

26th February 2021

Welcome to this weeks newsletter.

We are delighted that the children will be returning to school on Monday the 8th of March following the Prime-minister's announcement this Monday. They have all worked so hard during lockdown and we are very much looking forward to being together again. Through our welfare calls to families this week it is of course understandable that some will be feeling anxious and apprehensive about the full return however we have in place the best possible safety measures to ensure a safe return of all children and staff. We know that the children are very much looking forward to coming back and seeing their class friends and teachers.

Our plans are being finalised for the full return and the details are in this newsletter today. If there are any queries at all parents can of course make contact with teachers through Class Dojo or alternatively you can contact us by email on info@alexandrapark.oldham.sch.uk , **text** us on 07786201169 or alternatively you can **phone** the school on 0161 770 8321.

Our safety measures

Rest assured that we're doing everything we can to make sure our children can return to school safely. The following protective measures to keep everyone safe have been reviewed and updated on our full school risk assessment. Details of the full risk assessment has been published on our school website, please click the link below to view this document.

<http://www.alexandrapark.oldham.sch.uk>



Journey to and from school

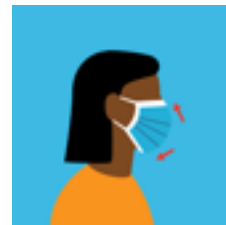
We will be continuing with the staggered start and finish times for children in each year group. (Simpler information regarding this is attached to this newsletter). It is vital that parents bring and collect their children at these times to support minimising contact. In line with our 'Collecting Children Policy' we expect children in years 3 and 4 to be brought to school and collected by one adult. We are already aware of children in years 5 and 6 who have permission to walk to school on their own. If this has changed please do contact the school to inform us.

Year group	Start Time	End Time	Lunch Time
Year 3	8.45am	2.45pm	11.30-12.15pm
Year 4	8.55am	2.55pm	12.00-12.45pm
Year 5	9.05am	3.05pm	12.30-1.15pm
Year 6	9.15am	3.15pm	1.00-1.45pm

We encourage one parent only to bring and collect their child and that parents maintain strict social distancing whilst waiting in the carpark area.

Please can all parents and children follow the one way system.

Parents and carers **MUST** wear a face mask when dropping off or picking up their child/ren. This is part of the governments measures to protect everyone. We thank all parents for ensuring the safety of our school community.



We will not be allowing parents into the school playground unless they have an appointment to see a member of staff, or any emergency. The staff in the school office will be available to respond to any queries, so please continue to contact us as you have in Lockdown.

We encourage parents to avoid public transport as much as possible, if this is not possible please read this guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Equipment that children can take to and from school

It is important to limit the amount of equipment that children bring into school and avoid the sharing of items. Children can bring in their packed lunch and a water bottle (this must be filled up at home before school). All this equipment will be taken home each day after school and brought back the next day. In school children will have their own equipment stored in their tray and any shared equipment will follow strict hand washing and cleaning regime - please see the school risk assessment.

School Uniform

Uniform is expected to be worn and we ask parents to support us in ensuring that clothes are cleaned regularly throughout the week.

To reduce the number of items brought into school from home, children will be asked to wear their PE kits to school all day on the day they have PE.

The PE times for each year group are:

Classes	Days
Year 3	Mondays and Tuesdays
Year 4	Class 4 Tuesday Class 5 Monday Class 6 Wednesday And Swimming
Year 5	Tuesday
Year 6	Class 10 Friday Class 11 Wednesday Class 12 Thursday

Other Important Safety measures

We are following rigid health and safety precautions in terms of regular washing of hands, on entry into school, at relevant times of the day, and before going home.

Cleaning Staff are cleaning the main areas of the school buildings, including handles, light switches, general surfaces, toilet areas and frequently touched areas throughout the school.

Ventilation in school is also another important element.

Children will remain in class bubbles throughout the day and this will include during break times and lunchtimes as specific zones are allocated in the playground for each bubble.





Current expectations for clinically extremely vulnerable children

Clinically extremely vulnerable children are not required to attend school and can shield at home until further notice.

We will of course provide remote education to children who are unable to attend school and their absence from school will not be penalised.

For children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), they do not have to attend school and should have a letter from the NHS or the GP confirming this – with no new letter required to prove this if one is already held.

Please do inform school if your child has received this letter, although we will already be aware of children's individual health needs.

School Dinners

In order for the children to safely have their lunch we have doubled the amount of time required in the hall to allow class bubbles a separate sitting and additional cleaning periods between each sitting. School dinners still remain at the price of £2.40 per day.

