

Ashchurch Primary School
End Of Term Newsletter

This has been a very difficult time for everybody in our school community and we would like to thank you for the support you have given both us and your children to help continue their learning in the strangest of times. In line with government guidance we are planning for a full return to school in September for all children in all year groups. We know that children and parents will be pleased to get back to school and to be with their friends again and we as a staff can't wait to see their smiling faces.

Now that this year is nearing its end here are some important things that you need to know.

Reports

Given the circumstances we have all experienced since March, reporting on children's progress in the usual way is not appropriate as we have not seen them for many weeks. There are no statutory assessments such as EYFSP, Phonics or SATs to report on. The government have removed the requirement for schools to report on attendance. Following national guidance, a simplified report will be emailed home on Monday 13th July.

Building

We have amazing news to share with you regarding our building project to replace Ruby, Sapphire and Amethyst classrooms. During the last three months we have been working in partnership with both Kier Construction and the Local Authority to develop the design and we can now confirm that building work will start during the summer holiday and hopefully be completed by May 2021. This does however mean that when children return to school in September, things will look a little different. Before children return to school we will update you on how the build will affect access to the site.

Staffing

Since March there have been a few changes in staffing which you need to be aware of. We are delighted to announce that Mr. Rickaby has been appointed Assistant Headteacher and will be supporting myself and Mrs Kelsey as part of our Senior Management Team. As you are all aware Mr. Rickaby has worked tirelessly in developing the school in all areas and this is a much deserved promotion.

Mrs Greening has left us in order to follow a new career path. We thank her for her hard work, enthusiasm and dedication throughout her time at Ashchurch Primary School. We wish her every success in her new job. She will be truly missed.

September

From September, we are confident that with a few minor alterations, we can open for all children in all year groups.

Key points that you need to note:

1. The class/teaching group structure will remain as it was previously.
2. Normal transition into new year groups and classes will take place (Y2 move to become Y3 in Ruby Class and Y4 move to become Y5 in Sapphire Class). Current Reception Children will be informed of their registration group within their report.
3. The beginning of the day will be slightly more flexible with children able to be dropped off between 8.40 and 9am. Staff will collect children from the gates, parents are unable to enter the site at this time.
4. Collection at the end of the day will be staggered:
 - Any family with more than one child in our school should collect them from the playground promptly at 3pm.
 - KS1 (YR,Y1,Y2) should be collected from the playground at 3.10pm.
 - KS2 (Y3,4,5,6) should be collected from the playground at 3.20pm.
 - At collection we will need your cooperation to ensure children are collected promptly and leave the site quickly to avoid any gathering and to clear the playground for the next group of parents to arrive.
5. Government guidance is clear that children should return to wearing school uniform.
6. The transfer of items between home and school will be reduced:
 - Pencil cases and other stationary is not needed. We will provide everything the children need in school.
 - PE bags should be left on pegs and kept in school until half term.
 - No bags or rucksacks to be brought in. All equipment will be provided in school and we have nowhere to safely to store them.
 - Children in KS1 may bring a book bag.
 - Lunch boxes and water bottles may be brought in as normal.
7. Caterlink plan to reopen our kitchen and to provide hot meals. The menu will look slightly different and will be sent to you separately shortly.
8. Playtimes and lunch times will be staggered.
9. We are unable to administer medication for children (unless specified in an EHCP). Inhalers must be kept with the child.
10. In order to avoid large gatherings, events such as whole-school assemblies will not take place until the current guidance changes.
11. There will be no after school clubs in the autumn term.

COVID-19

We must remember that COVID-19 has not gone away and therefore the following guidelines are absolutely critical to us being able to reopen in as safe a way as possible.

Please see below taken directly from government guidance:

Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

Schools should ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

We hope that you all have an enjoyable summer break. Everyone has worked incredibly hard to keep things going over the last few months and we are all in need of a rest. Thank you again for all of your support and we look forward to seeing you all again on 3rd September.

Mr Gibson and Staff