

Poplar Avenue, Townville, Castleford, West Yorkshire, WF10 3QJ  
Tel: 01977 519281  
Headteacher: Mrs K Robinson  
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Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Protect and Educate- Supporting parents and children

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that all families managed to enjoy the Christmas holiday period despite the restrictions of Tier 3. Thankfully we were not moved into Tier 4 as much of the country were. With the vaccine being rolled out this year, we can only hope that we end 2021 in a much less restricted way!

There is much speculation and confusion in the news and media at the moment and unfortunately we do not have any further information to support you. We are all working hard to make sure we have measures in place to open as planned and it will not be our decision to close. We fully appreciate that as working parents, you need up to date information and notice to make arrangements. I can only apologise that we are not able to give this today, but wanted to reassure you we are taking steps to enhance our safety in school. This will always be our top priority: To safely educate the children in our care.

Airedale Infant School is planning to open as usual on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for all children at their usual starting times: Nursery 8:45-11:45/12:15-3:15pm, Reception at 8:50am, Year 1 at 9:10pm and Year 2 at 9am.

If your child has a planned morning booster, and the first morning back has been allocated, your child's teacher will confirm this through Seesaw on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. We can see no reason for these to change unless the government takes the decision to move all pupils to home learning.

Calls by communities, unions and health professionals are pushing Government to move children to home learning for a short period of time in-line with the schools in the South of England.

If this does become a reality, we will contact you all with the steps that we will take to make sure we have provided for vulnerable and key worker children as we did in the first school closure period, back in March 2020. This will have to be done within the directions from the Department for Education- this is frustratingly yet to be created.

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Please take a few minutes to read the safety measures at the bottom of this page. In December, we had an inspection from the Health and Safety Inspectorate who said that our current measures 'are highly effective and support the safety of all parents, children and staff'. However in the light of the new strain of coronavirus and the rapid spread of this strain, please help us by following the measures.

Enhanced measures are in **RED**

- Do not send your child to school if they have a temperature, continuous cough, loss of smell or taste.
- Please do not send your child to school if they have sickness or diarrhoea- children need to have 48 hours clear from their last episode.
- Only be on the school site for the shortest amount of time.
- Do not allow your children to play on the playground with children from other classes before and after school.
- Maintain 2m social distancing while you are on site (two shopping trolley lengths).
- **All adults are encouraged to wear face coverings when on the school site. We ask this as we have a high volume of adults dropping off and want to keep everyone safe.**
- Face covering are **mandatory** on entry to the office for all parents needing support from the office- staff reserve the right to refuse you entry without one.
- **All staff will have a temperature check on arrival to work.**
- **All children will have a temperature check when they are inside their bubble.**
- **All visitors or those attending a meeting will be required to have a temperature check.**
- We ask that parents and children take a few extra minutes to use the one way system and ensure a distance when entering and leaving site- it helps everyone.
- Be mindful of taking part in community activities outside of school, which may not support effective distancing and safety. Young children find it more difficult and may need more guidance.

Please make sure that all contact details are up to date and you have access to the My Child At School App. This will be the main source of our communication to you.

I hope we can all work together to achieve the primary aim: to protect and educate- so that school can remain open with as fewer cases of class closure as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Robinson

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