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Dear Parents and Carers

You will all be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement that all schools will fully re-open on Monday 8 March 2021. As you know the details of this announcement was shared with the nation at the same time and we weren't privy to any prior knowledge. **Attendance for all pupils will be mandatory for all pupils from this date.** We understand that some parents and children may be anxious about returning, however we feel we have everything in place to ensure safety in school. If you do have any reservations about the return to school please contact Mr Smith.

We are so looking forward to having all of the children back in school and with us for their learning in person. I am sure that you are also looking forward to being able to focus on your own jobs as well. The children and parents have done a marvellous job over the past 7 weeks (so far and now only one more to go) on the remote learning. Well done!

The guidance, for the full return to school, we have received from the DFE is very similar to that from the Autumn Term. Therefore, we will once again be staggering the start and end times of the school day. These will be the same as they were during the Autumn term:

| Bubble Class | Miss Wingett's | Mrs North's | Miss Hake's | Mrs Leonard's | Mr Garcia |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Classroom | Own | Own | Own | Own | Own |
| Time of entry | 9.05 | 9.00 | 8.45 | 8.50 | 8.55 |
| Entry/exit | Gate to pathway | Entrance to cloakroom | Entrance to cloakroom | White hall door | White hall door |
| Times of break | 10.30 – 10.45 | 10.30 – 10.45 | 10.15 – 10.30 | 10.15 – 10.30 | 10.15 – 10.30 |
| Time of lunch | 12.00 – 1.00 | 12.00 – 1.00 | 12.15 – 1.15 | 12.15 – 1.15 | 12.15 – 1.15 |
| Afternoon break | 2.05 – 2.15 | 2.05 – 2.15 | 2.15 – 2.25 | 2.15 – 2.25 | 2.25 – 2.35 |
| Time of leaving | 3.25 | 3.20 | 3.05 | 3.10 | 3.15 |
| Toilets to be used | Boys Reception | Boys Reception | Girls Reception | Boys KS1 corridor | Girls KS1 corridor |
| PE days | Tuesday & Thursday | Wednesday & Friday | Thursday & Friday | Thursday & Friday | Monday & Thursday |
| Forest School | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Tuesday |

| Bubble Class | Mr Evens's | Miss Moore and Miss Ramli's | Mrs Long and Mrs Duffy's | Mr Dean's | Mr BM and Miss Winter's | Mrs Goode and Mr Allen's |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Classroom | Own | Own | Own | Own | Own | Own |
| Time of entry | 8.45 | 8.50 | 8.55 | 9.00 | 9.05 | 9.10 |
| Entry/exit | All to enter and exit school via the main gate to the KS2 playground | | | | | |
| Times of break | 10.00 – 10.15 | 10.00 – 10.15 | 10.00 – 10.15 | 10.30 – 10.45 | 10.30 – 10.45 | 10.30 – 10.45 |
| Time of lunch | 12.00 – 1.00 | 12.00 – 1.00 | 12.00 – 1.00 | 12.30 – 1.30 | 12.30 – 1.30 | 12.30 – 1.30 |
| Time of leaving | 3.05 | 3.10 | 3.15 | 3.20 | 3.25 | 3.30 |
| Toilets to be used | Girls KS2 | Girls KS2 | Girls KS2 | Boys KS2 | Boys KS2 | Boys KS2 |
| PE days | Tuesday & Friday | Monday & Tuesday | Tuesday | Wednesday & Friday | Wednesday & Friday | Wednesday & Friday |
| Forest School | N/A | N/A | Thursday | N/A | N/A | N/A |

As before we would ask that all parents continue to wear face coverings/masks when they come onto the school site for safety reasons and hopefully prevent transmission of Covid.

Parents should also do everything they can to ensure both themselves and their children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. Please consider the needs of your family and be mindful that we need to further reduce the number of cases and keep these at a minimum.

SAFETY

All of the staff have been undergoing a regime of lateral flow testing twice per week since the end of January. Therefore, we know that currently all the staff are clear of any infection. This will continue and if any tests are returned showing a positive result they will be followed up immediately with a PCR test. This is ensuring that the staff are able to continue to work throughout this time.

If however, we do have a confirmed case either from within or outside of school that means a class bubble has to close, then there would be the expectation that Remote Learning is brought back into place to ensure that the children do not miss out on their learning. Of course, this would be communicated to you straight away.

CLASS BUBBLES

We have been advised that the classes remain as single bubble groups apart from Reception where the two classes will continue as a one bubble group. Once we are satisfied that there is little risk of infection and cross contamination, we aim to create larger bubble groups within key phases i.e. Years 1 and 2. This will enable us to provide our specific teaching curriculum organisation for phonics in Key Stage 1 and Mathematics in Years 5 and 6. We will of course let you know when this happens. Our aim is to do this from 19 April 2021, as long as the rates of transmission remain consistently low.

HOLDING BAYS

The 'holding bays' created for the children in Key Stage 2 to use should their younger siblings need to be dropped off before their class comes into school remain. These holding bays are not for children to be dropped off at school before their allotted time if they do not have siblings entering school before their own class times. The 'holding bays' will be supervised by staff members in the key phase they are within from 8.45am daily.

ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL

There continues to be a need to limit the number of items being brought into school. Therefore, only specific items will be allowed. The children will be provided with their own individual pencils, pens, etc by their class teachers. Children will be able to bring their pencil cases into school however, these will then remain in school until the end of the week or term.

Children will be able to bring packed lunch boxes and water bottles into school daily. These will be placed in a designated area rather than in a communal basket or box.

No PE bags will be brought or left in school

No rucksacks are to be in school at all.

