



Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School
Wennington Road Abbots Ripton Huntingdon PE28 2LT

Tel: (01487) 773318

Email: office@abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher : **Mrs Claire Matthews**
Interim Assistant Head Teacher : **Miss Slater**
Interim Assistant Head Teacher : **Mrs Wilcock**

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you aware, we have been busy planning for our opening in September to all pupils and are pleased to be able to share further details of our plans with you. We are very excited about this and look forward to seeing those families who we haven't seen since our closure in March.

Before I set out our plans, I would once again like to thank parents for their understanding and cooperation during this time. We are so grateful for your trust in us and for the support that you demonstrate.

It goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We have followed the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of working and these will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our school.

All information below is temporary and will be under constant review as new guidance is received. We anticipate that our initial plans will be in place until at least October half term, but we will continue to communicate with parents about this.

Classes

The guidance recommends that we consider how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible. With this in mind, we will be keeping our children within their class groups as much as possible as this will enable us to keep the number of interactions between children to a minimum.

What this means for your child

- At play and lunch times, your children will only interact with the other children within their class. If your child has siblings, it might be worth preparing them for this as they will not be able to play together.
- We will not be able to run a 'buddy' system for our younger children as they will not be eating or playing together. Please do let your child know if they are in Year 6 as this is something that they will have been looking forward to.
- We will not be running our 'family' service at lunchtime as the children will eat as classes. Van Gogh and Monet will still eat in our dining room, with a maximum of 4 children to a table (not our usual 8) and food will be plated for them. Kandinsky and Picasso children will eat in their classrooms, with hot meals delivered, again already plated.
- We will not be having daily acts of collective worship as a whole school, but will remain in class groups for this time.

Arriving and leaving school

Children may arrive at school anytime between 8:40am and 9am (and not 8:40am and 8:50am). We have extended this time to allow us to stagger the number of families on our site at any one time. It is vital that you are not late after this time as this will make it necessary for your child to use the main office door, increasing their contact with adults.

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Car park

All families will be using the school car park. If there are already several adults and or children in the car park, please wait in your car until it is less busy.

Van Gogh class

Start of the day (8:40am-9am)	End of the day (3pm)
Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Turn left only. Mrs Wilcock will meet the children on the blue dots in front of the willow tunnel at the end of the playground.	Turn right only and wait on a blue line on the path which runs parallel to the road. Mrs Wilcock will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents (if you have entered the site) should leave the site using the same gate.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

Monet class

Start of the day (8:40am-9am)	End of the day (3pm)
Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Turn left only. Mrs MacLeod/Miss Slater will be waiting on the playground by the play tower.	Turn left only and wait on a blue line on the path near the climbing wall. Mrs MacLeod/Miss Slater will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents (if you have entered the site) should leave the site using the same gate.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

Kandinsky class

Start of the day (8:40am-9am)	End of the day (3:15pm)
Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Come straight across the field to Mrs Hawthorne/Mrs Whales who will be waiting on the field for you.	Turn left only and wait on a blue line on the path near the climbing wall. Mrs Hawthorne/Mrs Whales will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents (if you have entered the site) should leave the site using the same gate.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.



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Picasso class

Start of the day (8:40am-9am)	End of the day (3:15pm)
Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Turn right only and walk around the field, parallel to the road and Miss Slater/Mrs Jackson will meet you at the gate into the staff car park.	Turn right only and wait on a blue line on the path which runs parallel to the road. Miss Slater/Mrs Jackson will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents (if you have entered the site) should leave the site using the same gate.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

When you enter our site, you will notice that we have painted blue markers on the path. Please use these to help us to keep families as distanced as possible. It would be helpful if you could explain these markers to your children too if they haven't been in school yet. We have enclosed some images which may help to explain this.

All gates onto the site will be propped open for your arrival and for you to leave so that we can limit what you are needing to touch.

On arrival, if you are able to leave your child at the gate (or close to it) and send them to their adult, this is much more preferable than you entering our site. We do however understand that this may be tricky initially; however, your children will get used to this new system quickly.

We will have parents arriving and leaving at the same time so please do be mindful of this and please step out of the way of other families or wait, as appropriate.

At the end of the day, once your child is with you, it is vital that you leave our site as quickly and safely as possible, avoiding other families. This is particularly important for Van Gogh and Monet families as we need to ensure that the site is clear for parents arriving to collect their children at 3:15pm. If you have children finishing at different times, please wait in your car until the later collection time.

We would politely request that when dropping or collecting your child you come as one adult please if at all possible. If you are able, please also avoid bringing siblings onto the school site unless it is absolutely necessary. This will help us to limit the number of people coming onto our school site, maximising the safety of all.

School transport

We are awaiting confirmation that the school bus and taxi will be running from the first day of term. We will communicate with those families who use transport as soon as we are able but if possible it would be helpful to make alternative arrangements for the first week, just in case there is any reason why the transport is not in place. We will also share the details of the protective measures being taken on school transport.