Breakfast Club (Owl Club) September 2020

Breakfast Club will be open from 8am on Monday March the 8th. If parents/carers wish for their child to attend this very important club then please ensure that you complete this very quick form by Wednesday of next week to ensure that your child/ren receive a place. Mr Clarke will be in touch at the end of next week to confirm your child/ren place.

BREAKFAST



<https://forms.gle/5nSioLan1moLqwcM6>

After School Clubs/Trips

For the time being we are not going to have any extra-curricular provision available due to children crossing year group bubbles. This will however be under continual review once children are back into school and in new routines. We have however worked very closely with our Swimming provider 'Starfish' and we are able to take small groups of children for their statutory swimming lessons. We have a start date for April the 20th so hopefully the year 4 children will be able to resume their swimming lessons.

Supporting Pupils Mental Health and Wellbeing

During the first week of children's return to school we will be gathering information about their views on returning to school. We will use this information to plan some personalised PSHE sessions and interventions to ensure children have a good transition back to the classroom.



The Curriculum

Across Key stage two we will prioritise identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics), identifying opportunities across the curriculum so that children can read widely, and develop their knowledge and vocabulary.



We will continue ensuring that our curriculum is engaging and broad and balanced so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the rest of the year, including sciences, humanities, music and the arts, physical education and sport, religious education and languages.

We will also focus the rest of this year's RSHE teaching on the immediate needs of our children, including health education and be introducing a more comprehensive RSHE programme in September 2021. Although we are well on the way in training our staff in this already.

We will continue teaching music, dance and drama as part of our school curriculum, especially as this builds pupils' confidence and supports their wellbeing.

Children Symptoms

To help identify possible outbreaks of COVID-19 and reduce transmission we ask parents to notify us immediately if their child tests positive so we can consult with the Health Protection Team.

If your child presents with any Coronavirus symptoms, including a headache, cold symptoms, aching limbs or a stomach upset, then please access a test, self-isolate and only return to school after a negative test result and when symptom free for 48 hours or after their 10 day isolation if positive.

Children may only display minor symptoms for a short time and seem to be back to their normal selves after a couple of hours but still be positive and infectious.

If anyone in your household is unwell with any Coronavirus symptoms they should access a test and all household members should begin to isolate immediately.

It is important to be informed or reminded that around 1 in 3 people have no symptoms and could spread Coronavirus without realising it. Government advice is that everyone should act as if they have the virus, even if they do not show symptoms. Anyone can spread the virus so please remember: Hands, Face, Space.

A reminder to parents to send any results to us directly regarding COVID test results. This email is covid@alexandrapark.oldham.sch.uk

If you receive a negative or positive result anytime please email the details to the above. The sooner we are informed the sooner we can allow your child back into school (if they are attending school).

We thank all parents for the immediate responses we have had already. You have certainly worked with staff to support the safety of children and staff with high levels of communication.

Lateral Flow tests for staff

All adults working within school, no matter their role, are eligible to take part in the Lateral Flow Testing program. Adults take 2 tests a week. Lateral Flow

Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. Due to the frequency of these tests, they are effective at identifying individuals with early stages of infection.





Home learning:

Should children be required to isolate due to COVID-19, we will continue providing remote home learning. This may take two different forms:

If the whole “class bubble” is isolating it will be similar to how it was during the recent National lockdown, with “live” sessions.

If an individual child is required to isolate then work will be provided that matches the curriculum but not every session will be broadcast “live”.

In both instances, where children are required to isolate but are well, they will be expected to continue work at home to ensure they keep pace with the curriculum.

Attendance

Attendance back in school will become mandatory across all phases from the 8th of March – and the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

Parents’ duty to secure their child’s regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age).

The ability to issue sanctions, including Fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities’ codes of conduct. Although we will of course be working with families and their individual context as we have done previously.

A Final Message

We wish to thank all our children and their families for being such superstars over the past few months and it has been so wonderful to hear how hard you have been working at home. It has been fantastic to see and hear about the creative activities that you have been involved in. Thank you to our parents in helping support your child/ren at home, we know families have enjoyed the calls from teachers and thank you for your messages of support for staff. We will continue to work closely for the best interests of all our children. I also wish to thank such a great team of staff who have gone over and above to ensure that our families are safe, have access to free school meals, have devices and technical support to access remote learning, have maintained the school building and safety measures and continued to provide a high quality on line learning education for all our children, plus much much more.

Together we get through these most difficult times.

Let’s look forward to being back together again safely on Monday the 8th of March, I know the children really want and need this.

A huge thank you from Mrs Seabright and all the staff at Alexandra Park Junior School, we are really looking forward to seeing and being with our children once again.

