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'At Amblecote we achieve because in our pupils we believe.'

13th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the guidance, we have received from the Government, we are now writing to provide some important information regarding welcoming **all** children back to school in September. This guidance is very extensive and as each school is different; it is important that we implement these guidelines to our individual school setting.

| | |
|---|---|
| Thursday 3 rd September | Year 2 – 6 return to school full time. |
| Thursday 3 rd September & Friday 4 th September | Reception and Year 1 stay & play sessions (at pre-arranged times). |
| Monday 7 th September | Year 1 return to school full time. |
| Monday 7 th September | Reception half days: Mrs Price's class AM & Miss Judd's class PM. |
| Monday 14 th September | Reception commence full time. |

This, as I am sure you can imagine, is a complex task, which the Senior Leadership Team, with support of the Governing Body have been working on since the release of the guidance. Once we have fully updated our Risk Assessments, we will write to you again via Parent Hub and share these with you all, to explain the measures we have put in place as a school.

Attendance

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, the Government made it clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for **all** children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

It will also be vital that all contact details are up to date in case we need to contact you and that if your child is ill, that you contact the school before 9:30am and provide the reasons why.

If your child displays any symptoms of the virus, we will must be informed and will provide support on how to be tested and then take appropriate actions based on the results of the test.

Grouping the children

The children will be grouped in classes and then into larger bubbles, within their phases. Bubbles will not mix with other bubbles, and we will be able to forgo social distancing between pupils within classrooms, so that we can accommodate all pupils.

This arrangement will also ensure that we can tailor our curriculum to meet the needs of individual children, by grouping them for certain lessons, such as phonics and maths, rather than adopting a 'one size fits all' approach, which for many pupils - after having missed so much time in school - will not support them in the most appropriate way.

Bubble 1 – Time for Twos

Bubble 2 – Pre-School AM

Bubble 3 – Pre-School PM

Bubble 4 – Reception

Bubble 5 – Year 1 & 2

Bubble 6 – Year 3 & 4

Bubble 7 – Year 5 & 6 – including the Learning Cave

There will be staggered drop off and collection times for these bubbles and there will also be staggered playtimes and lunchtimes during the day to ensure that children in different bubbles do not mix.

A detailed information table and map of the school identifying classrooms and drop off and collection points, will be shared on Parent Hub, our school website. As these maybe difficult to read on a mobile device, we will endeavour to get a paper copy to each family as well – this week.

As a result of these measures, there will be no assemblies and opportunities to come together as a school. We will also be putting on hold plans we had to for educational visits and open sessions for parents in the Autumn Term. Parents' evenings have been planned for October (more details in my final newsletter on Friday) but it is important that we recognise, it may not be possible to hold these.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

Due to the organisation of the children into bubbles, we are unable to have breakfast and after school club in the mobile on the field. For the time being, these clubs will be moved to the hall and the children will be kept together in the bubbles that they are in the day.

The drop off and collection point will be the fire exit of the hall.

Handwashing

As we were implementing before the enforced lockdown period, we will be insisting on frequent and thorough hand hygiene. This will be achieved through frequent opportunities to for children and adults to wash their hands throughout the day and using the hand sanitisers points regularly suited throughout school.

Uniform and PE Kits

When the children return in September, they will all be in full uniform – Grey trousers or skirts, red jumpers or cardigans, a white shirt or polo shirt and black, flat sensible shoes. Year 6 will also need to wear a red tie.

One change that we have planned for next year, is that children will come to school in their PE kits and trainers on the days that they have a PE lesson. The children can wear their black shorts and white T-shirts, and then wear their jogging bottoms and top over the top of these. We ask that children simply keep a pair of black school pumps in a drawstring pump bag, in school, at all times on their peg.

Swimming in Year 3 and 4 is currently postponed until at least the Spring term.

| Class | PE Lessons and days to come to school in full PE Kit. |
|--------------------------|--|
| Reception (both classes) | Monday & Wednesday |
| 1M | Monday & Friday |
| 1/2C | Monday & Friday |
| 2M | Thursday & Friday |
| 3P | Monday & Thursday |
| 3/4S | Tuesday & Wednesday |
| 4H | Monday & Wednesday |
| 5K | Tuesday & Wednesday |
| 5/6F | Tuesday & Thursday |
| 6PB | Wednesday & Thursday |

Snacks and Drinks

As a school we have yet to receive information on whether children will be able to receive free fruit in Reception and Key Stage 1 classes. We also know that KS2 tuck that is normally for sale at playtimes, is cancelled for the time being.

As a result of this, it is important that ALL children are sent into school with a healthy snack to eat mid-morning. We ask that **no products that contain nuts are sent in to school**, as we have children in school with severe life threatening allergies.

It is also important that **ALL children have a water bottle**, which is clearly labelled with their name, so that there is no confusion and pupils do not drink from other children's bottles.

Lunches

On the first two days back (Thursday 3rd September & Friday 4th September) children will need to bring a packed lunch. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals (you have received a weekly voucher) or they are moving up to Year 2, you can place an order for a free grab bag. To do this you need to email newsletter@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk with your child's preference of cheese, jam, tuna or ham.

Hot meals will commence on Monday 7th September, however, due to the current circumstances there will be a more limited choice. (see menu up to October half term below) Children will order and pay for their hot dinners in their classrooms each morning (£2.40 per day – this can be paid daily or weekly – cheques made payable to Dudley MBC).

AMBLECOTE SCHOOL MENU

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Main meal | Quorn Bolognaise and Garlic Bread | Chicken Wraps V Cheese Savoury | Fish of the Day Or Sausage | Quorn Curry Sweet Potato Curry | Pizza |
| Options | Jacket Potato Or Grab Bag | Jacket Potato Or Grab Bag | Jacket Potato Or Grab Bag | Jacket Potato Or Grab Bag | Jacket Potato Or Grab Bag |
| Vegetables | Carrots | Wedges Sweetcorn Beans / Spaghetti Hoops | Creamed potato Peas, Carrots, Gravy Beans / Spaghetti Hoops | Mixed Veg Rice, Naan | Chips Sweetcorn, Beans |
| Salad | Daily selection | Daily selection | Daily selection | Daily selection | Daily selection |
| Dessert | Manager's choice* Hot dessert and custard | Manager's choice* Hot dessert and custard | Manager's choice* Hot dessert and custard | Manager's choice* Hot dessert and custard | Manager's choice* Hot dessert and custard |
| Daily Choice | Yoghurts Jelly Cheese and Biscuits Fresh Fruit | Yoghurts Jelly Cheese and Biscuits Fresh Fruit | Yoghurts Jelly Cheese and Biscuits Fresh Fruit | Yoghurts Jelly Cheese and Biscuits Fresh Fruit | Yoghurts Jelly Cheese and Biscuits Fresh Fruit |

*Managers Choice – cheesecake/muffins/biscuits/flapjack/ice cream/mouse

Medication

As has always been the case in school, children who need epi pens and / or inhalers will need to bring their medication (2 of each type of medication) in school on the first day that they return.

If your child is sent to school without these, we will be unable to allow them to stay in school as this is potentially life-saving medication.

We ask that parents ensure that each piece of medication is in date and clearly labelled with the child's name.

As a school, we are really looking forward to welcoming back your children. We will be placing a strong focus on everyone's well-being and ensuring that the children feel safe, settled and happy as soon as possible.

We recognise that this maybe an anxious time for many children and parents, but we are all here to help and support. As always we want to work together to make the transition back to school as smooth as possible for all.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school office on 01384 818335 or email info@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will get back to you.

Many thanks for your understanding, patience and support,
Mrs Cook & the Senior Leadership Team.