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Uniform

We are making slight changes to our uniform expectations in September. Your child may wear their PE kit on the bottom half (black tracksuit bottoms or shorts) and trainers but will need school uniform on the top (polo top and school jumper/cardigan). This is so that we can use the field even if it is slightly wet (and new leather shoes won't be ruined!) and also we will not change for PE sessions so no further PE kit will be required. All children will also need wellington boots to be left in school as we will go out on the field even when it is wet and we will visit the wild wood if we can. Please send your child with a hat each day (named) and apply sun cream prior to school if the weather is forecast to be sunny. A waterproof coat will be needed if forecast to be wet as we will try to be outside in all weather whenever we can.

Please could all children in **Reception and Year 1** come to school on their first day with a complete change of clothes in a named plastic bag. These will be kept in school in case of any accidents, particularly as they may be accessing water play during the day.

Lunches, snacks and water

All children in Van Gogh and Monet are eligible for a free school meal from their first day back at school and with this letter we have included the menu for the start of term. This is a temporary menu and we will share with you our new menu when we are able to serve this. All children in Van Gogh and Monet will be booked for a school lunch unless you inform the office that you do not wish to take this. All children will receive the meat option unless you have informed us that they are vegetarian. If this has changed since they were last at school, or they would prefer the vegetarian option, please let the office know by email as soon as possible.

We are hoping that as many children as possible in Kandinsky and Picasso will have a school meal as this will minimise the need to send packed lunch boxes between home and school. We will ask you to let us know your choice in September but can confirm that there will be no increase in cost and so lunches remain at £2.40 per day.

Van Gogh and Monet will receive a free piece of fruit from the Governments scheme and Kandinsky and Picasso children may bring a piece of fruit to eat at break time. Please can this be sent in a named tub or plastic bag.

All children require a water bottle which we will keep in school. These will be cleaned and refilled at school each day. Please name the bottle!

Communicating with school

We understand that there may be times when you wish to communicate something to us about your child and unfortunately at this time we will not be holding any face-to-face conversations with parents (including at the office with Mrs Nixon). If there is any information that you wish to share with teachers, please email the school office with this information and messages will be passed on promptly and a response given to you if needed. If it is an urgent message which needs a response, please telephone the office and we will ask a member of staff to ring you back.

Teaching staff will no longer be checking their STARZ emails on a regular basis, therefore any messages for teachers should be sent to the school office. This has been wonderful communication platform during school closure but would create an additional burden for them in September.

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We will send our fortnightly newsletter with updates and we will let you know of any changes to procedures or processes that we make as we continue to assess risk. We hope that many of these changes to our routines etc. are temporary and as risk reduces, we will begin to change some of these.

Attendance

Attendance at school is compulsory from the start of term unless your child is unwell or they are isolating. If your child is isolating we will continue to set home learning for them. Please do let us know if you have any concerns about your child's return for any reason. Holidays during term time will once again only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Unwell children

If your child is unwell during the school day, we will contact you and ask you to come to collect them as quickly as possible. We hope that you will understand this, but it will be challenging for us to comfort children in the usual way, whilst also trying to maintain a distance from them.

If any child becomes symptomatic of the coronavirus during the school day and we send them home, we will share details with you of how to request a test for your child and we will also inform our local Public Health Protection Team who may decide to 'close' a class at short notice. We will only do this if absolutely necessary and apologise if this means that childcare becomes a concern for you. However, the safety of our staff and your children is paramount in these decisions.

Before School Club

We will be running our Rise and Shine before school club from the start of term in September but numbers will be limited. This club is usually available to all children but as we are trying to keep contacts between children to a minimum, we are asking that only families who require childcare, use the club. This club does not provide breakfast but it does provide childcare in the form of physical activity from 8am until 8:50am. If you wish to book your child a place please email the school office as soon as possible with which days you require. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Each session is charged at £3.50 and we will share details of payments etc. in September.

What can parents do to support us?

- Read all of the information within this letter!!
- DO NOT send your child to school if they are unwell in any way.
- DO NOT send your child to school if they are displaying coronavirus symptoms, or if anyone in your household does. All children will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and we ask that children are tested promptly. The aim is to enable children to get back to school as quickly as possible if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff. We will ask all parents to ensure that they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of the result.
- Teach your child how to wash their hands effectively and help them to understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Posters are enclosed to support you with this.

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- Talk to your child/children about their start in school. Acknowledge that they may feel anxious or nervous and try to reassure.
- If your child is clingy or reluctant for you to leave on the first few mornings, support us whilst also accepting that sadly we may not be able to use some of our usual strategies like hand holding or a reassuring arm around their shoulder. We will discuss strategies with you and will have some additional staff available to support children who are struggling.
- Please do not allow your child to bring any unnecessary items into school. They do not need back packs or pencil cases etc. If they do need a bag, please ensure that this is small and preferably draw string so that it hangs easily on pegs. We will not send any reading books home for at least the first week back so book bags are not needed either.

My apologies that this letter is so long and so detailed and for some families who already have children back in school it may replicate information. However, we hope that by sharing as much detail as we can, we can reassure parents and therefore anticipate a positive start to term. We have worked hard to send this information before the end of term so that if any parents have any questions, queries or concerns, there is still time before the end of term to contact us. Please do not hesitate to email the school office. If you would like to discuss any of your queries or concerns again please do let us know so that we can arrange a telephone conversation if needed.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CM', is written over a horizontal line.

Claire Matthews
Head Teacher

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