



Ark Priory Primary Academy

Thursday 17th July 2020

Dear parent / carers,

As you will be aware from our previous communications, we are in the process of putting our final planning together for re-opening Ark Priory Primary Academy to all pupils from September 2020 for the new academic year. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school and will do everything possible to maintain their safety, which remains paramount.

I am writing to set out and explain some of the actions and protocols that will be put in place for your child to be able to return to safely to school in September. In the government advice to schools they have identified a number of key areas that we should focus on to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus. These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges (until a negative test is received)
- cleaning hands more often than usual – the expectation is that all children and staff wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene - promote the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

The government has provided advice to parents and carers which is available on the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

The following questions are designed to provide you with as much information as possible.

It is compulsory that my child attends school in September?

Your child should return to school in September as it is now expected that pupils of compulsory school age **must** be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the pupil has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance etc) in line with our usual attendance policy.

When will school re-open?

School will now reopen on **Monday 7th September, but with a slightly staggered start**. We have sent you the new term dates for the academic year 2020/2021 which reflect these plans. This information is also available on our website and are as follows:

Monday 7th September: Year 5 and Year 6

Tuesday 9th September: Years 1, 2, 3 and 4

Nursery and Reception: staggered start as usual (please see information from our EYFS team).

We have made this change to the start of the school year for pupils because we need longer to work with staff on the new changes and to ensure school is ready to open to all pupils safely.

What are the start and finish times for the school?

For the Autumn 1 term, in order to keep the number of pupils and families to a minimum on the playground, we plan to stagger the school start and end times. Please see below for your child's year group.

School will be open at the following times:

<u>Year group</u>	<u>Start time</u>	<u>Finish time</u>
Nursery	As per normal	As per normal
Reception, Year 2 and Year 4	8.40am	3.30pm
Year 1 and Year 3	8.30am	3.45pm
Year 5 and Year 6	8.20am	4pm

If you have children in more than one class, we will make provision for you to drop off and pick up at the earlier of the two times.

What are the regulations for drop off / pick up?

The only access point in to school will be the normal entrance. **It is essential that parents maintain social distancing at all times during pick up and drop off.** It is imperative that you maintain a distance of 2 metres from all other people from outside your immediate family home.

Pupils will go straight into their classes from the playground. Staff will be allocated on the corridors to make sure pupils go straight to class. Senior leaders will be available on the playground should you have any questions. Parents should drop off and leave the school site immediately at the times indicated above.

Pick up points for year groups will be as normal. Only one parent should attend at drop off or pick up. Staff will not be available for conversations at pick up or drop off. Parents should avoid congregating in groups at all times. Please also review the government advice on safe travel and avoid using public transport where possible.

How will the day/classes be structured?

Children should enter school in the usual way and go straight to class from the playground with their teacher waiting for them in the classroom. We will have our usual line up spaces at the end of the school day for collection. Please see the attached map.

Children will be in their usual class groups. At Ark Priory, we consider a 'bubble' to be one-year group. This will allow for our usual school day timetabling across classes, such as the phonics programme.

How will the school aim to ensure social distancing?

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. The children will be sat at the same seat each day and will use the same set of resources. These will be cleaned by staff at the end of the day.

For the meantime, we will not be able to hold large events such as whole school assemblies. This also includes events that involve parents such as our open mornings or our bake sales.

What are the arrangements for lunch?

Each of the groups will be with the same adult for the duration of the day including lunchtimes. The timetable for the day will be structured so that the children will have play times at different times. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom. We expect as usual, in line with school policy, that all pupils to have a school lunch (unless previously agreed due to medical conditions). This will further help to minimise spread of any potential infection.

What equipment should my child bring to school?

Where possible, children should bring as few items as possible to school. All equipment will be provided for each child and they will not share equipment. Children will be allowed to bring their school bags and a snack as normal.

What are the arrangements in place for breakfast club and afterschool care?

For the first half term, we **will not** be offering our breakfast club (to be reviewed mid-September) or any extra curriculum activities before or after school whether these are running externally or internally. This is in line with government guidance and is to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus. We will review our provision before the October half term.

For Autumn 1 we will however, be supporting Aktiva to run their afterschool wrap around care which runs until 6pm.

You can apply for this by contacting **Aktiva**
Call: 0203 551 8909

Online: <https://booking.aktivacamps.com/login>

This situation will be reviewed in time for Autumn term 2.

Will school be sending books home to read?

We will be sending home reading books as normal and expect them to be returned on Wednesdays to allow time for them to be quarantined. You will then receive a new book on Fridays.

What happens if a child becomes unwell at school?

If your child becomes unwell in school, they will be isolated and you will be contacted to pick them up as soon as possible. **It is imperative that your child is tested as soon as possible and for you to report the outcome of the test to the school.** If a child in the small group class tests positive for COVID-19 parents will be informed and the small class group bubble will be closed for 7 days whilst children and staff go into self-isolation.

Should my child wear PPE if attending school?

Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. **This does not**

apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is **not** recommended, therefore we ask parents **not** to send their child into school wearing a face mask or gloves.

What should I do if my child is showing any symptoms of COVID-19?

If anyone in a child's family home becomes unwell with any COVID-19 symptoms including a new continuous cough or high temperature or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, **under no circumstances should the child be brought to school.** You should follow the government advice around testing and self-isolation immediately. This is essential in protecting the health of other students, parents and staff.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support with implementing the above guidance. This guidance may change before September based on government guidelines. If there are any changes, we will communicate this to our school community as soon as possible.

We are working very hard and doing the best we can and want our pupils to return to school safely, happily and above all, excited to learn. Again, I would like to thank you for all the support and kindness that you have shown so far, it has really meant a lot to all the staff, including myself during this very challenging time. I ask you to continue to show patience, kindness and understanding as the weeks pass. Your support and understanding that things may be different to our normal practice is so vital during this time. Many thanks.

Kind Regards,



Daniela Grasso
Head of School at Ark Priory Primary Academy