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September Update 5

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you are all well. I promise to keep this week's letter as brief as possible as I know there has been a lot to take in over the past few weeks. **Please read all of this letter as it contains important information about a change in timings for the school day.**

We have seen a number of children and parents in our school community go for testing over the last week. No-one directly linked to our school (pupil or staff) have returned a positive result. This means we have a handful of children self-isolating as family members are affected but no classes or bubbles have had to close. Attendance continues to be good at 97.6%. This is about normal for us at this time of the year. It is a positive picture and shows that on the whole the children are healthy and well.

We are aware however that there have been a few positive cases in Workington so are preparing for this situation occurring at our school.

Preparations in the event of Home Learning

If your child needs to self-isolate as a family member is being tested or has tested positive then we will provide work for them to complete while they are at home. This will be communicated to you via Class Dojo. We would not provide work if your child themselves is ill.

If your child's class need to self-isolate because of a positive case in their class then their classteacher will provide home learning for everyone for the period of isolation (14 days). Next week your child will bring home an exercise book that is to be used in the event of this occurring. All home learning provided will then need to be recorded in this book. Children will access tasks through our school website (as during lockdown) and record their learning in this book. Teachers will set one English, one Maths and one Enquiry & Investigation lesson each day. Some of these will involve online teaching with the Oak National Academy, a DfE approved resource for schools to use during the pandemic.

Please can you let us know if your child will have difficulty accessing the internet at home or does not have access to a device. We will then ensure that they have suitable alternative



tasks to complete. In order to ensure no pupil falls behind in their learning it is essential that we gain this information.

We know that periods of home learning can be stressful for families so our teachers will do their best to provide suitable tasks and provide daily support for you and your child through Class Dojo.

Timings for the School Day

Following close monitoring from the school leadership team and governors and discussion with some parents, Ashfield Infants and Workington Academy staff we have decided to slightly alter the timings for the start and end of the school day. We will now stagger timings for each year group in an attempt to ease congestion around the school gates and the crossing. It is important that everyone keeps to these timings in order to make it work.

Morning:

Gates and doors will be opened 5 minutes before each year group's start time. Before that time will not be any staff from that year group out on the front to supervise. There will be a senior member of staff on the front from 8:35am. Please bear this in mind when bringing or sending your child to school. Please ensure they do not arrive too early as this may lead to groups gathering by the gates.

Afternoon:

The new timings will allow for a gap after the Academy pupils have left the surrounding area before parents/carers of pupils in Y3 and Y4 need to arrive on site to collect children. We have noticed that this is what has caused the greatest amount of congestion and anxiety over crowding. Many Y5 & Y6 pupils walk home without an adult so they will leave first. If pupils in these year groups need to wait with you for a younger sibling then please ensure you are there on time to meet them and stand in the appropriate zone. Collection zones will still be the same place as they are now.

NEW TIMES- FROM MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

| Year Group | Gate/Door open | Start Time | End Time |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Y6 | 8:35am | 8:40am | 3:10pm |
| Y5 | 8:40am | 8:45am | 3:15pm |
| Y4 | 8:45am | 8:50am | 3:20pm |
| Y3 | 8:50am | 8:55am | 3:25pm |

We are hoping that as we are making our end times later this will then not clash with pick up times from the Infants school and so make collection easier for those parents that need to visit both schools.

Thanks again for everything that you are doing to support us to keep everyone safe. This is clearly going to be a marathon not a sprint and we have a long way to go yet before school



life returns to 'normal'. I have reminded all children this week about the contents of the Home-School Agreement and we are having a particular focus with them on trying not to touch each other when playing outside and making sure they wash their hands correctly and for long enough. It will really help us if you can go over those things with the children at home too. We are thankfully now moving towards ensuring our focus is on the children's learning as the new school routines and procedures have become embedded.

Best wishes to everyone.

Mrs S Frost
Headteacher

