

Headteacher
Mrs Alison Reakes-Williams



Astley C.E. Primary School
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Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear Parents,

Whole school opening information from 8th March 2021

Following recent announcements, I write to confirm how we plan to re-open school safely, full time, for all pupils from Monday 8th March. This is in line with the Government [guidance](#) issued on Monday 22nd February.

Our thanks go to all parents who have been overseeing home learning during the lockdown. However, I am sure we are all looking forward to everyone being able to learn in school again. From 8th March, school attendance becomes mandatory for all pupils.

As we re-open fully, we will continue to be vigilant around our system of controls and practices, following all the guidance carefully, to keep everyone safe. All of the systems in place during the Autumn Term continue until the Easter holidays, when there will be a further review.

Our controls and practices are as follows:

Handwashing and respiratory hygiene remains a high priority and will be supervised throughout the day. We will continue to enhance our cleaning practices to ensure tables, toilets and touch points are cleaned frequently. Children will use one designated toilet for their class group during the school day, with frequent cleaning taking place of the cloakroom areas.

Children will be taught in their separate classes with no mixing between classes permitted. Part-time teachers and PE coaches will move between classes observing social distancing, where practicable. Key Stage Two children will be encouraged to stay socially distant from each other.

Children will continue to sit on tables facing the front using their own designated stationery items in a school pencil case. **Home school children must bring their pencil case back to school with them on 8th March.** Resources such as sports and play equipment will not be shared between classes, unless washed and quarantined.

Children must wear full school uniform, and bring in the usual equipment (outdoor shoes, PE kit, Forest School clothes, reading books). The sharing of equipment will be minimized, between home and school, by using Teams for homework submissions in Key Stage Two.

Sadly, no whole school events, PE or singing will take place indoors and parents will not be allowed into school. Lunches will continue to be eaten in classes with separate break times and outside areas.

Stay and Play will be available for all and booked in advance. It will continue to run exclusively in the School Hall with class groups kept separate whilst playing inside. Clubs will not run until further notice. Parents should note that the guidance states families should *'only use one out of school childcare or extra-curricular provider as far as possible.'*

Our staggered starts and finishes remain in place with parents dropping at the top gate in the morning and children lining up on the drive. Parents should socially distance on the school drive to collect pupils please, and avoid standing at the top gate, where it is not possible to do so.

Worcestershire County Council

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Staff will continue to undertake lateral flow tests twice a week and wear face masks in all communal areas of school. They will remain socially distant from their colleagues outside of their class bubble, to minimize the impact of a positive case on pupils' learning.

Parents and carers should note the following:

Please keep your child at home if anyone in the household has symptoms or is unwell, book a test and self-isolate as required. Keeping our community safe relies on everyone following the rules and playing their part.

We would be grateful if you could reinforce handwashing techniques and rules at home with your children, ensuring they wash their hands directly before leaving for school and upon their return.

Family groups should drop off at the earliest time and pick up at the latest time. In the event you miss your child's entry time, pupils will need to access school after 9am, using the correct door for their class. The back footpath will remain closed.

If you have messages or enquiries, please email the School Office. Mrs Bromage is working from home and will get back to you promptly, whereas the telephone may not be immediately answered. Less urgent messages can be conveyed directly to teachers via the class emails: ash@astley.worcs.sch.uk, willow@astley.worcs.sch.uk, elm@astley.worcs.sch.uk, oak@astley.worcs.sch.uk

Having re-opened in June and September with similar arrangements in place, we know that children readily adapt and slot back into school life. We are confident that the mix of social interaction and high quality learning, delivered by our talented team, will ensure everyone is happy to be back!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do email me on head@astley.worcs.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

Alison Reakes-Williams
Headteacher

Class	Ash Class – via class door	Willow Class – via class door	Elm Class – via pupil door	Oak Class – via rear door	Stay and Play – via hall door
Year groups	Reception	Year One & Year Two	Year Three & Year Four	Year Five & Year Six	All – Stay and Play
Time in	9am	8.55am	8.50am	8.45am	7.45am to 8.45am
Time out	3pm	3.05pm	3.10pm	3.15pm	3.15pm to 5.30pm