

## **Welcome back to Aston Hall**

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you have all managed to make the best of the summer break and have enjoyed the additional freedoms that the lifting of restrictions has provided us with. It's my absolute pleasure to welcome the children back to school tomorrow and I can't wait to meet them all.

Today is my first official day in post as Headteacher of the school and it's been a wonderful day with the staff, they have all been busy ensuring everything is ready to go for a fantastic start to the new school year.

I wanted to take the opportunity today to provide you with a brief update about the school day, and a reminder of some of the revised measures in place that were communicated with you at the end of the summer term. I have deliberately left this update as late as I can to ensure there were no significant last minute U turns in government policy, but things look fairly stable at the moment and they appear to be sticking to their line of "Learning to live with Covid." The Wickersley Partnership Trust and Aston Hall COVID-19 risk assessments will be available on the school website shortly.

### **Changes to the start and finish of the school day:**

7:45am - Breakfast Club begins (children to enter school via reception and into the main hall where breakfast club is currently based).

8:30am – The school gate leading onto the playground will open, however we encourage children not to arrive until the start of the school day where possible. Classroom doors will be open from 8:40am for children to enter school, get organised and start their morning activities.

8:50am – Registration begins and children must be in class by this time.

2:55pm (FS2 & KS1) / 3:05pm (KS2) – School Closes and children will come home/ be collected

A member of staff will be on the main gate as you exit the school site at the start and end of the school day, this will regularly be myself in the morning.

### **Access to the School site:**

Access to school will return to normal for all children and will be along the main entrance path as pre-covid19. Nobody should be accessing the school car park at all now unless pre-approved by school or for Disabled Access. Although there are no longer social distancing measures or a one-way system in place, please give each other space when walking around the school site, avoiding large gatherings, particularly if you are stood in close proximity to a gateway/doorway or on a narrow path. Children should make their own way into their classroom ready for registration unless parents/carers need to have a discussion with their class teacher.

### **Procedures in School:**

We will continue to minimise risks in school and our priority for children will be safely returning to normal practice and as such, we will start to see more traditional classroom practices and school routines. Naturally, we will still be adhering to National and Local Guidance, however procedures for self-isolation

have now changed as you know. A useful 'self-isolation pack' from Doncaster council will be posted on dojo shortly which provides up-to-date and clear guidance for when to self-isolate. In school, protective measures such as enhanced hygiene, cleaning and ventilation procedures will remain in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. Although updated guidance specifies that face coverings are no longer required in schools, including communal areas, parents/carers or staff members are more than welcome to continue wearing face coverings if they so choose. Full details can be found on the updated risk assessment which will be on the school website shortly.

### **Questions for the Office/Staff:**

Most of your questions and enquiries can be answered by checking the school website, over the phone or by email, however, if necessary, parents/carers can visit the school office.

### **Playing your part:**

As we know, the Covid19 virus has not gone away and in order to ensure we keep everyone within our community as safe as possible, it is really important that we do all we can outside of school to minimise risk too. Being vaccinated does not mean that you can no longer transmit the disease and testing Kits can still be freely ordered to your home by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> which will provide you with the Lateral Flow Testing kits. If anyone in your household displays symptoms of COVID-19, book an appointment at a test centre for a PCR test which can be done by following the information on this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

### **School Meals:**

The updated school meals menu has been posted on dojo earlier today, with a 3 weekly rotation. We are really pleased to confirm that arrangements for lunchtime will be returning to 'normal' pre-covid procedures from tomorrow when the children return, with all children eating their lunch in the school hall.

### **Additional updates:**

You should have received a message from your child's class teacher on dojo explaining that children will need to bring P.E kits to school as normal / pre-covid on days when they have P.E and get changed, instead of attending school in their P.E kits. Normal school uniform, which adheres to policy, should be worn by all pupils in school. Due to a short first week back, children will not be receiving homework this week.

### **Thank you:**

The staff and I are really looking forward to welcoming the children back tomorrow and we've got some exciting learning experiences lined up for them this term and beyond! Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to meeting you all.

Many thanks,

Mr S Holmes  
Headteacher