



Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Governments confirmation last night that the 5 tests are being met, I am writing to you to set out the arrangements we have made to open to Year 6 children from 1 June 2020.

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their understanding since we had to close at the start of lockdown. I know that this period has been challenging for many families. We are working hard to take the necessary steps to be ready to welcome back all children.

From the 1st of June we will be opening to the children of key workers and Year 6 children. Thank you for returning the survey we asked you to complete.

I can now confirm that your child can come to school on Monday 1st June. The school day for Zone 1 will be 9.00 – 2.30. Could I ask that you read the **Risk Assessment on our school website** to familiarise yourself with the things in place to support a safe return to school. There will also be a video and a leaflet on social media to share with your child over the weekend.

These include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend school. This includes children and staff who work here. If at all possible could parents check their child's temperature before they come to school to ensure they are fit and well?
- Keeping our children at 2m distances, in small classes with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the school. **Your child will be in 'Zone 1' with Mrs Scott, Miss Jenkinson, Mrs Richardson and Mrs Hinchliffe. This zone includes the Y6 entrance, toilets and classes 5, 6 and 4 only.** All other areas in school will be cordoned off. We will speak to the children about 'no go' and 'permitted' areas when we have them in class.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and pedal bins throughout the setting.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household. **We would ask that Y6 children come to school on their own**

whenever possible. Parents will not be allowed to enter the school building at this time.

- **Asking children not to bring anything into school with them other than a named water bottle and a lunchbox if they are bringing their own packed lunch.** Your child will have their own pack of resources on their own table.
- Clear signs around school to indicate the direction of travel, entrances and exits. Markings are on the playground to show the direction of travel to enter and exit the school grounds.
- Mrs Marshall will be at the entrance to receive children every morning and support new routines and expectations.
- Packed lunches will be provided by catering staff if children prefer a school lunch. These will be eaten in classrooms and playtimes will be shorter and staggered to ensure social distancing.

We recognise the impact 'lockdown' may have had and the social isolation it has brought to many young people and families. I am sure that children will have missed spending time with their 'schoolmates', both in and out of school!

Rest assured, all staff in school will be vigilant as your children return to school and will act promptly should they see any changes in your child's behaviour or emotions – this may be displayed in a range of different ways, all of which could be an indication of an underlying problem.

Mrs Sharp and our TAs will continue to have dedicated time to ensure the welfare and safety of all children and will access advice, guidance and resources from other welfare agencies to support children's mental health and well-being.

The school may signpost children experiencing well-being issues to the appropriate support partners for example, the 'With Me in Mind' team. (<http://www.withmeinmind.co.uk/>)

Could I ask that children come to school wherever possible in school uniform – simple white polo shirts or T-shirts and black trousers or shorts. I am conscious that many children may have outgrown their uniform since the end of March!

I am very aware that things will be very different for our children on their return to school. We will do all we can to reassure them and support them through these strange times. If you have any more questions about this letter, please email me directly on hmarshall@ashwoodprimary.org and I will do my best to answer them.

Kind regards, stay safe and thank you!

Helen Marshall