

Thursday 22nd July 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

Over the last few weeks, legal restrictions linked to Covid-19 have lifted and there are changes to the way that schools should operate, whilst managing cases of Covid-19 from September onwards.

The Department for Education has sent guidance through to schools to finalise plans for how we can safely reopen to pupils in September. We have spent a great deal of time working through the document and the additional guidance released, to make sure that staff and pupil safety can be maintained to the highest level and children can all return to learning in school as a whole, with limited isolation periods and the removal of 'bubbles'.

Attendance is statutory from September, for all children, and we expect that all children attend school every day as outlined by the Department for Education. This coming year, attendance will be reported as it has done in the past.

Key reminders for Tuesday 7th September:

- School is closed to children on Monday 6th September 2021 for Staff Training
- All children need to attend their first week of school in full uniform as PE will not start until week commencing Monday 13th September 2021.
- Reception children will begin school in the first week with a reduced timetable:
Tuesday 7th- 8.50am-12pm, Wednesday 8th- 8.50am-1pm, Thursday 9th- 8.50am-2.30pm and from Friday 10th September, children will then attend school from 8.50am to 3pm.
- All Year 1 and 2 children will start school at 8.50am with registers closing at 9.05am
- Children/Parents/Carers will be able to mix on the playgrounds before, during and after school
- Children will ALL finish school at 3pm
- Enhanced cleaning measures will remain in place across school
- Visitors to school do not legally have to wear a face covering, but we will respect your preference to wear one if you wish
- Good ventilation of all spaces will be encouraged where possible
- Staff will resume twice-weekly testing on Lateral Flow from September 1st 2021

Entrance/Exit Points for all children

- Nursery children to enter/exit from the Nursery building (8.45-11.45am) (12.15-3.15pm)
- Reception children to enter/exit from Reception Doors on playground (by green fence)
- Year 1 children to enter/exit from Year 1 doors on playground (by slope)
- Year 2 children to enter/exit from Year 2 doors (by Y3 playground)

Airedale Infants is operated by Northern Ambition Academies Trust, an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales, No: 07556117 Registered Office: Airedale Academy, Crewe Road, Castleford, West Yorkshire, WF10 3JU Tel: 01977 664555.

Covid-19 Management in schools from 16th August 2021

- There are currently no plans outlined to vaccinate children in Primary Schools
- There are currently no systems in place for under Year 7's to have regular lateral flow testing, but we would suggest that if you feel your child is unwell, this is a quick way of checking it is not Covid-19
- If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 you must not bring them to school, but book a PCR test; do not send them back to school until the results come through as negative
- If a child in the class, or an adult, tests positive, the remaining children will not need to isolate unless they develop symptoms and then should seek a PCR
- Where school staff can see that a child has the recognised symptoms of Covid-19 (temperature, cough, loss of smell or taste) we can refuse entry and ask that you book at PCR
- NHS Test and Trace will take over the management of close contacts and parents will be spoken to about their close contacts directly
- If a close contact is identified, they may be advised by NHS Test and Trace to book a PCR test
- If a child tests negative on a PCR, they may return to school without the need for further tests
- Anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 must isolate for ten days, even if double-vaccinated, and await further instruction from NHS Test and Trace
- If your child needs to isolate due to Covid-19, school will provide Remote Learning as we have done throughout the pandemic and there is an expectation that unless a child is unwell, they complete this work to ensure they can keep up with their peers

We have to write an 'Outbreak Management Plan' as part of our risk assessments. An outbreak is identified as 'several cases within a 14 day period'. If we need to activate this plan in consultation with Public Health Wakefield, we will inform you of changes we may need to make. These could include measures such as the reintroduction of bubbles, staggering the opening and closing times and restricting mixing at lunchtimes. Please be reassured though that this is a worst-case scenario and hopefully, one we will not need to action.

As always, our plans are subject to change, depending on developments over the coming weeks as the Government and health professionals monitor the infection rates.

Further information will be shared as soon as we receive it. Please try not to focus on media stories as these are often inaccurate and can cause more concerns. If there is information relating to the safety of your child while they are in school, please trust us that we will let you know immediately.



Poplar Avenue, Townville, Castleford, West Yorkshire, WF10 3QJ
Tel: 01977 519281 Fax: 01977 711899
Headteacher: Mrs K Robinson
Email: headteacher@airedaleinfants.com

If you have changed your contact details recently, please update your new number via your child's MCAS and Seesaw account and we will update our system accordingly. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 7th September 2021.

Mrs Robinson
Head Teacher

Airedale Infants is operated by Northern Ambition Academies Trust, an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales, No: 07556117 Registered Office: Airedale Academy, Crewe Road, Castleford, West Yorkshire, WF10 3JU Tel: 01977 664555.

