



Ark Dickens Primary Academy

2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Dickens, a new academic year and hopefully, a little more back to normal!

I am writing to inform you of some of the COVID-19 arrangements we will have in place at the start of the new autumn term. The key changes are:

Social Distancing

There is now no need for staff and parents to socially distance but we would urge still being sensible and not standing up really close etc.

Bubbles

There are no longer bubbles. Children can mix freely again but we are taking a staggered approach to reintegrating the whole school back together. Adults can cross into classrooms and work spaces.

Dfe guidance states that there is no need to self-isolate as a close contact if you have been double vaccinated. Children also do not need to isolate due to contact at that point, this means that we should not have to close 'bubbles' if there is a positive case of covid. People who are positive with Covid themselves will still need to isolate but this will not affect the rest of the pupils.

Around the Site

Due to the success of the one way system, we are maintaining the one way system around the outside of the school building for now as it is organised, helps with a calm and orderly environment and creates less congestion outside Y3 classes.

Clear signage in and around the school will help to reinforce the routines and rules.

Hygiene Procedures

All children **MUST** continue to sanitise hands as they enter the classroom. They will also as a class build regular hand washing into the school day for– particularly after the toilet, before/after food and after coughing or sneezing.

Hand washing with soap and hot water (as hot as you can stand it) for at least 20 seconds and drying hands with paper towels is the most effective way to rid of any potential germs/virus that may be on your hands. holding hands with or touching a child

Hand sanitiser is available at all entry/exit doors and in all communal spaces.

Face Coverings

The government has removed the need to wear face coverings on school premises. However, they recommend that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not usually meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school. We appreciate that some staff and students may wish to wear face masks at school, and they can do so if they want to. **Close contact tracing**
Schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19, and this will be led by NHS Test and Trace.

Start of the Day

The start of the day is returning to 8.30am for all children. Lessons begin at 8:45am

Breakfast club will begin on the first day of term. All children will enter through the front reception area and be located in the KS2 hall. If you require a space please email info@arkdickensprimary.org

We are still trying to minimise mass gatherings on site initially. Soft starts will help with this as parents will be encouraged to drop at the main entrance gate from 8.30am. Parents of younger children may still wish to accompany their child to the classroom entrance which is fine.

KS2 children will be encouraged to walk into school themselves from the side entrance where teachers will be waiting at the classroom doors.

Children will arrive at the following entrances daily:

Nursery – entrance and exit through the nursery gate only

Reception/ Year 1/ 2 – Nursery gate and through Reception gate and parents exit through Windy Alley

Year 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 – main reception gate and parents exit through Windy Alley

End of the Day

The end of the day is returning to 3:10pm for all children.

Clubs will resume week beginning 13th September.

Parents will collect children from external class room doors. Year 5 will be dismissed from the library door. Year 6 will be dismissed from the Muga door

Parents will move through the one way system to collect all their children.

Quick, general handovers to be given and anything more specific needed, the teacher will arrange a phone call later that day to feedback.

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory.

Playtimes and Lunchtimes

We will continue to have separate playtime for lower and upper KS2.

KS1 and Reception on own playground.

All lunch is eaten in the hall.

PE

PE remains a priority. On PE days children will continue to wear their kit to school for the day. If a child has an after school club requiring PE kit they will get changed after school.

Year group	Day of the week to wear PE kit
Y1	Thursday

Y2	Tuesday
Y3	Wednesday
Y4	Tuesday
Y5	Thursday
Y6	Wednesday

Communication

Email is to be used as the main source of communication between parents and the school alongside text messages.

The school email is: info@arkdickensprimary.org

Uniform

All children returning to school R – 6 are expected to wear full uniform as normal including school shoes and no jewellery.

Assemblies

We are holding key stage assemblies currently and will re-evaluate this in Spring term.

When assemblies are in the hall, year groups will each sit in straight lines facing forward.

Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak at the school or in the local area, we may be advised to reintroduce bubbles and face coverings and may be asked to support NHS Test and Trace with close contact tracing. If this becomes necessary, we will communicate this to you.

COVID-19 testing

Testing remains essential in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within our school community.

We will continue to encourage staff to take rapid lateral flow tests twice a week during term-time and the holidays if staff are on site.

Isolating if travelling from abroad

Keep in mind that you and your family may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. You should plan your trip so that any self-isolation should also fall within the school holidays.

The government can change the red, amber, green classification of countries on short notice. You will need to respond to the latest rules on international travel, even if you have already left the UK, while also minimising the impact on your child's education. You can find out more about the travel rules here: www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england.

Where possible, we will provide remote education for students unable to return from abroad due to COVID-19 travel restrictions while they are abroad.

Staying safe

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. If you are worried about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk> or by phoning 111. There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19, do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds

- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

We will continue to ensure students have regular handwashing opportunities: before and after eating, after breaks, changing rooms etc. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school, and we will make sure that children wash their hands often. The school will continue with enhanced cleaning arrangements, paying particular attention to surfaces that are regularly touched. We will also keep spaces well ventilated and will not allow anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to enter the site.

I hope this letter offers reassurance to the measures we are keeping in place to ensure a safe start to the autumn term.

We all recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that everyone has had to make, so we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.

We are very excited at the prospect of some normality in September.

Yours Sincerely

Laura Berry

Head of School