



Head Teacher: Mr Chris Tofallis

12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will all be aware, the Prime Minister this week outlined plans for schools to start opening to some year groups from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. The plan is to open school for the children only in Reception and Year 1. This is a conditional plan which will remain under regular review. As a school we will follow the guidance of the Department of Education to ensure that we keep our children, staff and families safe. We receive a daily update from the Department of Education and have prepared a strategy and risk assessment for our reopening.

As parents and carers you will of course have many questions and my aim in this initial letter is to answer some of the questions you may be thinking. We will update you weekly in regards to our school opening. The safety of our pupils and staff is paramount and we will be fully prepared for our school to eventually reopen.

Currently we look after our vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers, as well as setting home learning for all our year groups.

At the moment our plan is to open our school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 as long as the government agrees it is safe to do so. This will be only for the Reception and Year 1 children. To ensure safe social distancing, everyone on site will have to abide by the 2 metre rule and no class groups will be larger than 15 pupils. The Reception children will be based either in their Reception classroom or in the Hall. The Year 1 children will be based either in their classroom or in one of the Year 2 classrooms. Again, all groups will be taught with a maximum of 15 pupils at one time. The groups will be led by the Teacher, a High Level Teaching Assistant or a Teaching Assistant.

The times will be slightly staggered to aid with social distancing in the playground during the busy periods.

Reception opening times: 8.50am Register and 3pm pick up.

Year 1 opening times: 9.05am Register and 3.15pm pick up.

We strongly recommend that only one adult drops off your child to school and to always be aware of social distancing and the 2 metre rule at all times in the playground while walking to and from the class. Children should not be running ahead of any of the adults at any time. The climbing frame and adventure playgrounds are completely out of bounds at all times at the moment.

On their return to school, the children will predominantly focus on well-being lessons and activities with their teachers and peers. Pupils will be kept apart as previously mentioned and will be based in their set area with their set adults. The pupils will also eat in their class areas. We will steadily build on a return to our school curriculum.

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We understand that some parents may be anxious about any return to school and we totally understand this. Our staff are here to support the children and as a school we will understand if you may not be ready to return straight away in June. Our staff will call/ email all our Reception and Year 1 parents before half term, so that we can know how many children will come back to school on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 and plan accordingly. We all miss you and look forward to seeing you again and as I have stated earlier, safety and health are the most important factors. If any pupil is unable to attend school from Reception and Year 1 the teachers will email and upload the school work they would have missed onto Purple Mash. Please understand that during this difficult time our staff will be focussed on the children present and will focus on the lessons set for the school day. Any pupil who misses school but completes homework on Purple Mash will have their work acknowledged.

This is part of a phased return for schools. This will not be easy, especially as we will have more classes eventually return. There will be staggered entry as more classes are introduced and even a shorter timetable going forward in September, if government guidelines state that we can only have 15 pupils in one class. With the reintroduction of Reception and Year 1 pupils we are able to accommodate the structure set but this will also be reviewed. We will also do our best to ensure social distance measures are adhered to by the children.

On our return to school the well-being of our pupils and staff is vital and as Head Teacher I will do everything that I can to ensure school life is a positive experience once again. This will of course take some time and adjustments will have to be made. We would like to reassure you that the school will once again be deep cleaned before school reopens to our Reception and Year 1 children and all areas will be cleaned on a daily basis in the mornings and afternoons.

Social distancing measures to combat this hidden virus are so important. Please ensure all rules and guidelines are followed on the school site at all times. If you need to send a message to the teacher please do so via telephone or email the office [office@ashmoleprimary.org](mailto:office@ashmoleprimary.org) 0208 361 1881. It will be difficult to talk directly to staff face to face given the current climate and I thank you all for your understanding with this matter during this difficult time. We need to protect each other and be socially aware.

The children will have their own seating places and will be allocated their own zip folder with resources to use for the rest of the term. They will not need to bring anything to school except for their water bottle. School uniform is required as always and if anyone has any issues please speak to the school office.

Our staff team will contact all Reception and Year 1 parents in the coming days. I will keep all other year groups up to date if and when there is a planned return for Year 2 and Year 3 pupils towards the end of June or even early July 2020.

Many thanks and best wishes.

Mr Tofallis

Head Teacher