



Athersley South Primary School

Wakefield Road, Barnsley, S71 3TP

Tel: 01226 284223

www.athersleysouthprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs E. Sanderson

Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Wheelwright



1st March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will already be aware, school will re-open to ALL pupils from next Monday, 8th March and school attendance once again becomes mandatory. Throughout the pandemic we have worked hard to ensure that our school will be as safe an environment as it can be, and the full re-opening this time will mirror the systems we adopted in September 2020. This letter should answer any queries you have and offers a few reminders of procedures in place. The DFE guidance that schools have to adhere to can be found by following this link https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Access to School and Start/Finish Times

ALL children should return on Monday 8th March and the start and finish times of the school day have not altered.

The one way system around the school site, with which you are all very familiar by now, remains in operation and we would ask all Parents/Carers to continue to follow the signage and adhere to the system to ensure the safety of all site users. We have made a slight amendment by the bike shed/KS1 entrance to try to ensure distancing can be maintained and ask that you listen to directions offered by staff. To keep foot traffic to a minimum we would ask that only **one adult** accompanies a child. Access to the site will be via the main entrance on Wakefield Road or the back gate. As usual, staff will be waiting by both entrances to direct you round the one way system. Entrance doors to the building will be open from 8.45 to 8.55am to allow a steady flow around the site. We would politely ask you to arrive between these times and no earlier than 8.40am as we cannot allow groups to congregate due to the ongoing social distancing guidelines. It is essential that your child is not late as they must enter through their own classroom door and doors will be closed promptly. Vehicle access to the school drive is not permitted between 8.35 and 8.55am or 2.45-3.05pm, except in exceptional circumstances. If you are a blue badge holder please arrive/depart outside of these times. This is to ensure everyone's safety.

Uniform

As in the autumn, children will be expected to return to school in school uniform. The guidance is clear that it does not need to be washed any more frequently than would normally be the case. A reminder that this year we swapped to a new uniform supplier, 'My Clothing' and items can be purchased online at <https://myclothing.com/athersley-south-primary-school/18176.school> We also have a number of items of good quality second hand items available from school, priced at just 50p each. If you wish to purchase any items please contact the school office on 01226 284223. If you are experiencing any problems with regards to uniform, please contact the school, via phone, who will support with answering any questions.

Equipment and Belongings

We would ask that the only items your child brings to school are their coat, PE kit and lunch (if not ordering one from school). Children will not be able to bring in their own stationary or other personal items.

School Office

Access to the school office **will not** be possible as we continue to restrict the number of people entering the building in line with Government Guidance. We would ask that any queries are made via the main school phone

number 01226 284223 or via the school email athersleysouthadmin@ecmtrust.co.uk . Please bear with us and we will respond to your call/email as quickly as we are able.

Classroom Bubbles

Our now familiar ‘bubbles’ will remain and pupils will be kept in these so far as is possible throughout the school day to enable us to maintain social distancing wherever possible, this includes at break times.

Everyone will wash their hands frequently and correctly with adult supervision. Every room will be well ventilated at all times and the classroom, furniture and equipment will be cleaned regularly throughout the day and thoroughly cleaned before/after school. Alongside this we will ensure that each class of children do not mix with any other class outside their bubble during their time in school. Any unnecessary furniture and equipment has been removed from class to allow for more movement and provide more space. Children in Y1-6 will sit at desks facing the front of the classroom to reduce the risks even further. PPE is available for staff if they wish to use it.

Moving Around School

Each class will have an individual timetable that will clearly state when they will move around school. This will include playtime and lunchtime and all classes will also have specific entry/exit doors. The school will continue to hold assemblies virtually at this time.

Hygiene

Children will wash their hands on arrival at school and at home time. They will also wash their hands before they leave and re-enter the building for playtimes, lunch etc. Staff will have access to PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) e.g. masks, aprons and gloves for personal care and when administering first aid and digital thermometers which will be used for staff and children should they say they are unwell. Each classroom has soap and antibacterial hand gel. The staff will also hand wash upon entry and throughout the day. In line with the most recent guidance, staff will wear face coverings in communal areas and on corridors.

Lunches

The full lunch menu will available and, as before Christmas, access to the dining room will be limited and all KS2 classes, along with Class 3 will be served lunch in their classrooms.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

We will continue to offer Breakfast Club on a very limited basis, and only where Parents have no other option. If your child has not attended school during the restricted opening but previously attended before Christmas, please contact the school office to confirm whether or not you will require their place. After school clubs will not operate before Easter, but from the summer term we may look to reactivate these when they can be accommodated outside.

Lateral Flow Tests – School Staff

There continues to be a concern regarding the spread of the Coronavirus by asymptomatic people (those who have the virus but are showing no symptoms). Around 1 in 3 people who have coronavirus don’t have symptoms, yet they are still infectious and can pass the virus on to others without realising. In order to identify these people, the government recently introduced Lateral Flow Covid testing which provides a result (positive or negative) within 30 minutes. Since January school staff have had access to home testing kits. Where staff test positive for COVID 19, as happened last week, our current bubble closure procedures will be applied and we will notify parents as soon as we are made aware if a school bubble has to close. The introduction of testing is another big step in controlling the spread of the virus and will continue to help ensure staff can work safely without putting others at risk.

Lateral Flow Tests – Parents/Carers/Households

On 28th February, the Government announced that whole families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8 March. Tests can easily be ordered and

collected from local sites, or administered through workplace testing programmes. This is optional but another way in which we can all work together to minimise transmission of the virus. Further information can be found by following this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

Strict Guidelines for those displaying symptoms and those who test positive

All of the school community must continue to follow strict guidelines to protect the whole school community. Anybody who feels unwell must contact the school via phone to discuss their symptoms. If anyone has a temperature, new persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell they **must not** enter the school grounds. If a member of staff or child in a group were to display symptoms during school, they will be immediately removed from the classroom and taken to an isolation room. The person displaying the symptoms will have a test as soon as possible. If the person tests positive the school will follow Public Health England guidance and contact parents to inform them of further action that is required and whether children and staff from this group will have to quarantine at home for the next 10 days. School will keep in contact with you should this event take place.

In the Event of an Outbreak

If the school experiences an outbreak, either because we have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff within 14 days, or we see an increase in pupil or staff absence due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will contact the local health protection team. This team will advise us if additional action is required.

In all cases, where groups of pupils need to self-isolate or where a larger restriction of attendance at school is needed, we will seek to ensure your child/ren's education can continue remotely.

Finally...

I would like to thank you for all you have done to support your child's remote learning in the last half term and thank you in advance for your support as we welcome everyone back to school. We are very much looking forward to having our whole school community back together 😊.

Kind regards

Mrs E. Sanderson