



Friday 8th April

Dear parents and guardians

I hope this letter finds you well and looking forward to the Easter break.

From the first day back after the Easter break we are implementing some operational changes so we can return to more of the normality we enjoyed before the impact of Covid. This letter is to give you advance notice of these changes.

Start of the school day. The school bell rings at 8.50am, giving pupils in Years 1-6 ten minutes to get in to class and ready to start learning at 9am. Any pupils arriving to class after 9.00am will be marked late. Please be aware that regular late marks require the school to notify the local authority and they can issue penalty notices and a fine. Please do all you can to ensure your children arrive at school with enough time to be settled for 9am so they do not miss the crucial start of lessons. The Foundation Stage Unit opens at 8.55am.

Years 1 and 2. Before Covid, parents of children in years 1 and 2 were able to bring their children to the classroom door at morning drop off time. We would like to reinstate this from after Easter because we miss this contact with you (and so you get the opportunity to experience our regularly changing art display!) When the bell rings, parents and children can now enter the school from the lower playground and exit through the front door. If you chose, children in years 1 and 2 can enter unaccompanied but please do not leave before you have seen them safely enter the school. Please wear a mask when in school and please do not enter the classroom unless invited by a teacher. Please note that the existing end of the day leaving arrangements have not changed.

If my child is ill. The UK Government guidance, 'next steps for living with Covid', states *Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.* There is no obligation to test your child for Covid when they first become unwell or before you consider them well enough to return to school. If you did test your child when they first became unwell and they tested positive this guidance says they are able to return after three days provided they are well enough. The guidance does not require you to test your child before they return after three days.

Holiday club and before/after school club. Unfortunately we are unable to provide holiday club this Easter. Despite operational challenges, we are working hard to ensure that as a minimum we continue to provide the before and after school club and we can confirm this provision will still be available next term.

As you can imagine, because of such changeable factors beyond our control, all of the above could be subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to you and please remember to keep a close lookout for emails and texts from us and please do read the weekly newsletter on www.appledore-primary.devon.sch.uk

I wish you all a happy Easter
Best wishes

Jeremy Cooper
Headteacher