

# King Athelstan Primary School

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Headteacher: Emily Newton

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all of your support, patience and words of encouragement this week. It has been wonderful to see all of our families back. Given the scale of the changes made over such a short time period, we are pleased with how successful the first week back has been. We are grateful to everyone who has worked hard to follow the new systems, even when these can sometimes feel inconvenient.

Inevitably, we have encountered a few teething problems and additional considerations that only came to light once the systems were up and running. If you have any queries or concerns, please do continue to share these with us via the [admin@kingathelstan.rbksch.org](mailto:admin@kingathelstan.rbksch.org) email address. We will endeavour to respond to you individually, however, we thought that, additionally, it would be helpful to address some of the questions raised this week with you all, as we are aware that other families may have similar queries. We hope you will find the 'Frequently Asked Questions' below helpful.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you to maintain a 2 metre social distance between groups from different households during the drop off and pick up times and to adhere to government guidance outside of school for everyone's safety - this is being revised as of Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September to prevent gatherings of more than 6 people. Additionally, please can we remind you that, if anyone in your household is displaying a continuous cough, a change to their sense of taste or smell and/or a high temperature then the whole family must self-isolate. You should not send any seemingly well siblings to school. We have also attached some guidance around what to do in particular circumstances.

We hope that you, and the children, have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Newton

Headteacher



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the arrangements for break and lunchtime? How much movement and outdoor play does my child get throughout the day?**

All year groups are having separate playtimes, and no year groups are mixing during the school day. We are aware that some children have been reporting to parents a reduction in playtime. All children have a 15 minute outdoor morning break and a 30 minute outdoor lunch break (in addition to 30 minutes to eat their lunch indoors). This is in line with previous arrangements but may feel very different to previous years for the children, as the majority are not eating in the dining hall and, for KS2, their lunch break is not broken up into two halves because they used to go inside for lunch in the middle of their outside break. Additionally, PE continues to be delivered twice weekly and outdoors wherever possible. The active portion of these sessions is currently longer than in previous years due to the time saved by arriving in PE kits. Movement around the classroom itself has been reduced, but the children continue to move around the school to lessons in the Art and Music Rooms and can go to the toilet when needed. We are also encouraging class teachers to have short, whole class movement breaks with the children in their spaces in the classroom to further break up the time spent seated.

A child in Y5 has pointed out that the use of single-use plastic water bottles with school lunches is not very eco-friendly, and we are already working with our meal provider to find alternative solutions to this. We love having pro-active and eco-minded pupils who help us make good decisions in our school.

### **I am concerned about cross-contamination. Where are my child's belongings kept in school?**

Children in EYFS and Year 1 have access to cloakrooms with individual named pegs to keep their belongings. Children in Years 2-6 have their own individual packs of resources. These are kept in a pocket on the back of their chair in their allocated space in the classroom. Children in Years 2 and 6 have individual lockers to keep their coats and bags. Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 are currently keeping their book bags in their trays and their coats on the backs of their seats. We are working towards securing individual lockers for these classrooms. Children's lunch boxes from home are kept on a class trolley to prevent mixing between bubbles. It is, of course, impossible to eliminate cross contamination within the bubbles completely, however, we hope that these measures will reduce it as far as possible. Cross-contamination of shared spaces (such as the Art Room) is reduced by wiping down chairs and tables between year groups, along with any equipment used across year groups (unless this can be quarantined for 3 days).

### **When will interventions start?**

Running interventions in the same way that we have previously is not currently possible due to restrictions around children from different bubbles mixing, social distancing and the use of small or unventilated spaces (e.g. rooms without windows). We are working hard to develop new ways of working and thinking creatively to identify alternative spaces to use. Our priority this week has been to reintegrate and settle all the children into their new classes and the new routines. Children with EHCPs have received their support in class and, of course, teachers have continued to differentiate work as appropriate. Next week we will begin introducing specific interventions for those children with EHCPs, likely starting with those that are 1:1 and building up to small group work, including that run by the Inclusion Team, as we become more confident with our new arrangements. We are aware that this is a slower start to the introduction of interventions than usual, but children will continue to be supported in class with their learning by both teachers and TAs. We thank you for your patience while we develop safe new ways of working.

### **Do I need to walk the whole loop in the morning at drop off?**

No - this is parental choice and should be based on the needs of your child. You may choose to part with your child at the main gate (where Ms Newton has been based this week), once you reach the front of

the queue, and continue down the road, bypassing the one-way system entirely. Alternatively, you may choose to part with your child at the gate to the KS1 playground (where Ms Govan has been based this week) and walk directly to the car park on a shorter one-way loop. There are plenty of staff on duty in the morning to ensure the children reach their correct door. Of course, should your child need extra reassurance, you are very welcome to walk the full long loop used at pick up time.

**When it is my child's PE day, can they wear trainers instead of plimsolls to avoid their feet getting wet?**

Yes. On your child's PE days they may wear trainers to school along with their school PE kit. On all other days they should wear school shoes.

**What is the new procedure around lost property?**

We are currently unable to gather lost property centrally and cannot allow parents and carers on site to look for missing items. Please ensure all items that your child brings or wears to school **are named clearly** and we will return any found items to the correct class. If you are concerned an item has been missing for a number of days, please send an email to [messages@kingathelstan.rbksch.org](mailto:messages@kingathelstan.rbksch.org) detailing this and we will pass this on to the team in that bubble who can help your child to look for it.

**What happens if my child leaves something in school?**

Children are not allowed back into school to collect belongings or go to the toilet once they have left the building at the end of the day. They will have to collect their belongings the next day.