediately so that we can carry out a risk assessment and put measures in place to ensure they are safe.

This newsletter sets out a number of measures we have put in place so please read carefully paying particular attention to the revised arrangement for drop off and collection – [we really need your help in ensuring these run smoothly and to time so please be punctual.](#)

Dates Children in Y1-6 will return on Monday 7th September. Children in Nursery and Reception will return later in the month to allow time for necessary induction, familiarisation with our setting and team and other administrative requirements. These timings were shared with families at the end of last term; a separate letter will be sent to Nursery and Reception parents this week confirming these arrangements.

Start of Day We are continuing with a staggered start to the school day. Parents are still not permitted on site so children should be dropped off at the relevant entry point at the times below. Children arriving through the back gate will then line up in their classes on the playground before moving inside.

It is absolutely essential that children are dropped off on time; late arrivals could potentially result in classes/year groups mixing which would compromise the measures we have put in place. Breakfast club will not be running until further notice.

Start of Day		
Time	Year Group	Location
8.30am	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Back Gates Children will enter the site and line up in their classes before transitioning inside. Parents remain off site.
8.40am	Years 1 & 2	
8.50am	Reception	
8.50am	Nursery	Front Entrance Children line up along the wall towards Harrow Road. Parents remain off site.

Children will not be able to leave any scooters or bicycles at school until further notice. We strongly urge families to avoid driving to school. Driving to school will not only produce greater emissions but will create congestion that will cause delays. Westminster local authority will be continuing to supply parking wardens at the start and end of the day ahead of, we are promised, the introduction of a permanent School Street Scheme.

End of Day At the end of the day, year groups will be released either at the back gate or the main entrance. The image below shows the timings and where parents must wait (**in line**) to collect their children. We have brought these times closer together so that those parents with children in different year groups are not required to wait for siblings as long as they did in the summer term. As these timings are close together so, again, we ask that parents must arrive on time to collect their child/children.

There is no facility for late collection and after school clubs will not be running until further notice.

Children will be released at the end of the school day by year group. Parents should line up in the area identified below at the designated time.			
3.20pm: Y6 Canada 3.25pm: Y5 Spain 3.30pm: Y4 Brazil 3.35pm: Y3 Norway 3.40pm: Y2 China 3.45pm: Y1 France	3.20pm: Y6 Australia 3.25pm: Y5 Greece 3.30pm: Y4 Ghana 3.35pm: Y3 Belgium 3.40pm: Y2 Barbados 3.45pm: Y1 Italy	3.20pm: Reception India	3.15pm: Nursery 3.20pm: Reception Mexico
			

Hygiene & Distancing The hygiene procedures we introduced in June will continue into this term. This includes frequent hand washing, cleaning of class based resources, avoiding sharing of resources outside of bubbles and frequent cleaning of ‘high touch points’ around the school. Classrooms in key stage two will be arranged with desks facing forward with other year groups distancing as far as possible. Staff are required to maintain appropriate distancing both in classrooms and communal areas; all rooms have been assigned a maximum adult capacity to support with this.

PPE The Department for Education guidance states that primary school children will not need to wear a face covering. PPE is mandatory in school where it is used in normal circumstances when intimate care is being given; where a staff member may accompany a child in the event that they have COVID symptoms; and, I am asking our lunchtime serving team to wear face masks.

Attendance The government has announced that school attendance will be compulsory again this term with the normal requirements applying. We have made some adjustments to our Attendance Policy and have produced an addendum to our Attendance Policy. This document is on our website (under policies/attendance) and is also being sent out alongside this newsletter.

Lunches We are returning to relatively normal lunch arrangements from September. This will mean that children in KS2 will be able to choose a packed lunch. The lunch timetable at school will be spaced out further to allow for cleaning of surfaces between year groups; outdoor play time will take place at the pitch for some year groups.

PE All classes will have two timetabled PE sessions each week – again, some of these will take place at the local pitch. We will confirm PE days soon.

Uniform Children are expected to attend school in normal school uniform. If you require any new uniform for your child, please contact Urban Apparel on Harrow Road. Their details along with our Uniform Policy are on the Atwood website under the 'Life at School' tab.

Behaviour An Addendum to our Behaviour Policy has been produced setting out temporary changes to our policy in recognition of the COVID related requirements. The addendum is on the website under the 'policies' tab.

Please look at the attached flowchart to see the procedure we will follow in the event of a child/staff member having COVID symptoms. The 'bubble' system is crucial to ensuring that in the event of a future positive COVID case, we can easily identify who has been in close contact with the affected person. In the event of a bubble requiring to isolate, we will switch to a home learning model for these children. This home learning model will be different and more advanced than our approach last year; details will be shared with families soon. Any possible local lockdowns will be determined by Public Health England and we will respond to their advice accordingly.

I recognise that you will have plenty of questions regarding how things will work this term. Please speak to myself or any other school leader on the gate. Alternatively, please contact the office if you would like to schedule a phone call with me. I am planning to hold a virtual Parent Forum in the middle of the month (date to be confirmed soon) and will continue to produce a weekly newsletter with any changes that have been introduced.

Thank you for your support.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy