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### **COVID-19 UPDATE No 15**

Dear Parents & Carers

Well last week we finally made it to the end of a very strange term. I hope you are now enjoying the first week of the summer break. Last week was incredibly busy as we ensured that our Y6 leavers had a celebration to end their time with us. We hope that they enjoyed their week and their final day in particular. They have done an amazing job adapting to a new way of doing things since June and we would like to thank them and their parents/carers for their support and kindness over the last few weeks of the school year.

Thanks also go to all the staff at Ashfield who have done an amazing job over the last few months keeping learning going and supporting pupils and families. We all had to learn new things as we went along. The school's 'Growth Mindset' approach was certainly evident throughout all of this as we found ways to overcome barriers and challenges. Thank you also to you for your ongoing support, encouragement and engagement with home learning. You have been absolutely vital to your child's education since Easter.

### **Plans for September**

The government is releasing its next guidance document for schools on 11<sup>th</sup> August. As such we have been advised not to plan in detail for our September re-opening for all pupils. I know this isn't particularly helpful to you but as things can change very quickly it would be pointless for us to plan things now for them to have to change again before the children return. As such we are now having a couple of week's rest before we get back into the building to start making preparations.

These are the principles that we are hoping to plan and prepare for:

- School will re-open for all pupils on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September;
- We are working on all pupils arriving and leaving at the same time as we can utilise 4 entry and exit points on site. Start time will be 8:45am and finish time will be 3:15pm;
- On Day 1 Y3 will arrive at 8:45am and Y4, Y5 & Y6 will arrive at 9:30am. This will give us some time to support the new Y3 pupils as they enter the building for the first time. Everyone will then arrive at 8:45am from Day 2 (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept);



- Wrap around care will not be open in the first week. We are hoping to open this up in Week 2 to a small number of pupils who use the provision on a daily/regular basis to keep the group a consistent number;
- Year groups will operate as 'Bubbles'. They will need to socially distance from pupils within other year groups during the school day;
- Pupils will need to wear uniform- there should be no need for daily cleaning at this point;
- Pupils will need to bring their own named water bottle every day. They will also be allowed to bring a coat and bag (not too big please as this will make it difficult to store them);
- Pupils will not be allowed to bring in any stationery from home. Each pupil will have their own set of stationery provided by school. This will include everything they need;
- Y3 & Y5 will have playtime and lunchtime together. Y4 & Y6 will have playtime and lunchtime together. This will allow us to separate year groups outside in the school grounds;
- Pupils should be able to bring their own packed lunch.

There are many other things that we need to discuss and prepare for but I thought these were probably the things that were most useful for you as parents and carers to know at this stage. Of course, these are subject to change depending on the situation locally at the time of school opening.

This will hopefully be the final Covid-19 update letter. The next letter I send in a few weeks time will focus entirely on arrangements for September. We will also record some videos to show pupils and families how school will run for different year groups. These will be posted on our website and school facebook page. These will all start coming out after the 18<sup>th</sup> August. We will send text alerts to let you know when something new has been emailed out or posted. This letter and all other previous Covid-19 update letters can also be found on the school website.

In the meantime if there is anything that you would like to ask please don't hesitate to send me an email. I already have some questions from parents that we will cover in the next letter sent out when we have more definite information for you.

Enjoy the next few weeks and keep safe.  
Best wishes to everyone.

Mrs S Frost  
Headteacher