

Ashdon Primary School
Ashdon
Saffron Walden
Essex CB10 2HB
Telephone: 01799 584219
www.ashdon.essex.sch.uk
admin@ashdon.essex.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr. S. Rance



26th June 2020

Re: Coronavirus/COVID-19

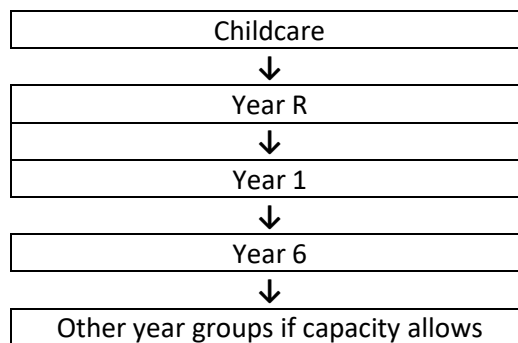
Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are all safe and well.

I am writing to explain our school's position with regards to pupil's returning back to school before the end of the summer term, particularly following the Government decision this Tuesday to reduce the social distance to 1 metre + in wider society.

The DfE has written to schools to explain that whilst they hope this reduction in social distance can allow additional pupils to return to school this term, that the group sizes must not exceed 15 still.

The Government still prioritises children's return to school in the following order:



From next Monday we will have 13 Year 6's attending school (they will be based in the school hall) and 5 Year R's and 1's. Our childcare numbers vary day to day, dependant on demand.

With the social distance reducing to 1 metre, I had hoped to merge the children who have been attending the childcare back into the classes. This would have allowed some of Year 3 and 4 back to work with Mrs Jarman. However, we currently have 4 Year 5's attending childcare, so they cannot all join the Year 6 group and keep the total group size under 15. This in turn means that we will continue to need the childcare group to function in the way it does now.

I know this will disappoint many parents and children who were hoping to return to school before September.

The Government and the Local Authority has made it clear that schools may finish the term early for Year R, 1 and 6, to allow other year groups to return for a short time before the summer holidays. In the rest of this letter I want to spell out what we are going to do.



Childcare – This will continue until Wednesday 22nd July. As per current arrangements, your child should arrive via the front entrance at 9:00 am and be collected at 3:10 pm. If your child is part of this group, they will not be able to participate in the transition activities listed below, as this would mix ‘bubbles’. The childcare offer will cease on the last day of the summer term.

Year 6 – Those children coming to school, will continue to do so until Friday July 17th. This will be their last day at Ashdon, as we will be using the last 3 days of term for transition activities for other year groups.

Year 5 – Unless your child is attending the childcare provision, they are not allowed to return to school at the moment. All Year 5’s **at home** are invited to attend a transition day with Mrs Lunn on **Monday 20th July**. They should arrive at 9:20 am and be collected at 3:30 pm via the school gate.

Year 4 - Unless your child is attending the childcare provision, they are not allowed to return to school at the moment. All Year 4’s **at home** are invited to attend a transition day with Mrs Lunn on **Tuesday 21st July**. They should arrive at 9:20 am and be collected at 3:30 pm via the school gate.

Year 3 - Unless your child is attending the childcare provision, they are not allowed to return to school at the moment. All Year 3’s **at home** are invited to attend a transition day with Mrs Jarmain on **Monday 20th July**. They should arrive at 9:10 am and be collected at 3:20 pm via the school gate.

Year 2 – Children attending the childcare provision will continue to do so until the end of the term. As many of our Year 1 parents have chosen to keep their child at home until the end of term, we can offer a short time in school in a small group with the Year R’s and Year 1’s:

Y2 Children with a surname beginning with the letters A – G: Your child can attend school between Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July. Your child should arrive at 9:10 am through the school gate and be collected at 3:20 pm. Please let the school know if your child will be attending or not.

Y2 Children with a surname beginning with the letters H – Z: Your child can attend school between Monday 13th July to Friday 17th July. Your child should arrive at 9:10 am through the school gate and be collected at 3:20 pm. Please let the school know if your child will be attending or not.

All Year 2’s **at home** are invited to attend a transition day with Mrs Jarmain on **Tuesday 21st July**. They should arrive at 9:10 am and be collected at 3:20 pm via the school gate.

Year 1 and Year R’s – Those parents who wish their children to be at school at the present time, have their children in school. All Year 1’s and Year R’s **at home** are invited to attend a transition day with Miss Foote on **Monday 20th July**. They should arrive at 9:00 am and be collected at 3:10 pm via the school gate.

Clearly this is not how we would have wanted the term to end, but we have to follow the guidance as set out by the Government and our Local Authority. I truly hope that we will be back to ‘normal’ for September and all of the children will be present 5 days a week.

Our new Reception will be receiving a letter soon detailing their transition days which will take place on w/c 7th September, as they have missed out on these due to COVID-19. We then expect to have them in Class 1 full-time from Monday 14th September.

Parents and carers will be aware that the Government has committed funding towards tutoring and other catch-up methods over the coming year. At the time of writing, we have had no firm guidance or details regarding this. Once we are able to share with parents our approach to using this funding, we will do so. However, this information will probably be sent in the autumn term.



Whilst there will be some summer camps/clubs set up across England, some with an academic focus, some with other aims, such as PE or childcare, the Government has made it clear that they view the announced funding as a longer medium-term strategy to help educate the children, rather than try to cram in 3 or 4 months of education within the 6 week summer holiday. Therefore, our school will not be opening to provide any additional lessons during this time, so the summer holiday will remain between 23rd July and 1st September. We will be having 2 Professional Development days on the 2nd and 3rd September (both Linton Village College and Saffron Walden High School have a PD Day on 3rd September too), so we will welcome the children back on Friday 4th September, so they can settle back with their new class.

If your family does decide to go abroad during the summer break (if allowed), then please take into account the current 14-day self-isolation period that is currently in place. I mention this, as I expect that the attendance legislation, that has been relaxed during the COVID-19 lockdown period, will probably come back into force in September. If your family then returns from abroad in the last few days of the summer holiday, then has to self-isolate for 2 weeks, you could find that your child/children will be given unauthorised absences, which in turn could lead to a penalty notice issued by the Local Authority. Obviously, if you plan to go on holiday in the UK, you do not need to worry about this.

I don't think many of us would have ever thought when the schools were shut down on March 20th, that over 3 months later, many of the children are still unable to attend. I realise this has put a great stress on families in many ways, whether that is through the home learning, the health of loved ones, pressures of job security and the financial worries this will bring. I also know, that whilst the Government continues to relax the guidelines that we are asked to follow, that the effects of COVID-19 will continue to be felt in the coming months and maybe even beyond.

Therefore, I would like to thank you for your understanding and support of the school and its staff during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Rance
Headteacher