



September 2020 Extra Newsletter

Firstly I'd like to thank you. Thank you for taking on board our drop off and pick up procedures so well. We now have very little queuing and the vast majority of you have settled well into the right time slots. The result is a steady flow of people on site, giving plenty of room for all. Thank you for wearing masks! Thank you for your patience and understanding in terms of changed school routines, including not having conversations with staff before and after school. Thank you for keeping us informed if your child is isolating pending a test or test of a member of your household displaying symptoms. Your cooperation and understanding has made this process so much easier for us.

We have no idea what the next few months will bring, but together we will do our very best to ensure the safety of all, making sure that we all look after each other both physically, mentally and emotionally.

Virtual Parents Evening

After much discussion we have decided this term's parents evening meetings (Year 1 to Year 6) will be virtual using Microsoft teams. This will happen over 4 shortened sessions Tuesday 13th Oct, Thursday 15th Oct, Tuesday 27th Oct, Thursday 29th Oct all from 4:00-6:00. Teachers to Parents appointments will be released on Monday 28th September and the booking window will remain open until Tuesday 6th October, after which you will be sent an email inviting you to your virtual meeting. Don't worry if you have not got Teams on your device. We have tested the link on multiple devices including phones and tablets, and if you've not got teams all you will need to do is follow the link and instructions and it will work. These slots cannot exceed 10 minutes. If you have any concerns about this then please contact the school office.

We would like to invite Foundation Stage parents to face to face meetings, which will also be bookable via Teachers to Parents. These will take place in the covered outside area of the Foundation Stage building. We would ideally see all parents face to face but we feel that it's really important for our new parents to have the opportunity to talk face to face and see inside the classroom, as we are aware that many of you have yet been able to enter the school premises as of yet.

Virtual Harvest Festival

This year we will be celebrating Harvest in a slightly different way. Each class will record a short video, these will be collated into a virtual assembly which will be watched by all the children on Friday 30th October and then sent out to parents to view. The impact of the pandemic is being felt by so many families locally who we would like to support via Ashby Foodbank. Therefore, we are asking parents who are able, to donate non-perishable items e.g tins, cereals, pasta, etc. Plastic boxes will be placed in the playground near the main entrance during drop off and collection times on Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th October. These will then be quarantined and then delivered to Ashby Food Bank.

Remote Learning Plan & Home Learning Packs

Home learning pack- Next week every child will be sent home with a home learning pack. Each pack contains 10 maths/ literacy and topic activities. These are to be used when/if:

- Your child is self-isolating because someone in your household has symptoms / is awaiting test results / has had a positive Covid 19 test.
- Your child has Covid 19 symptoms and is self-isolating pending test results and feels well.

Please **do not** use these resources as extra homework or if your child is off school ill.

Remote Learning Plan- It is highly unlikely we will face a full lockdown as we experienced earlier in the year. There is, of course, a far higher chance of your child's class having to self-isolate for 2 weeks if a positive case of Covid 19 is identified. In light of this and Government guidance, we have been working on developing our home learning platform Seesaw.

You will be sent personal log on details for your child. All you will need to do is download the free app (which works on any device). This week and next, all classes will be having introductory sessions to help them understand how it works, our intention is then for all homework to be completed via the app. As Administrator, I can access all classes and students and it's great to see so many of our pupils in Key Stage 2 already getting to grips with it.

In the event of a class closure, your child's daily learning will be via Seesaw. This will comprise of daily literacy and maths lessons/ activities introduced by the class teacher via video/audio with work/practical activities posted for your child to complete. Deadlines will be given for when the work has to be posted back to the teacher. Teaching staff will also follow up children who have not posted their work and parents will be contacted to ensure that there are no problems. Feedback will be given either via comment/ a like/ or a personalised audio message from school staff. In the event of a class closure our expectation is that your children will be doing this school work daily. Teaching will be following on from previous class work; work will also be matched to your child's ability when appropriate. School staff will be working full time from home, posting work, assessing and feeding back to your children.

There will also be daily messages from me, and I'll be commenting on work alongside the class teacher.

I have every confidence that this will ensure a seamless learning experience for all our children in the event of class closure. It has such potential to engage learners with individual feedback, keep motivation high and clearly communicate what is expected.

The basic requirement in terms of technology is a smart phone with capacity to take photographs. There will not be an assumption for parents to print off worksheets to complete. Our aim is that any worksheet type format can be filled in electronically or used as a guide for the lesson.

Contact Emails

We strongly believe in working together for the benefit of your children. It is very challenging to pass on messages of importance while maintaining the necessary social distance, and so if you have any queries or problems with any aspect of your child's school life, then please get in contact with your child's class teacher through the appropriate Team email address below:

foundation@ks1@ashbyce.leics.sch.uk

ks1@ashbyce.leics.sch.uk

lowerks2@ashbyce.leics.sch.uk

upperks2@ashbyce.leics.sch.uk

A member of the team will check these periodically. If it's an urgent message that needs sharing that day please still ring the school office. Expect a reply in 48 hours Mon – Fri.

Staffing Update

Mrs Burrows will be taking over the role of SENCO whilst Mrs McDougall is on Maternity Leave. She has already started working alongside Mrs McDougall to ensure a smooth transition for the children

We are also pleased to inform you that we have recruited a further three lunchtime supervisors, Miss Lester, Ms McDermott & Mrs S Powell who will be joining the team shortly.

You might have noticed my absence from the playground over the past two weeks (if not I'll not be offended!). I was absent for two weeks and will be having routine surgery next Monday. This will mean that I will be off work for an estimated two weeks. Mrs Trahearn will be in charge, although to be fair, Mrs Trahearn has done the bulk of the head teacher's job so far this term! Thank you!!!! I do feel truly blessed with every member of our school team.

Immunisation Information

The Flu Immunisation program will be on Tuesday 3rd November. A letter will be sent electronically on Monday 5th October. This will require you to give consent on line. As always, it is your choice to have your child vaccinated or not.

Breakfast Club

Because of the current rise in infection rates, staffing issues and our commitment to keeping bubbles as separate as possible within school, we have made the decision to keep Breakfast Club closed for the remainder of this term. We will review at the beginning of November when we will consider a January opening.

Covid reminders – three main symptoms



If your child has:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in, sense of
smell or taste

This could be a sign of
coronavirus

Book a test

If your child has:
a runny nose, is sneezing or
feeling unwell
But they don't have:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in,
sense of smell or taste

These are
not normally symptoms of
coronavirus

Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial
111 or see your GP