



Dear parents and guardians

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

I trust you and all your family are well and you had an enjoyable half term.

As hoped, we were given the news that school will reopen for all pupils on Monday 8th March and we can't wait! It has felt such a long time coming.

Presently, there has been very little updated guidance from the Department of Education on how this will look so at this stage. Therefore, we must presume it will resemble how we previously fully opened with certain protective measures.

This guidance is an amended version of the guidance we issued previously to you. Please read it again to refresh your memory.

So far, we have been relatively unscathed as a school community from COVID-19 and I thank you for your support of the protective measures we have put in place to keep children, parents and staff safe. Whilst national and local infection rates appear to be falling, we must not be complacent and need to continue to act responsibly by following the measures in place.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the following key measures:

- Not sending your child to school if they are unwell, including possible COVID-19 symptoms
- Adherence to staggered starts
- Maintaining social distancing when dropping off and collecting your children. This includes keeping your children close to you and not letting them interact with other children
- Mask wearing on school premises
- Calling and emailing school and only entering school buildings with prior agreement or invitation

Guidance has changed regarding attendance. Attendance returns to being compulsory for all but a very few pupils with the exception being those with COVID-19 symptoms, in contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case and those who have recently received a letter confirming they are clinically extremely vulnerable. If you have concerns that your child will experience difficulty transitioning back to school, please do contact us as soon as possible so we can support the process.

We have been informed by the Department for Education that families will be able to receive self-testing kits for twice weekly testing. We will forward details on how to obtain your testing kits as soon as we receive it.

We very much look forward to seeing you all again

Best wishes

Jeremy Cooper

Headteacher

8th March 2021 School Reopening Guidance

Attendance

What does the Government guidance say about attendance?

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- *parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)*
- *the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct*

What does the Government Guidance say about self-isolating and shielding?

A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- *have symptoms or have had a positive test result*
- *live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact*
- *are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)*

The advice for pupils who have been confirmed [recently] as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. They are advised not to attend school while shielding advice applies nationally.

What do parents need to do?

Please send your child to school unless any of the three bullet points above apply of if your child has received a recent shielding letter sent to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) children.

As stated in the accompanying letter, please do call us if you anticipate your child experiencing difficulty returning to school so we can provide support.

All children legitimately absent from school will be provided with remote learning as detailed in our remote learning policy, provided they are well enough to participate.

Minimising Risks

We have had to make informed judgments about how to balance delivering a broad and balanced curriculum with the measures needed to manage and minimise risk.

The measures we are taking are broadly the same to those in place this term with just a few changes, so please do read these with equal care if you are familiar to the existing measures or your child is returning for the first time. We will of course support the children with understanding and following these changes and it would help further if you could share the measures with your children too. The essential measures are detailed later in this document.

When does the Government say a pupils should self-isolate and book a test?

The medical advice is clear: you must self-isolate if you have coronavirus symptoms or live in the same household as somebody who does. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- *high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
- *new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*
- *loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*

Throughout the pandemic we have always erred on the side of caution and will continue to do so. Therefore, please be aware that due to a degree of ambiguity in the definitions we will request that children stay home/ are collected from school if there is any increase in temperature or cough (even if you believe it is a common cold) and that a test is booked.

Hygiene

Children who have attended school have quickly adapted to an increase in personal hygiene and routines are now embedded and habitual.

School will continue to provide equipment, encouragement, supervision and time to clean hands more often than usual). Good respiratory hygiene is promoted by the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and this also includes more regular emptying of bins. Frequently touched surfaces are cleaned regularly using products readily available in the classroom.

Teaching Groups

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible and we can achieve this and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children and staff, where possible, mix in smaller than usual, consistent groups and each group stays away from other people and groups as much as possible. Some teachers and other staff will operate across different teaching groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable and the teaching of the curriculum. There may be occasions when children from different groups come together in small groups for specialist teaching.

Carefully planned choreography of individual class teaching groups or twinned groups will ensure interactions will be kept to a minimum by using designated and/or timetabled learning, eating and play spaces. We continue to hire temporary toilet facilities and will do so for as long as is necessary and practicable.

Whilst every effort is made to implement distancing between teaching groups, please be aware that distancing between children within their teaching groups is unlikely and not to be expected for younger children.

Both the approaches of separating groups and maintaining distance are not 'all-or-nothing' options. Endeavouring to keep these groups at least partially separate and minimising contacts between children will still offer public health benefits as it reduces the network of possible direct transmission.

Drop off and pick up routines

Staggered drop off and pick up times remain a necessity and are detailed in the table below. If you have any questions or information to give to the teacher at drop off, unless it is urgent, please email admin@appledore-primary.devon.sch.uk or call the school 01237 474365 rather than hold up the queue.

These measures are to reduce the number of people on the school site in the interest of infection control and please can parents and guardians adhere to social distancing measures when waiting to drop off or collect children. When you are waiting, please can your children remain by your side, because we have had incidents where parents are social distancing whilst their children are mixing with other children from other groups at these times.

If a child needs accompanying to the education or childcare setting, please can this be one parent or guardian. If the child walks on their own, please ensure they do walk on their own and do not meet up with others on the way. Please note that older pupils are not to come into school early and wait around on the playground and that siblings can only be dropped off/collected at their designated times and not the same time.

