

# Amble First School

Edwin Street, Amble, Northumberland NE650EF Tel: 01665 710388

Headteacher: Helen Bruce Deputy Headteacher: Dawn Hunter

[www.amblefirst.northumberland.sch.uk/website](http://www.amblefirst.northumberland.sch.uk/website)

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23.02.2021

Dear Parents\ Carers,

Thanks for all your continued support with school work and in helping to keep our community safe. Our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has now announced that **on Monday March 8th, school will re-open for all pupils.**

The guidance states that when we do reopen, **attendance for all pupils will be mandatory** and that the usual school rules apply, including:

- *parents' duty to secure their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;*
- *schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence,*
- *the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.*

*Dfe Schools coronavirus operational guidance Feb 2021*

Over the next two weeks, please get in touch with school if you have any concerns about pupils returning. Safety will continue to be the school priority on reopening. Please read the revised safety measures going forward. Parents please note the drop off and pick up times for the year groups and stick to your allocated times. This will avoid gatherings at the school gates.

We are going to start each day with Personal, Social, Health and Education sessions to keep pupil wellbeing as our priority. We have also planned creative afternoons for the first three weeks back before Easter to support pupils' wellbeing, friendships, motivation and teamwork.

We will hold a 'parents evening' telephone session over the last two weeks of the Spring Term which will be designed to share how pupils are settling back into school routines and school work and discuss any parent concerns in order to support pupils in the Summer Term.

The following information explains how we are using the government guidance to reopen on March 8th. Please take the time to read it and adhere to the home school agreement.

Best wishes,

Mrs Helen Bruce

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## Our safety measures going forward

We will continue to operate as three key stage bubbles.

### What is a bubble?

A bubble is a group of staff and children that stay together for the duration of the teaching week. This bubble works and plays together away from other bubbles as part of our endeavours to minimise risks by significantly reducing the number of people that each person socialises with in school.

To enable us to manage entry times, playtimes, lunchtimes, and teacher PPA cover we have organised our bubbles into three key stages:

**Key Stage Two: Year Three and Year Four**

Staff: Mrs Hunter, Miss Mawson, Mrs Durham, Mrs Graham, Mrs Forsey, Mrs Poulton

**Key Stage One: Year One and Year Two**

Staff: Miss Gascoigne Owens, Mrs Wilkie, Mrs Bruce, Mr Wonders, Mrs Brown

**Early Years: Reception, Nursery and Toucans**

Staff: Mrs Donaldson, Mrs Mallaburn, Leila, Sally, Laura and Margaret

In order to keep the safety of the community as our number one priority during can we please keep to the following drop off and pick up times:

### **RECEPTION/ NURSERY**

**DROP OFF: 8:45am PICK UP: 3pm**

### **KEY STAGE ONE (Years 1 and 2)**

**DROP OFF: 8:40am PICK UP: 3pm**

### **KEY STAGE TWO (Years 3 and 4)**

**DROP OFF: 8:50am PICK UP: 3:15pm**

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These times are for your safety, to minimise pinch points and families congregating. **It will not work if families do not stick to the times.** In particular, please don't come too early to pick up or drop off key stage two children to avoid crowding.

Can I also ask that adults collecting pupils wear face masks at drop off and pick up times, if you are able to, as another measure to minimise risks. If you are waiting to enter or leave school, please distance by at least two metres from other families.

## **FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN BOTH KEY STAGES**

Please bring all your family members to school and drop off and pick up in line with the key stage one timings.

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## **Responding to symptoms of coronavirus**

**YOU MUST NOT SEND YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN OR ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD HAS SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS.**

### **Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:**

- They have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms,
- A member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms,
- They are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area,
- They have had a positive test.

### **They must immediately stop attending school for at least 10 days from the day after:**

- The start of their symptoms,
- The test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test.

Anyone told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their public health protection team has a legal obligation to self-isolate, but you may leave home to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm.

