

March School Reopening to all pupils

FAQS

What can children bring to school?

As little as possible please. Children will need a small pencil case with their personal stationery (small ruler, pencils, coloured pencils, maybe some coloured pens, a glue stick, an eraser and a sharpener that collects the shavings. This will stay at school. They will also need a small bag (not a giant back pack please – a light, drawstring bag will be ideal) just to hold their reading book, homework books and their trainers. They will need their packed lunch box if they are having lunches from home and their water bottle which they will bring home daily to be washed. A small bottle of hand sanitiser for their personal use (named).

Are there lots of new rules in school to keep children safe?

No – we still have the same 4 rules:

1. Be safe
2. Work hard and allow others to work
3. Be kind to one another
4. Look after property and our environment.

But while the school rules remain the same, the **routines** that we have adopted have changed – particularly around rule 1 – the safety rule. The class routines will be discussed with children right from day 1 and we will work with children to ensure that they understand **why** a particular routine is required and we will help them to stick to the routines.

What happens if children break the rules?

Appropriate consequences will be applied according to our policy, which is on the website. Parents will already have received a copy of the Merry Hill and Ashfield joint home/school agreement which relates particularly to the COVID-19 outbreak.

How can I get a message to the school when I'm not allowed to come onto the school site?

We are not meaning to sound unwelcoming, but we are keeping visitors to a minimum in order to minimise the risk of the virus spreading. So we are asking you to only come onto the site if it is absolutely necessary. You can always:

- Send a note in with your child – teachers will ask children to hand in notes every morning
- Send an email to the school office - admin@ashfield.herts.sch.uk - office staff will ensure that the right member of staff receives the email. Staff will get back to you as soon as they can.
- Call the school office – again, the message will be sent to the appropriate member of staff and someone will get back to you.

Can my child bring their mobile phone?

If your child has already been given permission to bring a mobile phone to school, they may continue to do so, if the travel arrangements requiring a mobile phone remain the same. Our mobile phone policy is available on the school website. The policy discourages children from bringing their phones to school unless there are special circumstances. Most children are dropped and collected by a parent or carer and do not need to have a mobile phone in school. A child simply walking to and from school by themselves does not constitute special circumstances unless they live a considerable distance, need

to travel by public transport or collection routines are changeable due to parents' working patterns. If you think this applies to your child, there is a permission request form at the back of the policy which parents can complete and return to the school office.

Mobile phones are brought in at your risk. The school will not take responsibility for devices that are lost, broken or stolen. All mobile phones must be switched off once in school. They will remain in the child's bag and **will not be collected in**. We no longer collect phones – phones are great harbours for spreading germs including the COVID-19 virus.

What will happen about Parents Evening and Curriculum Evenings?

Curriculum updates will be posted on the school website. We are planning to hold parents meetings remotely towards the end of the Spring Term.

What will my child be learning?

The Ashfield staff are aware that children will have had very different learning experiences during lockdown. For some children, accessing the on-line materials will have proved quite difficult, while others will have thrived on their learning from home. The curriculum Ashfield staff are designing for September takes this into account. They will ensure that all key concepts and fundamentals are thoroughly covered so that children are not left with gaps that hinder progress. The Government has advised schools to ensure that priority is given to sound basic skills of reading, spelling, writing and maths. Some aspects of the curriculum may need to be put on hold for a while – e.g. Year 4 swimming and some music activities, others may need to be taught differently. We are aiming to get back to a full National Curriculum as soon as we can.

Will school hold assemblies?

We will not be holding large assemblies in the hall, but there will be assemblies in class each day.

Will there be plays and performances?

We will not be holding any events that will require gathering of large groups for the foreseeable future. At the moment we have been advised that even activities such as singing should be done outside, not in classrooms because of the possible rise in aerosols that it causes. Over the Autumn Term we have used our YouTube channel to post short film clips – this may well be the way forward next year to keep you involved in what your children are doing and to celebrate their achievements and hard work. We will keep you informed.

What happens if my child has an accident at school?

Usual first aid procedures apply. Staff providing care will use good hygiene and PPE to keep themselves and your child safe.

What happens if my child has an appointment?

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, we request that you keep them off for a school session (morning or afternoon) rather than come and collect them part way through the day. Simply come to the main office door, ring the bell and a member of the office team will give you directions and arrange for your child to be brought out to you or taken back to their class.

My child has forgotten their water bottle – can I get it to them?

However hard we try, we cannot always be super organised all the time but please try to keep forgotten items to a minimum. You can bring the missed item to the school office, ring the bell, provide your child's name and class (if you can remember it – but not a problem if you can't) and we will get the item to them as soon as we can.

My child as left a possession in school, can we go and get it?

We will ensure that cloakrooms are emptied at the end of the school day and do our best to ensure children have all their possessions with them. Unfortunately, if children leave things behind, they will have to wait until the following day unless it is essential e.g. a child has left their house key and wouldn't be able to let themselves in without it.

My child needs to finish their anti-biotic medicines, but is fit to come back to school?

The usual procedures for dispensing medicines in school still apply. If possible medicines should be administered at home. If not, complete the form that you will find on the website (as below) and bring it to the school office with your child's medicine. Staff in appropriate PPE will administer medicine to your child

<https://www.ashfield.herts.sch.uk/parents-information/>

Will the children go out to play?

Yes, we will have staggered playtimes to avoid children crossing bubbles, but they will have plenty of time outdoors. Please make sure your child has a waterproof in school every day in case it rains – it would be a shame if children had to miss valuable outdoor time because of a bit of drizzle.

What will happen with music lessons?

Music lessons will take place in school with COVID safe procedures in place. Just as they did in the Autumn Term.

Will Year 4 go swimming?

Swimming will not start until we are told that it is safe to do so. Once St Margaret's have opened their pool we will work with them to arrange lessons.

Will school trips still go ahead?

Once more venues open up to the public and we can ensure the safety of children and staff on coaches, we will start organising educational visits again. The Government is still advising against residential, therefore the usual School Journey for Year 6 will go not ahead this year. We have made a provisional booking for a School Journey to Culmington Manor next March. Once we have further advice from the Government and Local Authority regarding education visits, we will let parents and carers know.

What happens if a member of my household develops COVID-19 symptoms?

You can find clear guidance on the NHS website at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If your child, or anyone in your household, shows symptoms of COVID-19:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- Loss or change to your sense of smell

You **must not** send your child school, you must self-isolate for 10 days as a family, get members of your household tested. You must let the school know as soon as possible via telephone.

Will school be closed if an outbreak occurs?

Not necessarily. A class or year group bubble may need to close temporarily if there is a confirmed case, but with the organisation and strict routines we have put into place we think that we can minimise the impact of an outbreak. At all times we will follow the advice of the HCC & East of England Health Protection Team and Public Health England and keep parents informed of the measures we are taking. We will work hard to ensure that any closure is for as short a time as possible.

If a year or class bubble closes, will the children miss out on their learning?

Ashfield staff are now very adept at providing quality learning opportunities on-line. They will be prepared to switch to on-line methods as they did during lockdown to minimise the disruption to the children's learning.

What will happen if there is a local lockdown?

Ashfield will take the advice of the Local Authority and remain open for those on our Key Worker register and provide remote learning for other members of our school.

If you have any questions regarding the re-opening of school in the Autumn Term that have not been covered here, please contact the school office at admin@ashfield.herts.sch.uk