

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been so proud with how well our students have settled into the new school year. There may still be many challenges facing our community and our country as we move through this pandemic but inside Dickens, we have created our 'new normal'. The school is calm and purposeful, our pupils are hardworking and focused and we are doing everything we can to keep each other safe.

As you will all be aware this Thursday the country will be moving into a national lockdown. This is because Covid infection rates are continuing to rise rapidly in England. Amongst other measures, it means that households can no longer mix indoors. However, we are delighted that the government has said that schools will remain open. This is vital to ensure that your child's education is not further affected by the impact of Covid.

However this does mean that our safety measures are more important than ever.

To this end please note the following amendments to the daily routines at Ark Dickens

- All pupils to attend school in their PE kit on days when they have sports education. See grid below for your child's allocated days. Pupils will remain in their kit all day.

Year group	PE days
1	Wednesday / Friday
2	Monday / Tuesday
3	Monday / Thursday
4	Wednesday / Thursday
5	Monday / Tuesday
6	Wednesday / Friday

- Book bags only need come in to school one day a week (Monday). Reading books will be replaced and sent home for the week. No other bags should be bought into school. The only exception is lunch pails/bags.
- **All parents are kindly requested, with immediate effect, to wear a face mask when on the school site for drop off and pick up. This helps us all to stay safe.**
- Please note that no groups of parents are permitted to congregate on the school site. We ask dropping-off parents to keep moving in keeping with our one-way system. Additionally, the trim trails are designated zones and must **not** be used by children before or after school
- Only one parent may access the site to drop off and collect their child/children
- The staggered drop off pick up schedule is in place to safeguard us all. Please adhere to the times set.

Year Group	Start of day	End of day
Nursery am	8:20	11:20
Nursery pm	12:20	3:20
Reception	8:50	2:50
Year 1	8:30	3:00
Year 2	8:40	3:10
Year 3	8:40	3:10
Year 4	8:30	3:00
Year 5	8:40	3:10
Year 6	8:30	3:00

We are determined to do what it takes to keep our staff and pupils safe and to keep Ark Dickens fully operational. At this stage the government have been clear that they will keep schools open but if this changes and we are told to close we have robust learning plans in place.

Whatever we have ahead of us we will face it together and do all we can to keep our children happy, safe and learning.

Kindest regards,

Fiona Chapman

Principal