



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all ready for your first day at school on Monday. We are really looking forward to welcoming you! Mrs Cuthbert and Mrs Evans have had a great couple of days visiting you all in your homes and have everything ready for an exciting start to your school life at Ashton Hayes. Below is some information that you may find useful and to help answer any last minute questions you may have over the weekend.

Here is a reminder of the **days and times** that you will be joining us to begin with:

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	AM in school 8.40-11.45
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	AM in school and lunch 8.40-1.15
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	AM in school and Lunch 8.40-1.15
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Am in school and lunch 8.40-1.15
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Full Time 8.40-3.10
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Full Time 8.40-3.10

- When **dropping children off** in the morning Kestrel Class will come through the school front door where they will be met by staff from their class. There will only be **one time slot in the morning**. We will open the door at **8:40** and expect all children to be in school by **8:50**.
- From **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September** please collect your child from the school front door. From the **15<sup>th</sup> September** when collecting children at the **end of the day** we will be opening the double gates to the field for you to enter the playground. Kestrel Class will be brought to the side gate at the end of the classes. We will be opening the classroom doors to hand over the children at **3:10** for all classes. Once you arrive, please stand where you can be seen by the class teacher and your child will be handed over to you. If you have more than one child to collect, please go to the younger sibling first. Please then leave through the single side gate and around the one-way system back to the road. As we all know, there is no requirement to maintain social distance, but it seems to me to make sense to avoid close contact with large numbers of people and therefore to put in a route that keeps people flowing in the same direction. Please be mindful of other people's space as some of us are more comfortable mixing than others.
- We will no longer be operating in strict **class bubbles** meaning that children will be able to play in any area at playtimes and mix with children from other year groups outside. We will of course be spending most of our time with the children from the same class, but will be able to work together with other classes and share together in assemblies. These will be outside initially or in smaller groups.
- All classes will be eating **lunch** in the hall. This means a new exciting menu that is available for you on parent pay. We will of course be staggering times for classes as we want to keep numbers to a minimum in crowded or communal areas.
- **Contact tracing** is now the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace who will work with the confirmed case or their parents to identify close contacts. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:
  - they are fully vaccinated
  - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
  - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
  - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons





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Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. A letter from the Local Authority is attached and explains this in more detail.

- Your children should not come to school if they have **symptoms**, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent them home and they should follow public health advice.
- Face coverings** are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law, but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This means that there is no requirement for parents to wear a face covering at pick up and drop off, although you are perfectly welcome to, if you would feel more comfortable.
- We would still like your child to **bring very little** into school. Most days your tote bag (still available to buy on parent pay) is big enough. Please don't bring rucksacks, we do not have the space to store them. You will only need your reading books, a snack and a water bottle. You will not need toys or pencil cases.
- Please bring in a draw string bag with a **change of clothes** in. This will go on your child's peg, and will be used if children fall in the mud, have a toilet accident or get soaked in the rain. This does not need to be school uniform. They will also need a **sun hat** and to arrive a school with **sun cream** applied if the weather looks like it could be good, which it does next week.
- The table below shows the days that your child will be doing PE and Forest School. On PE and Forest School days they should come dressed for the activity. On all other days, **school uniform** must be worn. If you ordered a new school hoodie last term, they should have been delivered to you on your home visit. If not, please contact Mrs Stubbs in the office.

<b>PE</b>	Wednesday
<b>Forest School</b>	Monday

- You may have seen in a letter and on social media that we are taking part in a village event: **Ashton Altogether**. As we were unable to hold our Hey Day in July, but have been lucky enough to be able to team up with AHSRA and St John's Church to put on an exciting community event on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Our PTFA have been hard at work planning and preparing for this event and would really appreciate your support on the day, either by volunteering to help out on a stall or at least by coming along and enjoying the event. A large amount of the proceeds will go to the PTFA and therefore back to supporting our children in school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gilbert