Turtles	Entry to the school site will be via our back gate on Kingsley Avenue at 9am. Staff will greet each child and direct them to their classroom to wash their hands immediately on arrival. Please collect your child from the back gate at pick up time of 3.30pm.
Dolphins	Entry to the school site will be via our back gate on Kingsley Avenue at 8.50am. Staff will greet each child and direct them to their classroom to wash their hands immediately on arrival. Please collect your child from the back gate at pick up time of 3.20pm.
Year 1	Enter the school site at 9am through the single gate at the top of the carpark and wait on the path on the way to the school front door. Children enter through the front door alone and parents exit the school site through the single gate they entered. At 3.30 pm children will leave through the door they entered

	school to meet their parent queueing on the path waiting. Please exit the school site through the single gate.
Year 2	Pupils enter the school at 9am via the Pitt Lane entrance and parents exit into carpark and out the double gates. At 3.30pm, parents collect pupils from bottom playground and exit into the car park and out the double gates.
Year 3	Pupils enter to school site at 8.45am through the Richmond Road entrance and parents exit into carpark and out the double gates. At 3.15pm, parents collect pupils from the bottom playground and exit into the car park and out the double gates.
Year 4	Pupils enter the school site at 8.45am through the Pitt Lane entrance and parents exit into carpark and out the double gates. At 3.15pm, parents collect pupils from the bottom playground and exit into the car park and out the double gates. Pupils who walk home take exit through the double gates at the top of the car park.
Year 5	Pupils enter the school site at 8.30am through the Richmond Road entrance and parents exit into carpark and out the double gates. At 3pm, parents collect pupils from bottom playground and exit into car park and out double gates. Pupils who walk home take exit through the double gates at the top of the car park.
Year 6	Pupils enter the school site at 8.30am through the Pitt Lane entrance and parents exit into carpark and out the double gates. Pupils who walk home will exit through the double gates at the top of the car park. At 3pm, parents collect pupils from bottom playground and exit into car park and out double gates. Pupils who walk home take exit through the double gates at the top of the car park.

If you have children in Years 1&2, your Year 2 child can enter the school with your Year 1 child via the front door. If you have children in Years 3&4, both children can enter the school via the same entrance (ie Richmond Hill or Pitt Lane). If you have a child in Turtles and Year 1 or Year 2, please drop your older children off first and then your Turtle.

The wearing of face masks in school for pupils is not required, but if your child arrives at school wearing a face mask because they have travelled on public transport or for other reasons please ensure it is removed before entering the school site.

What to bring

It is important that children bring as little as possible in and out of school. If pupils bring in items of stationery, this must stay in school until further notice. Please do not let your child bring anything in they may want/need at home. All items brought to school must be taken straight to their classroom. At this stage, we continue to ask that children do not bring sweets or other items to hand out on their birthday.

Communication

Please do not enter the school buildings without an invitation or prior arrangement. All visitors and parents entering the school buildings must wear a face mask. It saddens us that we cannot remain as open and as immediately physically available as before and hope you understand we must retain safe and sensible protective measures. Please contact school by calling 01237 474365 or emailing admin@appledore-primary.devon.sch.uk. If you have mobile numbers for staff, please be aware these numbers were previously shared with you as a result of unusual circumstances and refrain from using them.

If you or your child display symptoms of COVID-19

Parents and guardians are required to:

- book a test if they or their child are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school.
- provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus](#) website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

Please inform school immediately of the results of a test and provide evidence of the result. We will provide guidance on what happens next.

After school clubs and AOOSC

AOOSC opening hours are from 7.30am until your child's school start time and from 3pm until 6pm. It is not possible for children to remain in the teaching bubble they were in during the day.

We ask parents to limit the number of different wraparound providers they access, as far as possible. Where you use other childcare providers or out of school activities for their children, we ask you to seek assurance that these providers are carefully considering their own protective measures and that you only use those providers that can demonstrate this.

School uniform

Children will wear the correct school uniform when they return in September. Please monitor adherence to this and take action where necessary. To remind you, the uniform is as follows.

All children in Reception (Dolphins) to Year 6) need:

- navy blue crew neck sweat shirt/sweatshirt cardigan (ideally with logo*)
- light blue polo t-shirt, shirt or blouse (logo* optional)
- black or grey school trousers (not jean style or leggings)/shorts/skirt
- during summer term pupils may wear a blue and white check/stripe pinafore dress
- white, grey or black socks
- plain grey or plain black tights (not leggings)
- flat, black sensible school shoes or close fitting boots. Shoes are to be plain with no coloured logos and trainers are not permitted. Boots must not have excessive detailing, be Ugg style or made from soft fabric
- headbands are plain and ideally blue or black, not excessively large or themed
- sweat shirts and polo shirts with the school logo can be purchased from the school office

For P.E. all children in Years 3 – Year 6 need:

- plain white crew neck t-shirt or white polo shirt
- black P.E. shorts or track-suit bottoms. Girls may choose to wear black netball skorts or skirts (under which they may wear black cycling shorts)
- trainers
- all PE kits to be free from any large logo or brand name (eg no adidas stripes or football team strip shirts/shorts)

For P.E. in Years 1 & 2

- trainers
- black PE shorts and house colour t-shirt for on sports day

School jumpers (including Nursery), cardigans, polo shirts and book bags with the school logo can be ordered and paid for online by visiting www.schoolmoney.co.uk. Please email adnin@appledore-primary.devon.sch.uk to arrange collection. We hold a reasonable amount of stock, but ordering asap is advisable.

Behaviour

The expected standard of behaviour will still apply. In the unlikely event of children considered old enough to have an understanding of social distancing deliberately and consciously refusing to social distance school will call the child's parents to discuss how to resolve such an issue.