

Ashley Junior School

The Return to Full-Time Education in School: September 2020

We are thrilled that children will be coming back to school on a full-time basis – given the conditions are right – in September 2020.

There are, however, significant challenges that we will need to plan for and overcome. We have guidance from the Department of Education that we are following, and we have shared thinking and consulted with staff and governors.

Our first priority is, of course, the safety of our school community and through our experience so far we know there has to be a huge emphasis on:

- Handwashing
- Respiratory hygiene

We have had seven outdoor sinks installed so far and will look to create more. Anti-bacterial hand wash is available in every classroom and various junctions within the school. Areas and equipment are regularly disinfected and every area has a deep clean every day.

We will be dealing with greater numbers than we have been used to in this current context and this adds greater complexity to the organisation and processes.

Minimising Risk

As a school we have a statutory duty to comply with health and safety law. This includes completing risk assessments for situations in school. We will do all we can to reduce risk. Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- consider how we reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

Reducing contact is difficult and complex. We will be:

- grouping children together and keeping them in ‘bubbles’
- doing all we can to avoid contact between groups – though, in some circumstances, this will not be possible
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- ensuring staff maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

Assessing risk is a dynamic process and we will be regularly monitoring the effectiveness of our systems and procedures and making adjustments where necessary.

Systems of Control

We will follow the guidance to ensure we have a safe environment.

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

- 4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

At AJS we will:

- Remind children and staff on a regular basis of the expectation of social distancing
- Have signage and floor markings as prompts throughout the school
- Keep children in designated bubbles as much as possible

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.

At AJS PPE will be necessary if:

- Staff are applying first aid and there is a danger of the transmission of bodily fluids
- Staff are managing a child who is demonstrating challenging behaviour and there is a danger of the transmission of bodily fluids

Response to any infection:

- 7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- 9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

Grouping Children

Children will enter, leave and be taught within their class 'bubble'. They will play, eat and learn within their group.

Keeping children in 'bubbles' reduces the risk of cross-contamination. However, the guidance acknowledges that:

"...the use of small groups restricts the normal operation of schools and presents both educational and logistical challenges, including the cleaning and use of shared spaces, such as playgrounds, dining halls, and toilets, and the provision of specialist teaching."

“In this guidance for the autumn term, maintaining consistent groups remains important, but given the decrease in the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resumption of the full range of curriculum subjects, schools may need to change the emphasis on bubbles within their system of controls and increase the size of these groups.”

There are some intervention groups that are essential for children’s welfare and progress and must be in operation, though they compromise a bubble to some degree.

Similarly, teachers are able to operate across different classes and year groups whilst maintaining social distance. This is particularly important for those teachers who lead PPA or interventions.

Arriving at and Leaving School

To try and maintain the class bubbles, staggered start and finish times are required. We will do all we can to avoid gatherings of children.

- Entry and leaving times will be staggered. You will be given a specific entry time and entrance. It is important these are adhered to in order to prevent crowding and potential contamination.
- No more than one parent may escort or drop off their child. There will be marked areas to establish social distancing and we ask that you comply with these. Parents or carers will not be allowed on site unless invited. Contact with the school should be through email adminoffice@ajs.hants.sch.uk or telephone 01425 616510.
- Some groups will enter by the main entrance and then through the door onto the field. Other groups will enter via the pedestrian gate to the playground. You will be told which entrance to use.
- Handwashing facilities are available in each classroom and on the playground and children must wash hands on entry and will then be directed to wash hands at regular intervals.

The Guidance tells us that it is not necessary to take temperatures on entry or exit.

Classrooms and Movement around the School

- Each class will stay within their classroom base as much as possible. This is to avoid cross-contamination.
- Children must not bring anything in from home other than lunch and their own water bottle i.e. No cuddly toys, toys from home.
- Each classroom base will be equipped with the necessary resources. Each child will have their own individual pack with their pen, pencil, ruler etc.
- Coats will be hung on the back of chairs to avoid congestion at the cloakroom areas.
- **On the day that children have P.E., they will wear their kit to school to avoid changing clothing.**
- Handwashing will be scheduled on a regular basis.
- Social distancing will be an expectation. Signs and markers will support this.
- Exercise/break times will be timetabled and will be taken within the group.
- Children will, as the guidance recommends, be sat in rows facing the front where necessary and practical.

- Movement around the classroom and school will be signposted and practised to ensure minimum contact with others.

Attendance

- **School attendance is mandatory from the beginning of the Autumn Term.**
- Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.
- Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will be offering them access to remote education.

If children are presenting as particularly anxious and are struggling with the idea of attending school, we will work with parents and the child to provide every reassurance and support.

We want to secure regular attendance from the start of term to ensure that children:

- catch up on missed education
- make progress and
- promote their wellbeing and wider development.

Break and Lunch Time

- Break and lunchtimes will be shorter. This is because we need to accommodate play for 10 different classes whilst ensuring, where possible, there is no cross-contamination.
- Some play equipment will be available and will be cleaned immediately after use.
- Children will wash hands before and after each break.
- Lunch will be taken within the class bubble and times will be staggered.
- Those on Free School Meals and those opting for a school meal will have it delivered to their classroom.

School Uniform

- There is an expectation that school uniform is worn and the usual rules will apply around hair and hair colouring, jewellery and footwear. In particular:
 - Appropriate school shoes – black trainers are not acceptable
 - No hair colouring
 - Long hair tied back
 - No patterns cut into hair
- On the days that children have P.E. they will attend school in their P.E. kit to avoid changing and possible congestion.

The Curriculum

Most children will be enthused and excited about returning to school. Some will be anxious and full of trepidation. We are very much aware that, for some, we will need to spend significant time ensuring that they re-learn how to learn in school. As always, we will make sure the learning environment is right and that children feel comfortable. We will:

- Provide breadth and balance in the curriculum with a full range of subjects over the year
- Prioritise identifying gaps and re-establish good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics)

- Support pupil well-being
- The need to socially distance will inevitably have an impact on teaching methods and approaches. As always, we will endeavour to make the learning fun and engaging.

Behaviour Policy

Adjustments have been made to our Behaviour Policy in accordance with current needs. Alongside our usual expectations the following apply:

- Pupils must do all they can to ensure social distancing throughout the day.
- Pupils must ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' policy
- Pupils must take the time to wash hands thoroughly when requested.
- Anyone posing a health and safety hazard will not be allowed to attend until the risk is reduced. This includes:
 - Constant and deliberate infringement of social distancing expectations
 - Spitting or coughing near or into people
 - Behaving in a way that is a hazard to the well-being of self and others or that prevents the efficient running of the school.
- Uniform must be worn and the usual standards maintained:
 - Hair should be natural in colour – no dyes or sprays - and with our usual stipulations; long hair tied back etc. Hygiene is especially important at the moment.
 - No patterns cut into hair.
 - Earrings can be worn – but a maximum of one stud in each ear that is in the lobe.
 - School shoes should be worn. Trainers – even in black – are not acceptable.
- If a child or member of staff displays symptoms of Covid-19 we will follow the Department for Education guidance.
 - The individual will need to isolate at home and be tested, then inform the school of the result as soon as possible.
 - If the result is positive the individual and the bubble will isolate at home for at least 14 days. If others are displaying symptoms they should also be tested.
 - If the test is negative the individual may return.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact us on adminoffice@ajs.hants.sch.uk or telephone **01425 616510**.