



Alfred Street Junior School

Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 9YS

Web site: www.alfredstreetjunior.org

Email: head@alfredstreet.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Telephone: 01933 353762
Fax: 01933 355955

Headteacher: Mrs K O'Connor
School Business Manager: Mrs Debbie Heffernan

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Return to school for all pupils on Monday 8th March 2021

The time has finally come for us to be able to welcome all of the pupils back to school, and we cannot wait to see them all again! I fully appreciate what a challenging time the last few months have been for all of our families and want to thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and support. I know for some of you, this time spent home educating your children may have highlighted to you some of the areas of difficulties that your children may have in certain aspects of learning, and I want to reassure you that we will do everything possible to ensure that any gaps are filled and to ultimately get them to where they need to be. Over the next few weeks, the teachers will be re-establishing where the children are currently in their learning, and will start to put some additional support and interventions in place, where needed. This information will be shared with you after Easter. I think it is also important to keep in mind that children learn at different rates and the quote bellows sums this up perfectly, so please try not to worry about any differences that you may have observed. What is important is that going forward, we continue to work in partnership to support the children in their education.



When the children return on Monday 8th, they will need to bring back to school their **Powermaths books, any completed work and any devices that have been loaned by the school. They will also need a named water bottle, their ASJS PE kit and to be wearing their school uniform. As part of the uniform, they will need a school jumper, this is essential as we will need to have the windows open to improve ventilation, as advised by the Government.** We ask that the children's clothes are washed regularly to limit any spread as much as possible. As the weather starts to warm up, the children may bring items such as hats into

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school. Please ensure that any clothing items fit into your child's bag and are clearly labelled for them.

Upon return, many of the practical arrangements that we had in place in September will continue, in order to try and keep our school community as safe as possible. We will also continue to be guided by the Department for Education and the Government, and as restrictions are eased, we will re-evaluate our procedures in school. Below is a reminder of the procedures that will be in place.

Class Bubbles:

Classes will continue to only mix inside together in their classrooms and will continue to have their playtimes and lunchtimes separate, until further notice. Children will not be expected to maintain social distancing within their 'Bubble', as is recognised in the Government Guidelines, but it will be encouraged when possible. However, by ensuring classes only have the opportunity to mix within their own class, this limits the number of other children each child can come in to contact with, ensuring that there is as little disruption as possible, if we are to have a confirmed case of COVID in our school community.

Staggered School Days

Please continue to follow the same routines that were put into place back in September, and to follow the one-way system around the school, when on the school grounds. It is essential that children do not arrive at school before their allocated time, unless your child is attending our 'Before School Provision'. The school gates will be locked at 9.00am, please ensure that your children are on time, in order avoid any mixing of Bubbles having to come in through the main office. In addition, please use the entrance and exits allocated:

Year Group	Entrance/Exit	Arrival Time	Finishing Time
3	College Street Y3 Playtime door from playground	8.45am	3.25pm
4	John Street 4/5 Playtime door from playground	8.45am	3.25pm
5	John Street 4/5 Playtime door from playground	8.55am	3.35pm
6	College Street Y6 Playtime door from playground	8.55am	3.35pm

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If you have children in more than one year group, siblings may go into school at the earliest time slot in the morning, through their own class entrance. At home time, please collect the earliest child first and then wait in a socially distanced way around the edge of the playground for your other child(ren).

Children should not travel to or from school with other children or with another family unless they are part of the support bubble or provide child care. Only Year 6 will be permitted to attend and leave school by themselves, once a permission form has been signed.

At the end of the day, adults will be allowed to wait on the playground if they are wearing a face covering, to collect their children at the allocated time - one adult per family only please. Please do not sit on any of the benches or allow children to use the play equipment. **Parents/Carers must maintain 2m from each other on the playground and outside the school gates! If you have younger siblings with you, please keep them by your side and do not allow them to run around on the playground, as this puts others at risk.**

We ask that you only speak to staff face to face if the matter is urgent and you must maintain 2m when doing this, if it is not urgent, please phone/email the school office.