Therefore, the children will only bring their coats, lunch boxes and water bottles into school on a daily basis.

BOOKS

The love of books and reading is so important to us at Almondsbury. However, there will be some restrictions on the bringing of books into school. Children in Reception and key stage 1 will be allocated a set day to bring their book bags to school. This is the only day they should be in school. The children will be provided with a change of books on their specific day, for the week. The returning books will be wiped down and left for 72 hours before being re-issued to other children. This will prevent any cross contamination between households. For children in key stage 2 who are on 'banded books', this system will apply as well. Those who have class reading books will be able to exchange books from the provided selection when they need to. Again the returned books will be set aside, after cleaning, for 72 hours. You can still continue to use Reading Planet for supplementary reading materials at home. Please make the best use of this to aid reading everyday with different types of texts.

PE

We will expect the children to return to school in their uniforms as normal. This provides the children with a huge sense of belonging, which again is crucial at this time. As before, we will ask the children to come into school wearing their PE kits on their allocated days. This will stop the 'to and froing' of PE kits from home and school. Please ensure that the children have suitable clothes for these days ie school hoodies or a suitable alternative, shorts and/or track suit bottoms/leggings and trainers. PE will be taking place on the field. No guidance or decisions have been made yet on swimming for the rest of this year. Once we have been updated we will look at when and which classes will be best placed to go swimming.

USE OF PPE

As with any walk of life and throughout the community, we have had a few staff, parents and children who are still shielding. Therefore, we are taking a pragmatic approach to the use of PPE. If staff, parents and or children are more comfortable being back in school and wearing either face coverings or visors, gloves or aprons when in school, then we are providing these as directed in the school risk assessment. The guidance recommends that staff may consider the use of face coverings/shields in classrooms and we will be using these when staff have to move across classes to try to reduce any possible transmission.

ASSEMBLIES/WORSHIP

We will still not be allowed to hold whole school gatherings as yet. Therefore assemblies for worship will continued to be held in classrooms and be connected via Zoom.

BREAKTIMES

The free fruit and vegetables are continuing to be provided for Reception and Key Stage 1 children. We will not be offering toast just yet to Key Stage 2, therefore snacks can be brought in daily. Snacks should be of a healthy nature such as fruit, vegetable sticks, etc. No crisps or chocolate bars. Please remember we are a nut free school.

The children will be allocated specific areas of the playgrounds and field (when the weather allows), which will rotate across the week. They will be provided with some sports equipment and games to play with during these times. They will stay within their class bubbles.

LUNCHTIMES

Children will eat their lunches in their classroom. As usual the children will be able to choose from school lunches or packed lunches from home. We are still waiting to hear from our catering suppliers, Integra, what the menu will be on our return. Therefore, once we hear we will send out the menu choices. If your child requires school cooked lunches you will need to order these via the Parent Pay website. Lunches will be delivered to the classrooms from the kitchen for each class's allocated time.

CLEANING and HYGIENE

The enhanced cleaning regimes remain in place. Staff will be wiping down tables and equipment at the end of each session with anti-bacterial spray to ensure there is no cause for infection transfer and spread. The classroom's surfaces and door handles will be wiped after use. The children will continue to be subject to enhanced hand washing hygiene. Children will be expected to sanitise and wash their hands when they arrive at school and at the end of each lesson. They will also wash their hands before and after break times and lunchtimes. There are posters reminding the children how to wash their hands and for how long. There are also posters making sure that the children are aware of the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' procedures. **We are asking parents to send in a box of tissues for their child and the class.** This is all part of the Health and Safety Risk Assessment that we have placed on the website for you to see.

TOILETS

Each bubble will be allocated a set of toilets to be used. These will continue to be made unisex, which is how they are operating in school at the current time. Each set of toilets will be used by up to three classes. This will prolong the break times and lunchtimes slightly to enable us to get the children through. There will be enhanced regular cleaning of the toilets.

ATTENDANCE

With regards to attendance, we expect that all children restart school on Monday 8 March and continue to remain in school. The government has announced that they expect children to be in school full time. We are taking a pragmatic view that there may be times that the children could be overwhelmed by restarting school and need more time to adjust. If this is the case, then we will work with parents and children to overcome this. However, if the children are fit, well and healthy then they must be in school.

ILLNESS – TRACK AND TRACE

In respect of any illness, we would ask that you inform the school immediately if your child becomes ill or any member of your household with symptoms of Covid 19. We will have to inform PHE (Public Health England) and follow this up when you or the children have been tested. If any member of the class becomes ill and tests positive for Covid 19, then they will have to isolate themselves at home for up to 10 days. We will be in contact with PHE and will follow their guidance as to the next steps before we inform parents of any decisions taken regarding closure of the class bubble.

We would ask that you follow the normal procedures if your child becomes unwell with other illnesses or bugs such as vomiting, etc. This is extremely important for the safety of all members of our school community.

We have a Track and Trace register in place to ensure that we know exactly who has been in contact with who in school should there be any outbreak. The guidance is clear that teaching staff are able to move across the classes as long as they are subject to cleaning and hygiene regime as indicated above.

Please do keep your eye on your email, phone for text messages and website for updates or further details. We will be sending out more details on any changes or amendments to the curriculum and what the children will be encountering when they return later on this week. We will also provide an update on the re-starting of after school extra-curricular activities in the near future as well. These may well not restart in school until after the Easter holidays due to the logistics of getting everything organised and the time we have left in school until the Easter holidays.

We hope that you and your families all stay safe and healthy and will see you all very soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.D. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Paul D Smith Head Teacher