

Ackworth Mill Dam School

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Friday, 23 July 2021

Dear parents,

As we approach the summer break I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your sterling support during this very challenging and unusual year. Here are the arrangements for September as they stand at the moment. If guidelines change further during the summer I will contact you again. All children will return to school on Tuesday 7th September unless staggered starts have been discussed with individuals and new nursery children.

Start and finish times, entrances

Start and finish times will return to normal for all children. This is:

- Nursery: 8.45-11.45 and 12.15-3.15
- Remainder of school: 8.50-3pm

We are going to continue trying to minimise the number of people on site and are still going to ask parents not to come into the building unless this is pre booked or essential.

Nursery and reception (EYFS): The new EYFS building will be complete before September and all of the nursery and reception children will be in here. This building will have two entrances – one for reception and one for nursery and there will be limited space for parents to wait near each entrance. We would like parents to continue to drop their child off with the class teacher rather than waiting with them and coming into school as previously happened. Parents will be able to come onto the site where areas will be designated for each class but these are only small and so we would like you to arrive promptly and leave as soon as your child has gone into the building. As we settle into the new building and get used to the space we may tweak these arrangements.

Year 1 to year 6: To avoid unnecessary congestion at the nursery gate we would like all other children to enter school through the playground gate. Parents may accompany their children into the playground if they would like to, thus avoiding large groups waiting on the path, but will not be going round to classroom doors in the way we used to operate. The children will line up in their classes on the playground at 8.45 and teachers will come and collect them. There will be supervision on the playground from 8.40 so children may be left without parents if needed. If you need to speak to your child's teacher please make an appointment as you have done during Covid restrictions rather than trying to catch them in the morning. Please note: the school day starts at 8.50am and learning begins immediately. Teachers will take their classes into school at 8.45 and so children should be on site by this time. The gates will be locked at 8.50. If you arrive after this time please go to the nursery gate and press the buzzer to alert Mrs Smith. Your child will be collected and will enter school through main reception where they will be recorded as late. We begin learning at 8.50 and children can miss a large amount of content across a year being a few minutes late each day. Please support us to ensure that this doesn't happen.

At the end of the day all children will be brought out onto the playground or to the EYFS waiting areas by school staff. Please be patient initially as staff get to know new parents. Staff will dismiss each child to their parent when they see them. Please then leave the site promptly avoiding congestion at the gate.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer compulsory but if parents wish to wear them on site and when dropping or collecting their children we are happy for this to continue.

Bubbles, positive cases etc

As you know, the bubble system has been changed by government guidance. From September the children will no longer operate in bubbles and will be able to mix at break and lunch. We will continue with our increased hygiene measures, will enforce social distancing and will minimise unnecessary mixing as far as possible. If your child has symptoms please keep them at home and seek advice. The current advice is to book a PCR test with any symptoms as lateral flow tests should only be used when asymptomatic. We don't know whether this will change so please adhere to this unless you hear otherwise. If a positive case is identified within school individual close contacts will be called. Bubbles will no longer be closed. We are always happy to advise and to seek advice on your behalf; contact Mrs Smith if you are unsure.

Bags etc

Please continue to send the minimum of equipment into school. Children should just bring water bottles, lunches, reading books and PE kits. PE kits should come into school each Monday and remain until Friday. All coats, bags, uniform etc must be clearly named.

Payments for lunches etc

We are currently establishing a cashless payment system which will work across the academy trust. This is not ready yet, however, and we want to avoid a return to envelopes of cash being brought into school as this could potentially be a transmission risk. So, please continue to make payments electronically as much as possible. If you have not done this before please contact Mrs Smith in September.

Once again, thank you for everything you have done to help us run school and keep everyone safe and educated this year. Let's hope that next year is more 'normal'.

Have a happy, relaxed and safe summer,

Mrs S Thompson
Executive Head Teacher