

4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are continuing our preparations for the full opening of the school on Monday 8th March and all of the staff are so excited to welcome all of the children back. We truly hope there will be no further interruptions to the children's school year! Attendance at school from the 8th is mandatory for all children. Please contact us if your child is classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and has been asked to shield.

This newsletter is designed to give you all of the information that you need so that your children can return safely and happily for the rest of the Spring Term.

Start and finish times

The start and finish times for each class will follow the same staggered routine as before the Christmas holidays:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Finish</u>
Apple	8:40	3:00
Pear	8:40	3:00
Ash	8:45	3:05
Elm	8:45	3:05
Hawthorn	8:40	3:00
Oak	8:50	3:10
Maple	8:45	3:05
Willow	8:40	3:00
Beech	8:50	3:10
Poplar	8:40	3:00
Birch	8:45	3:05

We ask that there is only one adult (wearing a face mask) dropping the children off and picking them up to reduce the overall number of people on the school site. Please could we remind you to keep to the 2 metre social distancing, arrive on time for your child's start or finish time and arrive and leave promptly to ensure there is as few people congesting the area as possible.



Ash and Elm Class

Due to a member of staff having to shield until 31st March, the staffing will be slightly different for Ash and Elm class for the four weeks until the Easter holidays:

Ash Class

- Class teacher - Mrs Swires-Hennessy (Monday - Friday)
- Teaching Assistant – Mrs Lawlor (Monday and Friday all day, Thursday mornings)
- Teaching Assistant (One to one support) – Mrs Green

Elm Class

- Class teacher – Mrs Pallett (Mondays) Mrs Leslie (Tuesday - Friday)
- Teaching Assistant – Ms Bennett (Monday - Friday)

Equipment

Please could you continue to limit the equipment that the children bring into school. This can be limited to a book (in a book bag), their lunch, a water bottle and a coat (or hat if the weather demands).

PE Kits

We will continue to encourage children to arrive in school in their PE kits on the days which the children have PE. This should be a white T-shirt and black shorts (or dark tracksuit bottoms if it is cold). On these days children should wear their school jumpers/cardigan (Yr 6 can wear their Kingsham hoodies). On days when there is no PE, full school uniform with school shoes should be worn.

<u>Class</u>	<u>PE Days</u>
Apple	Tuesdays and Fridays
Pear	Wednesdays and Fridays
Ash	Wednesdays and Thursdays
Elm	Mondays and Wednesdays
Hawthorn	Mondays and Wednesdays
Oak	Mondays and Wednesdays
Maple	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Willow	Mondays and Tuesdays
Beech	Tuesdays and Fridays
Poplar	Wednesdays and Thursdays
Birch	Tuesdays and Thursdays

Any concerns about returning

We appreciate that there may be some anxiety about the return and the whole school staff are completely committed to supporting all of our families at this time. If you or your child have any questions or concerns about the full return of the school on Monday 8th March, please contact the school. Class teachers are more than happy to book appointments to speak to you or your child to discuss transition and the plans for the first week back.

If your child raises any concerns we advise listening and not dismissing or minimising their worries. Instead, validate how they are feeling – say, “It’s fine to feel like that at the moment” or “I can understand why you

would feel like that". When you listen to your child it makes them feel important. This is going to have a positive impact on their self-esteem, make them feel valued and build their confidence

Preparing your children to return

Our suggestions for some simple preparations are:

- reset your routines – especially bedtime and getting up routines
- prepare lunch boxes together
- make sure you have your water bottle ready
- try on uniform and shoes – your children may have grown significantly since we broke up in December!
- have breakfast – all the best days start with a good breakfast
- get everything ready with them the night before so you don't have to rush in the morning
- talk through some of the key parts of the school day with them

Ensuring a safe school environment

We have conducted a revised risk assessment for this new period of the school year which will be regularly monitored and reviewed again at Easter. You can see a summary of the risk assessment on our [website](#). The safety of the whole school community continues to be our number one priority and we will remain vigilant on the seven key areas of prevention that the government have set out below to prevent the spread of any coronavirus infection.

Prevention

You must always:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

Most importantly, if your child or anyone in your household is showing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (below) they should not come onto the school site and organise a test immediately.

- 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

COVID Restrictions

While the children returning to school is a significant step in the relaxation on the COVID restrictions which are in place, significant restrictions still remain for everyone’s safety. It is our duty to remind you that we are still not allowed to meet up in groups either in someone’s home or outside in the park.

Staff testing

Our staff continue to be involved in an optional testing programme in which they test at home twice a week. This could mean that in the event of a positive case, we would have to close a class bubble at short notice. We will obviously ensure you get as much notice as we can possibly give you if this situation arises.

Miss Kidd

Miss Kidd unfortunately leaves us today. We are extremely grateful for all of the work she has done in Year 3, in her short time with Kingsham Primary School and we wish her all the best for the future.

Sending all of our best wishes and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday.



Mr Lee Dallinger
Head teacher