



High Street, Workington, Cumbria CA14 4ES
Tel: 01900 604565
admin@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Mrs S Frost
www.ashfieldjuniorschool.co.uk

2nd March 2021

Spring Term Update 1

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you all well and coping with the continued strains around lockdown, home learning and working from home. Hopefully there is now light at the end of the tunnel as we are in a position to welcome all pupils back into school again. This is something that we are greatly looking forward to even though we know it will continue to be a bumpy ride.

There is a lot in this week's letter. Please take time to read it carefully.

School opening control measures

School will be open to all pupils on Monday 8th March with the same control measures in place that we were working with before Christmas. This will include staggered start and end times, staggered playtimes and lunchtimes, increased hand washing and sanitising, increased cleaning, keeping groups separate through working in bubbles and staff use of masks around school. Additional measures for the next few weeks until Easter will also include classes being kept separate for eating lunches by using classrooms and the hall.

The main reason for operating as class bubbles is in order to reduce the number of contacts that pupils and staff are having within the school day so that if there is a positive case it reduces the number of people needing to isolate. We feel that this is the best course of action to take for now although this will undoubtedly place restrictions on staffing, support for pupils and may have some impact on our ability to operate our normal curriculum and school day.

Pupils can bring in their school bag with the necessary things they need- water bottle, reading book & diary, hat/gloves, coat and packed lunch if needed. Please continue to fill up water bottles at home as this reduces transmission risk at the water machines.

Ventilation is a key control measure and as it is still on the cool side we are recommending that pupils come with an additional layer on top of their uniform to wear in the classroom when the windows are open. This could be a hoodie, fleece, gilet or jumper- any colour is fine.

Curriculum & Well-Being

We know that the last few months have put additional strain on everyone's well-being so in order to ensure our curriculum accounts for this we have produced 10 Guiding Principles that will inform our planning and provision for the rest of this school year. This document can be found at the end of this letter and we hope it goes some way to reassure you that our priorities are the right ones for the coming months. We know that learning has been disrupted but we also know that children can only learn when they are feeling safe and secure and their basic health (physical and mental) needs have been met.

Staggered Start & End times

We still need everyone to be really tight with timings at the start and end of the day so that year groups can be sent home in a staggered way to avoid contact. Please can we ask that if you are collecting your



children at home time that you are on site for the designated times only, please don't arrive too early or gather at the gates afterwards. This way we can ensure that contact between groups is kept to a minimum. Please also continue to drop your child off at the main external gates and not come on to site in the morning. Y3 and Y6 will still use the pedestrian gate. Y4 & Y5 will still use the vehicle gate.

Timings:

	Y6	Y5	Y4	Y3
Gate open in the morning	8:35am	8:40am	8:45am	8:50am
Morning start time	8:40am	8:45am	8:50am	8:55am
Finish time (please do not arrive more than 5 minutes before if possible)	3:10pm	3:15pm	3:20pm	3:25pm

Lockdown Rules

Please can we also ask that everyone continues to stick to the lockdown rules. As children return to school and the weather improves it may be tempting to allow children to go out to play together after school or visit houses but until restrictions are lifted we all need to continue to keep households separate. Until 29th March the restrictions around social contact remain:

‘People will be allowed to leave home for recreation and exercise outdoors with their household or support bubble, if they are eligible for one, or with one person from outside their household.’

Symptoms of Covid-19

If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a temperature or a change to/loss of sense of taste and smell) please ensure your child gets tested and the entire household stays at home until the test result is known.

In addition, if any of our staff or pupils tests positive for COVID-19, please be aware that public health may advise us to ask pupils to get tested and isolate with a wider range of symptoms, including: headache, diarrhoea, severe fatigue and sore throat. I will let all parents and carers know immediately if we need to do this.

We appreciate that with all of the above measures in place school remains to be far from ‘normal’. We are anticipating that the next few months will continue to be challenging as we manage staff absence and possible bubble closures due to positive cases. We would like to ask you for your continued support (which has not wavered over the past 12 months) to help us with this. We will only get through this challenging time if we continue to work together. Your support, help and understanding makes such a difference to the staff. It really does keep us going!

If you have any concerns or queries about the return to school please don't hesitate to contact me on head@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk. If you have a child that has been affected by anxiety or bereavement over the past two months then please could we ask that you let us know so that we can ensure we have the right support in place for them when they return to school.

Enjoy the week, let's hope that sun keeps shining and we will see you all on Monday 8th March.

Best wishes
Mrs S Frost
Headteacher





Recovery Curriculum- 10 Guiding Principles

March-July 2021

The full impact of the pandemic on pupil's emotional, social and academic development is unclear. The impact will be different on each individual pupil in our school. In order for us to ensure that we plan and deliver the curriculum that our pupils need it is important that we always consider the following principles.

1. Our school is individual. There is no 'one size fits all' approach to what will work in every school.
2. We know our pupils and our families better than anyone else. We will be brave to make the choices that we feel are right for our community.
3. Our curriculum will still continue to focus on our priorities of character development and global awareness. These are still priorities for our setting.
4. Our curriculum will give time. Time to develop socially and emotionally through time to talk and play as well as time to re-cap and revisit learning in key areas.
5. Our school day will be at the right pace to allow pupils to have time to reflect on their learning, not rushed and overloaded. We know that cognitive overload does not lead to secure learning.
6. There will be time in each day to focus on our mental and physical health through exercise, fresh air and reflection.
7. Our curriculum will still offer a breadth of learning opportunities and will not be focussed on English and Maths. All pupils need to feel success in the areas they enjoy and are confident in. Art, Science, DT, Music and PE are key areas for us all to develop good mental and physical health.
8. Decisions around interventions and additional support will be evidence based. Formative assessment will be used to identify pupils who need specific support and planned intervention support that follows will consider evidence around the success of those interventions (e.g EEF toolkit and reports).
9. Each child has a different experience of lockdown. Some have engaged fully with home learning, some have continued to attend school, some have not engaged. Our job is to support all children to be confident, curious learners and re-engage those that need it.
10. 'Every interaction is an Intervention' (Treisman 2017). We will remember that even though as staff we are also struggling we will remember that every interaction we have with a child is an intervention and can have a positive or negative impact. We will look after ourselves so we can look after our children.