Before School Provision and Clubs:

Our before school provision will continue to operate and children will be seated in their year group 'Bubbles' and social distancing maintained between 'Bubbles' and with Staff. Parents and carers are required to book for our Breakfast Club or Early Morning Provision, as we are unable to handle money and we are required to limit places to enable social distancing. All provision must be booked via our online booking and payment system, ParentPay. We will also be operating after school clubs in class 'Bubbles' and these will resume after Easter. Our music lessons will also continue after Easter. Further information will be sent to you.

Face Coverings:

The staff at Alfred Street will continue to wear face coverings when moving around school and in communal areas. Staff will also have the option to wear them in class, if they choose. Pupils will still not be able to wear a face covering at school, as per the Government Guidance. We ask that parents continue to support the school by wearing their face coverings when moving around the school site. This is to keep our staff safe, as well as other adults and children in our school community.

COVID Symptoms and Confirmed Cases:

It is essential that if your child, or anyone in your household displays any COVID symptoms, that you all remain at home until you have had a COVID test and have received a negative result. Please do not send your child to school if someone in your house is awaiting a test or

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results!

If you keep your child off school for a test, please keep the school notified at all times, regardless of whether this is during school time, or at the weekend. This will enable us to be prepared to act as quickly as possible if needed.

Any child within the school that shows any of the signs or symptoms of Covid19 will be isolated and the parents contacted. **It is essential that for the foreseeable future, parents ensure that they answer all phone calls made by school and that someone is available to collect as soon as possible.** The member of staff looking after the child at this time will be required to wear PPE. Any adult that shows signs or symptoms of Covid-19 will remove themselves from the building and return home immediately. The member of staff will be asked to attend testing and remain away from school until the results have been gained. All areas where the child or adult was located will be thoroughly cleaned by staff wearing appropriate PPE and all staff and children will be removed until the areas are suitably clean for them to return.

If there is a need to close a Bubble due to a positive case, we shall contact Public Health England with all relevant information and gain information as to the next steps. If we are advised to 'close a Bubble' we will contact parents/carers of any children that are directly affected and the whole school community will then be sent a letter to notify them. The Bubble will then be required to work 'remotely' until the isolation period comes to an end and this provision will be very similar to what has been in place since January.

If your child has other illness symptoms that are not linked to COVID, please follow the usual process of reporting your child's absence.

Home Testing:

From Monday 1st March, households with Primary School, Secondary School and College age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from 8th March. These tests are self-administered and a result is provided within 30 minutes.

Please see the information below from the Government Guidance which can also be found on the following link: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_source=1+March+2021+C19&utm_medium=Daily+Email+C19&utm_campaign=DfE+C19&fbclid=IwAR0E0tbd92Yi16RcgW31Ab7wAlJpYrNPexwg3x5x-GiGCCGet5ui3mukfCs

Attendance:

From Monday 8th March, it is a legal requirement for pupils to attend school and parents cannot keep their child off school due to any fears of Covid-19. Any specific individual situations or circumstances should be sent into school in writing, ideally via email to

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Therefore, all children are expected to return to school. The only exceptions to this are if:

- a child has a written report from a medical professional that recommends that they should continue to shield;
- your child is unwell (including symptoms of or a positive test for COVID-19);
- your household has been instructed to self-isolate;
- you are quarantining after a trip abroad.

All absences must be reported in accordance with our [Attendance Policy](#). Unauthorised absence may result in a penalty notice being issued.

All school guidance is on the DfE website please use the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Our risk assessment is available upon request and we do have various links and information on our school website that may be valuable to read. We must carry on working hard collectively to provide a safe environment for everyone connected with Alfred Street Junior School. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at head@alfredstreet.northants-ecl.gov.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you all on the 8th March.

Mrs K O'Connor
Head Teacher

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