

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer and are ready for the return to school. We look forward to welcoming children from years one to six back tomorrow, Tuesday 7th September to start off what I am sure will be an enjoyable and successful term. If you are a parent of a child in Reception or Nursery, you will have received details of your child's start date.

Below, I have included some key information to ensure a smooth start back to school, including some of the Covid-19 measures we will continue to have in place. If you have any further questions, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

Start of the day

The school gates open at 8:40am and close at 8:55am. Any pupils arriving after the gates have closed will be classed as late and must be brought to the office by an adult to sign in. As part of our risk assessment, we will continue to sanitise hands on entry to school and ask parents to leave their children at the school gate, once a member of staff has opened it.

End of the day

School finishes at 3:15pm – please collect your child promptly at the end of the day. As detailed in our summer term newsletters, Wednesdays will return to full days with a 3:15pm finish for all pupils from Reception to Year 6, and those pupils in Nursery attending full day provision.

Uniform

Please ensure your child has a full school uniform. This includes: Tindal (or similar colour) jumper, white shirt, tie, black/grey trousers or skirt, black/grey tights, black shoes, black/teal/white/grey pull on headscarf and a blazer for Years 5 & 6. Jewellery will not be permitted with exception of one pair of small stud earrings.

On PE days, we ask pupils to come dressed in their PE kit to avoid having to change in school. PE kit includes a plain white t-shirt or polo top, black or grey tracksuit bottoms, school jumper and trainers or pumps. Please remember that hooded sweatshirts are not to be worn for safety reasons.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will resume on the 13th September. If you would like to register for Breakfast Club, please...

Free School Meals

If your child has moved from Year 2 to Year 3, they will not automatically receive a free school meal from September. Please speak to the Office to request an application form if you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals.

Contact details

If your contact details have changed over the summer, please inform the school office by emailing info@arktindalprimary.org

Bubbles

We will no longer operate bubbles in the new term, which means that assemblies and larger group activities can resume and children from different classes and year groups will be able to mix.

Face coverings

The government has removed the need to wear face coverings on school premises. However, we appreciate that some staff and pupils may wish to wear face masks at school, and they can do so if they want to.

Close contact tracing

Schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19, and this will be led by NHS Test and Trace. Children under 18 years old identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive case no longer need to self-isolate and will be advised by NHS Test and Trace to take a PCR test.

Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak at the school or in the local area, we may be advised to reintroduce bubbles and face coverings and may be asked to support NHS Test and Trace with close contact tracing. If this becomes necessary, we will communicate this to you.

COVID-19 testing

Testing remains essential in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within our school community. We will continue to encourage staff to take rapid lateral flow tests twice a week during term-time.

Isolating if travelling from abroad

Keep in mind that you and your family may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. You should plan your trips so that any self-isolation should also fall within the school holidays. You can find out more about the travel rules here: www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england

Hygiene and cleanliness

We will continue to ensure children have regular handwashing opportunities. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school, and we will continue to sanitise on entry. The school will continue with enhanced cleaning arrangements, paying particular attention to surfaces that are regularly touched. We will also keep spaces well ventilated and will not allow anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to enter the site.

I hope this letter offers reassurance to the measures we are keeping in place to ensure a safe start to the autumn term. We all recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that everyone has had to make, so we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done and the support you have given.

Best wishes,

Hayley Francis
| Head of School