



Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Re: Re-opening of school for all pupils 8th March 2021

Firstly, I hope that you are all well and are making the most of your last few weeks of home schooling? The weather has been pleasantly mild, so I hope that you have managed to get out and about for a bit of fresh air and exercise?

The government has announced that Nursery and Primary schools will fully reopen from 8th March 2021 but as you would expect, we will be re-opening with continued restrictions in place. Although the scientists and the government are confident that it is safe for schools to return, there will still be a need to be vigilant to prevent unnecessary spread and recurrence of the virus.

Children who are currently in Nursery -Y6 will return to school on **Monday 8th March**.

Parents of children due to start Nursery will be contacted over the next few days to be given a start date for their start to school and their settling period.

I write to explain what you can expect from us and what we will expect from all of our parents and carers. I hope I have included everything, but if you have any questions please do of course ask via phoning 020 7727 7727 or by contacting the usual email address – info@apsafederation.com.

Attendance.

Attendance will be mandatory from 8th March, as the government expects all children to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we'll be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

If your child has been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, please let us know. We believe that the government is due to pause this guidance on 31st March so we will expect all children shielding to return after this date.

However, if you receive clinical or public health advice that your child should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance.

Safety measures in School.

When your child comes into school, we will have a number of protective measures in place in line with the Government Guidance.

Start and finish times for each year group

In order to maintain social distancing and hopefully speed up parents' movements, we will revert to the gates for 'Entry' and 'Exit' in KS2 playground and the Nursery playground that we established in the Autumn Term. Our timings will also remain the same:

Our timings and entry points are:

6	8.50am	3.00pm	Sirdar Road 'Entrance' gate	Sirdar Road 'Exit' Gate
5	8.50am	3.00pm	Sirdar Road 'Entrance' gate	Sirdar Road 'Exit' gate
4	9.00am	3.10pm	Sirdar Road 'Entrance' gate	Sirdar Road 'Exit' gate
3	9.00am	3.10pm	Sirdar Road 'Entrance' gate	Sirdar Road 'Exit' gate
2	9.00am	3.10pm	Entrance in Gorham Place	Nearest exit (KS2 playground or Nursery)
1	9.00am	3.10pm	Entrance in Gorham Place	Nearest exit (KS2 playground or Nursery)
Reception	9.00am	3.00pm	Nursery entrance	Exit in Nursery Playground
Nursery	9.00am	3.00pm	Nursery Entrance	Exit in Nursery Playground

Drop off and pick up.

In order that timings at the gates work, we ask that parents arrive a few minutes prior to their child's starting time and remain socially distanced in their queue outside school and we ask that parents continue to wear masks when they enter our playground and school building.

Nursery and Reception Parents should walk their children through the Nursery gate to their drop off points and wait until their teachers are ready for their classes

Y1 and Y2 parents should enter through the gate in Gorham Place and walk their children to their lines.

KS2 parents may walk their children into the playground or they may drop them at the gates if they prefer. We ask that parents (one parent per child) drop off /pick up their child at the stated time and leave immediately unless they have another child to drop off/ pick up.

It goes without saying that we will be asking parents to follow **social distancing guidance** in place elsewhere.

Colour badges

Year group
6
5
4
3
2
1
Reception
Nursery

I remind you that your child should be wearing a coloured badge every day on his or her uniform. It is really helpful for us as it enables us to quickly identify a child within their year group and ensure that they are in the correct 'bubble' when they are in the playground /dining hall etc. Therefore, please take the badges off when you wash the jumper or shirt and put them back on again each day. A reminder of the colours is here

Hand washing and sanitising

Children and adults will be reminded to wash hands and sanitise regularly:

- when they arrive in school
- when they have taken coats and bags to class
- entry to different rooms – eg, computer suite, music room
- after going to the toilet
- after each playtime
- before and after lunch
- after playing with any balls/PE equipment
- at the end of the day

Social distancing

- Children will be in their class 'bubbles' of up to 30 whilst inside the building and in year group bubbles for lunchtime and in the playground
- Children will have staggered playtimes and lunchtimes in order to maintain these year group bubbles within a given space in the playground
- Whilst primary children are not expected to stand 2 metres apart, we will still talk about 'sensible distancing'
- Children and adults in school will not generally be wearing masks except in specific situations with individual children who find it hard to social distance or when administering first aid or looking after children who are ill
- Adult visitors will be restricted within school but those that come in will be asked to wear a face mask in communal areas
- Children will share resources within their class/ year group bubble
- Any resources that need to be shared across year groups will be cleaned in between sessions with anti-bac/ viral spray or wipes

Uniform and belongings.

Uniform

- Children will be expected to wear full uniform – including correct school shoes; and full PE kit with trainers when they have a PE lesson
- For the rest of this term, we ask that all children wear their PE kit with their school jumper on top to school on their PE day – and children do not need to bring their school uniform. In case you have forgotten, PE days are:
 - Monday: Y1 and Y2
 - Tuesday Reception and Y3
 - Wednesday Y6
 - Thursday: Y5 and Y4
- KS2 children need to bring trainers for the day that their class has the running track:
 - Y3: Monday
 - Y4: Wednesday
 - Y5: Tuesday and Friday
 - Y6: Thursday

- Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will not need to bring or wear PE kit on the day they have circuits as they will do that in a hall and take their shoes and socks off – but only on the day that they have PE with Matt

Purchasing School Uniform.

If you need to buy new school uniform before the children start back, please remember that there is the option to 'click and collect' via ParentMail.

N.B. The office will only be open **9.30-2.00pm** week beginning 1st March if you have ordered uniform and need to collect it.

