



March 2021 Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Well, I think we have all breathed a sigh of relief at the announcement that all children can return to school the week beginning the 8th March. We can't wait! I'll start with my sincere thanks again to you all. We have been so impressed with your dedication to your children's home learning. Even in the toughest of circumstances there has been engagement by all our pupils.

It's really important to keep going for the remainder of this week and next so your children are in the best place possible in returning to school. Our home learning has been progressive, with teachers delivering lessons in line with work they would have covered at school, to make sure learning moves forward as much as possible. There will be some catching up to do when we return, but rest assured that all staff will be working exceptionally hard in assessing your children and planning to ensure that any gaps are filled as soon as possible.

Seesaw has been an invaluable tool, and I know that the vast majority of you have found its layout, operation and personalisation valuable. Looking forward it will be the platform for all our homework and we are looking into other ways of using it to help you to continue to support the work we do at home.

Thank you also to all of you who have so far joined the class get togethers on teams, having spoken to staff they really enjoyed it and initial comments from parents have been positive. As always, if you would like to contact me regarding this or any other matter then please email me liz.powell@ashbyce.leics.sch.uk

Just to make you aware, as my treatment has come to an end, I will be returning to school on Monday March 22nd. I had hoped it would be March 8th along with the children. I seriously can't wait! Although I have been working from home, I would like to thank Mrs Trahearn who has taken a daily lead in school throughout my absence.

School Return

I'm pleased to announce that we will be **fully opening**, with all classes on Monday March 8th. This includes the provision of hot dinners. The government has made it quite clear that coming to school is mandatory. Our usual attendance procedures will be in place:

- You must contact school to give a reason if your child is going to be absent
- If any of your household are showing symptoms of Covid 19 you must keep your child off school and self-isolate until you have a test result. Please let school know this is the cause of absence

School will be in the same format as it was before Christmas, please remember the important points below:-

- Ensure your child washes their hands before coming to school
- Please stick promptly to your staggered start and finish times
- Masks/ face coverings still need to be worn when you come onto the school site
- If you drop off your child at the main school gate, please do not hang around the entrance watching your child get to their class entrance. This causes congestion. Your child is safe once on site, if you have concerns then please come into school with them and use the one way system.

- It is also helpful if you don't wait/ congregate on the opposite side of Burton Road by the Methodist Church, this also causes congestion.
- If there is a positive case in any bubble you will be informed of the dates on bubble closure ASAP. Your child's class will then revert back to home learning on Seesaw
- In the case of individual self-isolation because a household member has tested positive or showing symptoms, a general work pack will be available on Seesaw. There will also be a daily check in for your child. We expect work to be uploaded onto Seesaw daily and your child's teacher will respond. Paper packs will be available on request

Before and After School Provision

As you may know, our Breakfast Club and ACE after school club have not run since the start of the pandemic. We have kept this under constant review and are now starting our own 'roadmap' of reintroduction.

Ace After School Club

From Monday 15th March, ACE afterschool club will reopen. It is going to operate slightly differently.

All through the pandemic we have been very strict in keeping class 'bubbles' apart and we will continue to do so. As I'm sure you can appreciate, with 10 bubbles, the organisation of this does present us with a challenge. We need to ensure that we have put a provision in place which means if we have a positive case, all the class 'bubbles' present at the club do not have to close. I'm sure you would agree that this would be very counterproductive.

ACE club will be moved to the hall. Each bubble will have its own table with activities and children will be required to stay at this area for the duration, there will be no mixing of bubbles. The provision will run until 5pm, when children will need to be collected from the main school hall entrance.

If you wish for your child to attend ACE club then please ring the school office or email ashbyce@ashbyce.leics.sch.uk to request a link to our on line Microsoft Booking Form. You can make the booking by filling in this form which you will need to return by **Wednesday 3rd March**. This is so that we can assess numbers and create a safe provision for your children. You will be informed of your child's place on **Monday 8th March**. Fees will be added to parentpay on Tuesday 9th March. **Please note that payment must be paid in advance before Friday 12th March for the remainder of this term to secure your child's place.**

Breakfast Club

We have started with the ACE club as numbers are fewer than breakfast club and we need to see logistically how this will work first. We will be looking at both the national situation and demand for breakfast club. We are hoping to offer this from after Easter, although this may be in a reduced capacity in terms of numbers and we will not be able to confirm its opening date until closer to the Easter Holidays.

We are opening an online **registration of interest** from now, so we can assess numbers. Please request a Microsoft link by ringing the school office or emailing. These need to be in by **Wednesday March 3rd**. Please note this is only a registration of interest and does not secure a place for your child nor confirm when the Breakfast Club will open. We will be in contact as soon as we have collated the expressions of interest and planned the provision. At that point we will send out booking and registration forms and payment details.

Please help us by returning forms by the dates above. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept any late requests.

Details of times and charges can be found on the school website at <http://www.ashbyce.leics.sch.uk/clubs>

After School Sport

I'm pleased to announce that we will be running a reduced number of sports clubs with Mr Slaney. The dates are below. Before Easter these will be for individual Key Stage 2 classes only. We will assess this closer to the Easter holidays for future clubs, which we aim to open up to bubble teams as long as the governments road map of 'grassroots' sports opening is allowed.

Monday 15 th March	Miss Butler
Tuesday 16 th March	Mrs Burrows
Wednesday 17 th March	Mr Watts
Monday 22 nd March	Mrs Trahearn/ Mrs Murray
Tuesday 23 rd March	Mrs Jordan
Wednesday 24 th March	Miss Miller

These will be general skills based sessions. Please request an online booking form from the school office and return by Monday 8th March. The cost of these clubs will be £3 and will run until 4.30pm. Charges will be uploaded onto parentpay on Tuesday 9th March and Payment by Friday 12th March will secure your child's place.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on the 4th March. We'd like to remotely get in the spirit and have a day dedicated to reading, the joy of books, story times, and of course dressing up! Activities that day will be a little different from usual and staff will be looking forward to seeing photos of your children dressed as their favourite book characters. There will be more details of the activities on Seesaw. Please don't feel your child has to dress up, it's totally up you. It doesn't have to be fancy, it can be a home-made mask or anything, but again, your choice, we know home learning is difficult enough.

