

Acomb County First School

Main Street, Acomb, Hexham, Northumberland. NE46 4PL

Tel: 01434 603870

E-mail: admin@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk

www.acomb.northumberland.sch.uk



Headteacher Mrs. Beth Clarke

28th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to confirm the arrangements we have made to open from Wednesday 2nd September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their patience whilst we have finalised plans over the summer break. We hope you have had an enjoyable break and are feeling well rested and refreshed. Staff have enjoyed some time off and are really looking forward to welcoming all children back in September.

From September all children are required to attend school and normal attendance procedures will apply once more. Children will need to attend school full time unless they are unwell. Please call the school office on 01434 603870 from 8.30am to notify school of your child's absence and also the reason for the absence. Please notify school before 8.50am where possible. If your child usually attends breakfast club we would ask that you still notify the school office of the absence.

Protective measures we are taking in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible to all children, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our school.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for full reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend school. That includes children and staff who work here. For details of the specific symptoms to be aware of and what to do if someone in your household has symptoms, please see this link. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>
- Keeping our children in class groups called 'bubbles', with as much consistent staffing as possible and minimising contact with other groups around the school.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands. We will do this by making sure that the children wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds, using running water and soap, the children will also dry them thoroughly. The children may use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser to clean their hands, ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the school.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children. We will also limit drop off and collections to one parent or carer per household.

- Asking children not to bring in items from home, with the exception of a coat and a school book bag. Please note packed lunches can be brought from home, although we'd prefer children to have a school lunch where possible.
- Keeping classrooms well ventilated and making the most of outdoor learning.
- Children will have their own stationery and equipment and will be encouraged not to share or swap equipment.
- Child toileting arrangements will be carefully regulated.
- Where a member of staff needs to provide personal care, e.g. first aid, they will do so using PPE.
- Strict social distancing of 1 metre plus is acknowledged by the government to be impractical for primary and early year's children. However, distancing is still important and therefore children will be not be able to get too close to each other or staff.
- Children will come to school in school uniform / PE kit /Forest school kits according to their timetables to minimise changing and the swapping of clothes. PE kits will not need to be stored at school.

What can parents and carers do to help?

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help us make these arrangements effective, in addition to the points listed above, we have outlined below our requirements for arrival and departure.

The advice from the Department for Education is to stagger drop off and pick up times to avoid gatherings at pinch points, such as gates and narrow paths, this also aids social distancing.

Please bring your child/children onto the yard. Your child will then be guided to their teacher to line up in their class bubbles. Siblings will also be able to line up even if it is earlier than their allocated class slot. Where possible, we need to minimise contact between parents and staff, therefore we ask that you contact school via email or phone if you have any messages or questions.

Initially, Reception parents will be permitted to bring their children into school via the ramp and into Reception class. This is to ensure children have a smooth and settled handover to Miss Dunlavy and Miss Eames.

Timings for the beginning of the day are as follows:

- Reception - from 8:45am (Please take your child straight into Reception class via the ramp)
- Class 1 – 8.50am
- Class 2 – 8.55am

Please arrive promptly, observing social distancing measures where possible. There will be a number of notices around the entrance as reminders.

Children will be escorted into school via separate entrances to keep the class 'bubbles' separate.

Our timings for the end of day are as follows:

- Reception - 3:05pm
- Class 1 - 3:10pm
- Class 2 - 3:15pm

It will follow a similar routine as the morning and all classes will be with teachers on the yard. Please come onto the yard, teachers will send their children over to you one a time. Older siblings in other classes will also be permitted to leave at the same time as their younger siblings.

To ensure the safety of all staff, children and parents, please do not let your children run around on the yard or mix with other children as this may cause 'bubbles' to mix. Please exit the yard as soon as you have collected your child/children to reduce the risk of gatherings or congestion at the school gate. We really appreciate your cooperation and understanding with this.

We will be in touch again before the beginning of term to confirm PE days for all classes and forest school days for Reception and Class 1 to help you plan the uniform timetable.

On Wednesday 2nd September - the first day of term **all** children will be required to wear normal uniform, we expect forest school sessions to commence the second week of term.

I hope that this letter has given you the information that you need to understand the arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us safely in September. We are looking forward to welcoming your children back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all in our school. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know on the contact details below.

Email: admin@acomb.northumberland.sch.uk

Tel: 01434 603870

Best wishes

Mrs Clarke