Other belongings

Children will be allowed to bring their named school bag containing a bottle of water, home learning/ reading book, trainers and a coat. No other belongings from home should be brought into school. If you have school reading books and home learning books at home, please bring to school. If you have borrowed a school ipad or other technology, please return it to school on the first day.

Lunches

In order that we can maintain children in year group bubbles in the dining hall, we will continue with the system in place earlier this term: Reception and Nursery children will have a hot meal every day, but all other year groups will have a hot lunch one week and a sandwich lunch (which can be eaten in classrooms) every other week.

Water

Children should bring a labelled bottle of water each day as the water fountains are not in use.

Breakfast Club

We are currently making plans to arrange Breakfast Club and once again this will be in 3 x Breakfast Club bubbles. Please note, we are unable to staff a Breakfast Club bubble for each year group so breakfast club bubbles will be 'across year groups'.

Extended Club

We are currently making plans to arrange Extended Club and once again this will be in 3 x Extended Club bubbles. Please note, we are unable to staff an Extended Club bubble for each year group so Extended Club bubbles will be 'across year groups'

After- school clubs

We are allowed under the guidance to run after- school sports clubs which will be held outdoors but currently there will not be any indoor clubs. The sports clubs will be in year group bubbles and will run for 2 weeks only - week beginning 15th March and Week beginning 22nd March.

Playtimes

Children will play in Year Group pods in specified areas of the playground. Children will be allowed to play with playground equipment allocated to their 'bubble' – such as balls, racquets and skipping ropes. The usual playground expectations will be enforced and children will be reminded that physical contact is discouraged.

Class trips

There will be no school trips which require public transport this term; this will be reviewed for the Summer Term. There may be trips within walking distance and there will also be

visiting workshops to the school. For any trips that do take place, a risk assessment will be undertaken and necessary precautions related to Covid-19 will be adhered to.

Swimming.

There will be no swimming in the Spring or Summer Terms.

Assemblies/ Performances.

We have not planned any assemblies/ performances in the hall for parents for this term. We will review for the Summer Term, and if we are still not allowed to have multiple visitors in school, the classes that have not done so already this academic year will prepare a class assembly which will be recorded and sent to parents via ParentMail. We will update you on this next term.

Visitors to school

- We will be allowing a limited number of visitors to school and it goes without saying that anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 will not be permitted on the premises
- There is a limit of 2 visitors in the school office at any one time and anyone waiting is asked to queue outside in a socially distanced line
- Parents wishing to meet with teachers would be expected to make an appointment and we would need to arrange a ventilated space to meet at a time suitable to both parties

Children will be informed of revised measures in place

All class teachers have been working on a series of lessons to ensure that children will be aware of our new expectations and most importantly, what to do if they are worried. The teachers will repeat the sessions as often as they are needed and the children will have lots of time to practice and get used to the new 'new normal'.

If a child is struggling to maintain his or her distance, we will work together with parents and the child in order that we help them to understand the significance of getting too close, holding hands, hugging, playing roughly, being too physical etc.

Staff Members and Covid

A number of staff members have now had Covid or had the vaccine and so should have anti-bodies

School staff are undergoing Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) twice each week at home to test for Covid. If any staff member tests positive, he or she will self-isolate for 10 days

What will happen if a pupil or staff member develops symptoms of Covid-19 at school?

- If a pupil or member of staff develops symptoms, they will need to go home and request a test for Covid-19
- At this point, their 'bubble' and members of staff who have had contact with the person will remain in school
- If the person tests negative, they will return to school as soon as they feel better
- If the person tests positive, they need to inform school
- We will inform the year group and staff members concerned and they will need to go home for 10 days to self-isolate

- If a person tests positive, family members would need to self-isolate and we would inform the local health authority and seek advice as to any other necessary steps
- If a person tests positive, the classrooms and relevant areas would all undergo a deep clean before further use

Risk assessment

We are still updating our full and comprehensive risk assessment. As soon as it is finished and agreed by Governors and RBKC Health and Safety team, we will publish it on the website.

Our curriculum from 8th March

Although there will need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we shall still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum.

Our curriculum if a year group bubble has to be sent home

There will be a contingency curriculum prepared for children for 10 days – a mixture of hard copies of learning which will be sent home with the children and also some online learning. I so hope that this doesn't happen again (!) but if it does, there will be a daily Zoom call, some work posted daily on Oak Academy and SeeSaw and teachers will feedback daily. You will now know very well what to expect!

Pastoral Support

We are aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our children.

Please let us know if you think that your child might need extra support when returning to school, such as if they feel anxious about coming back or they're experiencing bereavement. You can get in touch with us via our email: info@apsafederation.com to do this.

Our current plans to support your children's wellbeing during this time are:

- There will be opportunities during the first two weeks of term for all children to be able to ask questions and discuss any anxieties through the sessions we have prepared re 'returning to school after Lockdown'
- We will be encouraging health and well-being and physical exercise throughout our curriculum
- The school will continue practicing the mindfulness programme 'MindUp' which helps children to self-regulate their emotions
- Parents will be encouraged to talk to school staff if they are at all concerned about the emotional health and well-being of their child
- We will be encouraging children to attend after-school sports clubs as we are all aware that physical exercise is so good for our emotional/mental health

And finally

Thank you for the incredible support that you have shown to your children and the school over the last 8 weeks of this term and 10 days from last term.

Although we will be explaining everything very carefully to all year groups, it would be helpful to us if you can discuss the contents of this letter with your child prior to the 8th March so that they are as prepared as possible.

We look forward to seeing you on the 8th March at the correct times and lining up in the correct places outside the school gates but if you have any questions, please email them to us at the usual address. We obviously will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to updated government advice.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katy Blackler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Katy Blackler
Headteacher