



Athersley South Primary School

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www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs E. Sanderson
Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Wheelwright



14th September 2020

Covid-19 Important Updates and Information

Dear Parents/Carers

Settling In

Although I cannot be as engaged with classes as I would like at this time, it has still been great to see, from a suitable distance, how well the children have all settled into school. They have adjusted to the new routines and expectations incredibly well, showing real strength and enthusiasm for their learning. It really is a pleasure to have welcomed everyone back.

Bubble Closures

Thank you for your support over the past week when we had to close a 'bubble'. While we acknowledge that the closure of a bubble can be an inconvenience to some, this is far outweighed by the need to minimise the spread of Covid-19 within our community. The closure of a bubble is done in line with strict guidance and the decision will be made under direction from Public Health in a timely manner, which could be at very short notice in some cases. This is the same for ALL schools. I know that some of you have found some elements of the guidance confusing and I would recommend reading the whole documents where this is the case as there is a good deal of explanation offered.

Illness

Since our return in September there have been a number of non-covid illnesses reported in school. Where this is the case you will be directed to follow our usual protocols e.g. a 48hr absence for diarrhoea and sickness and you should not take your child for a test. This will simply put extra strain on the testing system. However, should your child have a persistent cough, high temperature or a change to their sense of taste or smell, you must keep your child off school, immediately begin isolating with other household members and book a test ONLY for those who have symptoms. It is essential that you notify us if your child, or a member of your household, is going for a test and you must report the result to us, even if it is negative.

Remote Learning

In the event of a bubble closure, or whole school closure due to a local lockdown, your child's learning remains of high importance to us. As such we will use Seesaw as a means of teaching and learning for your child as this was very successful during the summer and allows our teachers to be in constant communication with your child. For those of you who are new to Seesaw, please be assured it is an App that is very easy to use on a range of devices. Where internet connection is an issue we are able to provide paper packs as an alternative. Accompanying this letter, your child should have brought home their NEW seesaw logins which replace those used in the last academic year. The letter explains what to do and you should keep these details safe in case of a partial or full closure. I would advise you that it is the Government's expectation that your child engages in home learning, unless absent from school due to illness.

FSM Arrangements during Bubble Closures

If your child is required to isolate as part of a bubble closure and would normally claim a free school meal, they are still entitled to order one. Where this is the case you can contact school each morning and order your child a 'Grab Bag' or Pasta Box (before 9.45am). These can then be collected by someone at 12.00pm.

One Way System

Thank you to everyone who has adapted to our new one way system and for your understanding as we seek to make the site as safe as it can be for all users. The tweaks made last week were in response to our own observations and

feedback from yourselves and we feel they have improved the system. I am aware however that a very small minority of Parents/Carers insist on attempting to ignore the signage and instructions given. If this continues I will have no choice but to seek to have such individuals banned from the site for failing to adhere to Health and Safety guidelines. While this may be deemed a harsh approach, I feel that everyone's safety is paramount and do not feel the actions of a small minority should impact on everyone else.

Parking

We would politely remind you that parking in the car park of Hammerton's Funeral Services is not permitted when dropping off or collecting your child. Action could be taken by them if you do so. Please use the New Lodge Club car park.

School Communication

Now, more than ever, it is essential that we have your most up-to-date contact numbers. Please contact the school office as soon as possible if your mobile phone number changes. Also, in the coming weeks we will be asking ALL Parents/Carers to provide an email address for correspondence purposes. In line with many other Primary Schools and our local Secondary Schools, it is our intention to move to paperless communication. Email is the easiest way for us to communicate with yourselves in order to ensure you have information speedily and to hand, while also helping the environment. You will be contacted shortly requesting an email address for our records. As with your mobile numbers, please inform us if this address changes. Once the system is established and up and running, this will be the primary way in which we contact you should a 'bubble' need to close.

A reminder too from us that you should not reply to our text messages as the system is not designed for two way communication but if you should wish to contact us you can do so via the office email athersleysouthadmin@ecmtrust.co.uk I would like to take this opportunity to remind you though that the admin email address is NOT monitored over the weekend or on an evening. It will be checked daily by a member of the school admin team during normal school hours. If the reason for your contact is more urgent, please contact the school office but be aware we continue to experience a high volume of calls. Our admin team are working to the best of their ability and I would ask that you speak to them in a respectful manner.

Please continue to stay safe and be kind.

Kind regards

Mrs E. Sanderson