### **If anyone in school develops a new and continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you:**

- must send them home to begin isolation - the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days,
- advise them to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection,
- advise them to arrange to have a test as soon as possible to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

Other members of their household (including any siblings and members of their support or childcare bubble if they have one) should self-isolate. Their isolation period includes the day symptoms started for the first person in their household, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test), and the next 10 full days. If a member of the household starts to display symptoms while self-isolating they will need to restart the 10 day isolation period and book a test. If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms.

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If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home to isolate and they should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).

If a child is awaiting collection, we will look after them in the outdoor space at the main entrance door, if possible, or in the nurture room to keep them isolated from others.

The staff member supporting the child may wear PPE if they are unable to distance from the child.

We are required to register all positive tests with our local health protection team who will guide us through further procedures and manage confirmed cases in order to protect the community.

## Classroom organisation

We have been advised that children in the same bubble are allowed to sit together facing forward in the same direction. Each child will be given their own named pencil and equipment that will not be shared. Sports equipment and limited easily cleaned resources will be shared within a bubble but not between bubbles. Staff will clean frequently touched surfaces during the school day. Bubbles will have their own toilets and sinks in the bathrooms and their own handwashing and sanitising stations in the classroom. They will be supervised by an adult if they need to leave the classroom in order to minimise contact with other bubbles. Adults in school will continue to social distance from other adults and pupils.

## Home/school books and equipment

Reading books can continue to go home although with limited frequency. No reading records will be issued initially to reduce contact. Once pupils have finished a reading book they can bring them in to be change on **Tuesdays and Thursdays only**. Teachers will change books and on return wipe them down with a sanitising spray. Books will not be shared between bubbles.

There will be no homework books issued. This will all be shared electronically. New learning log books to record learning are available on request.

Children should limit what is brought into school to essentials- reading books, packed lunch, coats. Children can still wear their PE uniform on their set PE day.

## Hand washing

Regular handwashing will become part of the school timetable for all pupils particularly on arrival, following break times, and before and after lunch.

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## **Catch it, bin it, kill it**

We will continue to follow this approach for coughs and sneezes. We have invested in lidded bins and lots of tissues!

## **Cleaning of surfaces**

We will continue to clean frequently touched surfaces and shared areas and the lunch hall will be cleaned after each bubble lunch. We have allocated year groups their own toilets and sinks and these will be cleaned more regularly. Large outdoor equipment will be cleaned at the handholds every day.

## **Lunchtime**

Hot School dinners will be served as usual. We will serve the children in their separate bubbles. This will also allow for playtimes to be staggered allowing pupils to remain distanced at all times from other bubbles.

## **Breakfast club/After school club**

Breakfast club will begin at 8am. Please note children will be asked to sit, eat and play in their own bubble areas of the hall. This needs to be pre-booked and paid for using our cashless system. Spaces will be limited.

Further clubs will commence when we feel it is safe to do so.

## **Visits and Visitors**

We are not planning any educational visits in the Spring term and we will continue to minimise our visitors in school. We will continue to have lots of virtual visitors, for example, virtual authors, our St Cuthbert Easter experience via video and our virtual assemblies and celebrations!

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## Home School Agreement

**By sending your child to school you are agreeing to the following:**

I will drop off and pick up my child at the correct designated times. If I am late I will wait until all other pupil groups have entered school or when a staff member indicates it is safe.

I will observe social distancing when dropping off and picking up my child.

I will support the school with the extra hygiene expectations and talk to my child about the need for hand washing, catch it, bin it, kill it, the need for PPE if a child is symptomatic, the distance adults will try to maintain from children.

I will keep my child at home if they or anyone in the household has Covid 19 symptoms. I will inform the school. I will only return my child when it is safe to do so. (Following a test or isolation as per government guidelines)

I will send my child with no extra items (toys etc..) other than their coat , water bottle, packed lunch and reading book.

I will send my child in full school uniform and the correct PE uniform on class PE days.

I will support the school if my child is sent home with Covid 19 symptoms by following the national test procedure and isolating according to the guidelines.

I understand that my child will be supported with contact by an adult if they need care.

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