



Newsletter

November 2020

[Covid Update – sorry it's a long section but very important so please read it carefully.](#)

I hope that this finds you all safe and well. I know that times have got tougher for us all in this second lockdown, but at least we have children in school this time round! It's vital we do all we can to keep our school open, for both your child's academic benefit and, as equally important, their social and emotional wellbeing. I've made a number of observations in the last few weeks. Your children are being exceptionally kind to each other, the restrictions of mixing has had the effect of classes gelling together better than before and developing a greater understanding and tolerance of each other. They are exceptional at following the new rules and are a credit to you in how they have dealt with the change and continue to do so. School continues to feel a relaxed and happy place, buzzing with life and happy children, as it always has been.

In the event of your family having to self-isolate or any positive test results outside of working hours please contact school immediately covid@ashbyce.leics.sch.uk. This email will be checked each evening, early morning and across the weekends. This will help us take preventative action as soon as possible if needed. I know that the endless guidance can get a bit confusing and at times overwhelming. Don't forget the school website has clear guidance about what to do regarding symptoms and your child attending school.

As I'm sure you are aware, both Willesley and Hilltop currently have bubbles closed. I am sure that it will only be a matter of time before we are affected. **In the case of a bubble closing we will contact you with a letter via email, and a text message alert**, telling you about your child's bubble closure. I will also send a letter to all parents informing them that we have had a positive case in school. At no point will any information regarding any members of staff or pupils who test positive be shared. This information is confidential. If we get information that the bubble has to be closed during the day we will text you with an urgent need to collect your child from school as soon as possible. If after notification of the closure of your child's bubble you send / bring your child to school, they will be sent home **immediately**. At this point we will be in touch with you about your child's home learning using seesaw.

After talking to other Head teachers today I also want to remind you what self-isolation means. Guidance states that self-isolation is for 14 days from when your child was last in school. This means that they cannot leave the house unless in an emergency. They can't come to school, go to any after school clubs, on play dates (even if they are in the same closed school bubble), take the dog for a walk or go to a playground. Other household members can carry on as normal, so siblings can come to school and parents can go to work. You should follow good hygiene processes at home and the guidance says that you should try and social distance wherever possible (although this may be very difficult with children of this age group). Obviously we can't allow children from closed bubbles to come into the school grounds. You will need to use informal child care arrangements if you are doing the school run with your other children, or ask friends/ family to take your remaining children to school. I appreciate this is going to be difficult for some of you.

Please do all you can to keep all our school open by following government guidance at all times, this will help us in minimising risks and controlling any outbreaks, if this happens. As infection rates rise in our area our challenges increase, we are likely to have several staff members who will have to stay at home due to their own children's bubbles being closed. If this becomes unmanageable then there is a small possibility that bubbles may have to close if we do not have enough staff to cover. We are trying to avoid any external staff, e.g unknown supply teachers coming into school as part of our risk management. We are incredibly fortunate that each team has their own staff area, we don't mix and all our meetings are remote whenever possible. This helps us reduce the risks of infection if any of our staff ever test positive.

Staffing

For your information, I am currently working from home and will remain doing so until the national lockdown ends on December 2nd. It's typical that as soon as I get back in the building I have to leave again!! That being said I am fully involved in the school day, meeting staff, children and parents via teams. I am fully contactable via the school office and email.

Congratulations to Mrs McDougal who has had her baby. George entered the world on November 6th, great news to make us all smile!

Remembrance

We will be holding a Collective Act of Worship on Wednesday morning to commemorate Remembrance Day. If your child wishes to come to school in their Brownie/scout etc. uniform that would be great. As you know we have been avid supporters of the Royal British Legion, collecting record amounts of money for this very important charity. This year, unfortunately we will not be doing our usual poppy in the playground. Instead we are asking for any donations, suggested £1, to be given via parent pay. I know it's not the same, but please help if you can.

Harvest

I hope you all enjoyed our Harvest celebration. It was fantastic for us to have the whole school together and was enjoyed by staff and children alike. There will be more of this to come as teams are busy planning Christmas services which will be shared with you all. More information on this will follow. Thank you so much for all your donations for the Food Bank. Your generosity was awesome.

Children in Need

I will admit that this has crept up on me! To make things as easy as possible your children can come to school on Friday in their favourite clothes or PE kit if it's your child's PE day. It can be favourite party clothes, dressing up clothes, general clothes, anything, as long as they can move about as normal! Again we've set up a £1 donation on parent pay if you would like to donate.

Ventilation

As part of our Covid precautions we are following guidance on ventilation. As the weather gets colder and windows remain open, you may want to consider an extra layer for your child under their school uniform if they have said they are feeling a bit chilly.

Thank you all for your continued support. We're all working flat out, as parents, carers, members of staff to help us move through this period of time as easily as we can. Your children are fantastic and keep us smiling !

L Powell

Headteacher