



# Ashchurch Primary School

Ashchurch, Tewksbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 8LA  
T: 01684 292376  
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 @AshchurchSchool



04/01/2022

## **Welcome back!**

We hope that you all had a lovely break and are looking forward to the term ahead. We are looking forward to having the children back tomorrow and to another exciting term of learning! Kicking off the term with the pantomime should be a great way to start too!

### **Staffing**

Following Mrs Kelsey's retirement before Christmas, the governing body have re-evaluated the roles within the Senior Leadership Team and are pleased to announce that Mr Rickaby will be Deputy Headteacher from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

We welcome Mrs Elly Finley to Navigators on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays who joins us from Sherborne Primary School. We are sure that you will join us in making her feel welcome as she settles in this term.

We are also excited to let you know that Mrs Jukes will be embarking upon a teaching apprenticeship from February and will be teaching Y4 Maths & English alongside Mr Gibson. She will continue as part of the Adventurers class team in the afternoons. We are sure she will be amazing and wish her every success!

### **Swimming**

The plan is that swimming for Years 2,3,4,5 and 6 will begin on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January and run for 10 weeks on a Thursday. We use Tewkesbury School pool for swimming – the Sports Centre also send us two minibuses to transport the children. Children swim in individual year groups, so approximately 20 children at a time with 2 instructors. The quality of the lessons is fantastic, from getting non swimmers going through to challenging the more competent swimmers to improve their stroke, strength and stamina. Children are also taught to perform a safe self-rescue.

We do have to ask for a parental contribution of £3 per session to enable swimming to happen. We don't like asking for contributions if we can avoid it, but we are confident that the quality of the lessons, the provided transport and the chance to enjoy swimming with their friends represents good value for money. Payments can be made weekly, or in blocks via School Spider.

### **Daily Mile**

We will be starting our daily mile again this term. The field is likely to be wet this term so we would encourage children to bring in a pair of trainers which can stay in school. The run will be 8.55-9.10 so it may be easier for them to wear their trainers into school and change after the run.





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## COVID

As you will know, cases of COVID-19 are still high in the local area. The government is clear that face-to-face education is top priority and that vaccination and testing are the keys to being able to return to 'normal'. We would encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and to LFD test regularly to keep the school fully open to all children and the community as safe as we possibly can.

Here are some things you need to know for this term:

- Morning drop off remains the same, 8.45 – 8.55am. Any children arriving after this time MUST come in via the office.
- Please continue to wear face coverings on the playground and leave promptly once you have collected.
- 'Bubbles' will not be used. This means that we can get back out for our daily mile, have playtimes and lunchtimes together and that assemblies can resume.
- All children will now finish at 3.15pm
- Visitors into school are still restricted. Communication should be via phone/email where possible, or brief conversations at the gates. Where an in-person meeting is essential, visitors must LFD test beforehand and share the result with us.

## Testing & Isolation

- Any child displaying any of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 (new, persistent cough; change in sense of taste or smell; fever) should not attend school, get a PCR test and share the result with us.

*Please be mindful that beyond the three main symptoms listed on the NHS website, anecdotal evidence from the UK, US and South Africa suggests that the following are also key symptoms of Omicron:*

- *Scratchy throat*
- *Lower back pain*
- *Runny nose / congestion*
- *Headache*
- *Fatigue*
- *Sneezing*
- *Night sweats*
- *Body aches*

*It is also suggested that currently, up to half of all common colds are in fact COVID-19.*

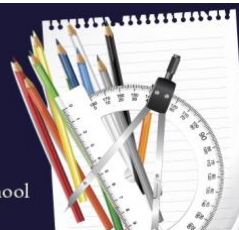




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- We would encourage all staff, parents (and children at parents' discretion) to LFD test twice weekly.
- Children (and double vaccinated adults) who are identified as close contacts of a positive case do not need to isolate. They should do a daily LFD test for 7 days and carry on as normal.
- In a change to previous guidance, even if a person has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are 'strongly encouraged' to take part in regular LFD testing once they have completed their isolation for the original infection.
- In the event of a positive LFD result, the person should isolate immediately and book a confirmatory PCR test. The PCR test needs to be done within 48 hours. If the PCR is done within 48 hours and comes back negative, the person can stop isolating and return to normal. If the PCR is not done within 48 hours, the person must isolate for the full 10 days from the date of the positive LFD, even if a PCR is done after 48 hours and comes back negative.
- A positive case can end their isolation early with 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart on day 6 and day 7. **As long as both tests are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they can stop isolating and return to normal from day 8.**

All of the above and returning to as 'normal' as we can relies on everyone doing their bit in sticking to the rules and doing what we all can to reduce the spread. If calling/emailing us regarding a positive LFD or PCR test, please have clear dates to hand for when symptoms started (if present) and when the LFD/PCR test was taken.

**As has been the case throughout, if you are in any doubt, please do a test.**

We will continue to be vigilant in school and will ask you to organise a test if we notice any symptoms in school.

As we have all become used to over the last two years, the situation can change rapidly and at short notice. We will continue to monitor the situation closely, keep our risk assessment under review and let you know of any changes as soon as we are able.

Remember that we are always at the end of the phone or email if you need any help or support, please let us know.

With kind regards,

Mr Gibson & Mr Rickaby

