

Low Ash Primary School

May/June 2020 Newsletter



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Low Ash Primary School will open on June 15th to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

We will open for the children in these year groups from 15th June. We will continue to provide places at school for key worker children in the other year groups as we have done throughout, with home provision for those children remaining at home continuing to run as usual.

Staggered start and finish times

In line with the official guidance, we will open school for all of these children with staggered start and finish times. The school day will also be shortened which will allow us to make sure that all rooms are cleaned thoroughly before/after school.

The timings of the school day will be as follows:

Reception: 8.15am - 1.45pm

**Key Worker children of other year groups:
8.45am - 2.15pm**

Year 1: 9.15am - 2.45pm

Year 6: 9.45am- 3.15pm

Arrival at school

Parents will be asked to line up outside the school gate, bearing in mind the 2 metre social distancing rules. Lines have been painted on the path to help you with this. A one-way system will then operate so that parents come in through the usual school gate but exit through the park entrance. This will be the same when you pick up your child at the end of the day.

Please make sure that only one adult brings your

child to school as we need to minimise the number of people coming in and out of the school playground at any time.

Teaching groups

Children will be taught in 'bubbles' of a maximum of 10 children with no more than two adults in each classroom. If the children are based in a hall, which some may be, then this will be for a maximum of 15 children.

We have tried to make sure that your child will be with an adult that they are familiar with, but obviously not every child will be able to be in a group with their usual class teacher, and they may not be with particular friends.

Please be aware of this if your child is in one of these year groups before you decide whether or not to send your child back.

It is also unlikely that you child will be in their usual classroom as we obviously have to now spread the children out across all classrooms in the school in order for them to stay in their small groups.

Routines for Health and Safety

There will be safe and clear social distancing systems in place throughout school, with regular handwashing and a focus on health and safety at all times.

The children will take their coats and lunchboxes if applicable into their classroom with them. There is no need for book bags to be brought to school. If a book is brought from home, then it will need to remain in school until the end of the

summer term. Similarly, any book selected in school will stay in your child's tray as we cannot risk infection from bringing items to and from school unnecessarily.

Lunchtimes

Our kitchen staff will continue to provide food every day at a charge of £1.90 per lunch for those who are not eligible for free school meals, either under the benefits-related or universal infant free school meals policies (£1.70 for Nursery children). This will be paid through the Parent Pay system as it has been previously. Children in school from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still have the option of a free meal each day under the universal infant free school meals policy.

The children will eat lunch in their classroom. This will mean that all meals will be a packed lunch in some form, with one hot option available each day, such as a chicken wrap or cheese panini.

All children are obviously also welcome to bring their own packed lunch if preferred.

Playtimes

Children will be able to play outside within their 'bubble group' in an area of the playground, but will not be able to join friends from other groups.

All pupils will have a play outside before they sit down for dinner in their classroom base. A lunchtime supervisor or TA will be attached to the group for their dinnertime and they will go out as a group and come in as a group.

Each 'bubble' cannot 'play' with the year groups in the other 'bubbles' and will have an adult responsible for them.

Children at home who receive free school meals

Packed lunches for the children who are not in school, but are eligible for free school meals, will continue to be made available for collection at the school kitchen entrance each day, or delivered by members of staff in the school minibus if this is not possible.

'Other' News

Building Work Update

The new nursery building is in location and nearly finished. There have been some delays with tarmac for the new car park area and windows, but we are assured that the building will be handed over within the next couple of weeks.

The next phase of the work will be planned to start on July 20th and will run during the 6 week holidays. This is to join the 2 new Reception classes (the old Nursery classroom and RJW) together to enable free-flow between the classrooms.

Staffing

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Early Years Leader, Rosalyn Horne, after Mrs Wright left us in April for her new job nearer home.

Mrs Horne will start with us in September and we wish her every success at Low Ash.

Life in School

The children of key workers have continued to come into school since the lockdown started on March 23rd. I hope that you will join with me to thank all the teaching, site, office and kitchen staff who have worked throughout to make this possible and as safe and enjoyable as they could.

I hope this newsletter will help to give you an understanding of how Low Ash will run over the remaining few weeks of the school year.

Again, I apologise for any inconvenience caused by the change in the timings of the day and to the usual routines, but am sure that you will appreciate that the safety of both our children and our staff remains absolutely paramount.

As ever, your continued support and help at this complicated and difficult time is much appreciated - thank you.

Fiona Meer (Co-Headteacher)