



Tuesday 25th August, 2020

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A detailed letter was sent out on 6th July, which included our plans for the September return. I have included these points again, below.

Plans for September Return

As you may have seen, the Government has announced that **ALL** children will return to school, full time, in September. We have already put plans into place, to ensure this is done, as safely as possible. This includes a number of steps, some of which are set out below:

- **The first step** of these plans has been to devise and implement a complete risk assessment of the whole school building/grounds to ensure all potential hazards are controlled to the best of our ability. This has been continually amended to reflect any new concerns. This also includes a full step-by-step guidance document produced by the local authority, for all schools to follow, should a case of Covid-19 be identified in school.
- **The second step** is a staggered return: this is only in two halves, but will allow for the youngest children to adapt back into school life, while the building is not at full capacity. **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** will return on **Wednesday 2nd September**. The rest of the school will return on **Monday 7th September**. **Nursery children have already received individual start dates.**
- **The third step** involves a half-hour slot for dropping off children and picking them up. This reduces the risk of families coming into contact with each other at these very busy times. From September, you will be able to drop your child off any time between **08:30 and 09:00** in the morning and collect them at any time between **14:45 and 15:15**. Late charges still apply after this time.
- **The fourth step** incorporates a one-way system into, and around, the school grounds. During drop-off and pick-up times, you must enter the school grounds, via the small gate between the bungalow and the nursery, on **Nobby Stiles Drive**. This will take you on a one-way path to dropping off your children at their own class door, where you must leave them and continue out to the front of the school, finally leaving via the main entrance gate on **Livesey Street**. All classroom doors will be open from **08:30**, so there will be no reason for anyone to stand around in the playground – **this is forbidden**.
- **The fifth step** is to ensure our wrap-around care can run safely within the risk assessment measures. Both Early Bird and Night Owls will continue to run, but the hall will be sectioned into year group bubbles. This reduces the contact between children, to a minimum. Children arriving to Early Bird, must be brought in via the main entrance gate, and can only arrive between the times of **07:30 and 08:20**. After this time, they must enter the school via the one-way system, from **08:30** onwards and go straight into their classroom, with everyone else. Any children in Night Owls will be collected from the main reception area also, via the main entrance gate on Livesey Street.
- **The sixth step** in minimising contact will be staggered play and lunch times. We are lucky to have a very large playground, so year groups will be allocated their own space for breaks. However, because we only have one small hall, it is impossible to get 240 children through a lunch sitting under the current social distancing conditions. Therefore, during lunch times, children in Year 1 to Year 6 will eat in their classrooms, with their own teachers. EYFS will eat in the hall. Children will then go outside for play, in their own class 'bubble'. During Autumn 1, children will be receiving a healthy packed lunch: this will be varied with children having a choice of breads and fillings each day. Lunches will also be

IT IS VITAL THAT YOUR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL – PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NO HOLIDAYS ARE TO BE TAKEN DURING TERM TIME.

NO AUTHORISATION WILL BE GIVEN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

accompanied by fruit, snacks and a drink. Once we have all of the results from the parent survey, a menu will be sent out of what the children will be receiving. If you have not yet contributed to the survey, please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Q5HSLN2>

- **The seventh step** is to reduce the number of after school activity clubs. We want to ensure the children receive some form of extra-curricular activity, but this will be limited to 2 per week for each year group, 1-6. EYFS clubs will begin in autumn 2, as usual. The list of clubs will be sent out in September.
- **The eighth step** involves a contingency plan, should we be affected by a local lockdown. This includes how we will continue to support the learning of all children and will be shared with parents, should such an event take place.

School Uniform

All children must wear full school uniform from September. Red school jumper/cardigan; white polo shirt; black or grey pants/skirt and full black shoes or trainers – no other coloured stripes or markings. If you need to order uniform, please drop Janet (j.warrington@abbott.manchester.sch.uk) or Jackie (j.melling@abbott.manchester.sch.uk) an email and pay via your ParentPay account, once it appears on there.

New Routines

Because of the current Covid-19 situation, there have been/will be enhanced cleaning procedures in place, some of which include the following:

- Over the holidays, a professional cleaning company was hired to deep clean all areas of the school. Our own cleaning staff will keep on top of this, on a regular basis.
- Cleaning of individual learning resources has now been timetabled into the school day.
- Children will also share the responsibility of managing their own individual resources: this will be age appropriate.
- Children will have regular timetabled opportunities for handwashing.
- New hand sanitiser stations have been installed in each classroom: children will be reminded to sanitise, each time they enter and leave.
- Social distancing will be encouraged, where appropriate. This will also be built into the children's learning. Each week, the current issues around the virus will be addressed, again at an age appropriate level.
- ALL STAFF WILL BE OBSERVING 2M DISTANCING, WHERE POSSIBLE.

As well as implementing these physical controls for managing Covid-19, I am hugely aware of the detrimental effects it has had on our children's social and academic development. For this reason, I would like to reassure you that all staff will be taking a consistent approach to settling the children back into a more 'normal' way of life. Our approach will be to focus on the children's well-being at all times; implementing a patient approach, taking one day at a time and listening to them. By meeting all of the children's needs in this way will, in turn, enhance their academic achievement over time. This will enable them all to catch up and to reach their full potential. We do face a significant challenge here, but I can assure you we have a fully committed staff, who ready and waiting!

Unfortunately, at this time, we are not allowing any parents or visitors into the school building. This is another way of keeping our school community safe, and restricting the transmission of Covid-19. If you have any questions, please email your child's class teacher, who will respond in good time. If a more in-depth conversation is needed, they will call you to discuss the issue further. If you wish to contact myself, please email head@abbott.manchester.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Wilson

Important Dates

- Wednesday 2nd September – School opens for **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**
- Monday 7th September – School opens for **all children (nursery children have individual start dates)**
- Friday 23rd October – School closes (half term)
- Monday 2nd November – School opens (Autumn 2)