



ADDMORE FEDERATION
'Together we add more'

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kim Stokes

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Re: School Opening on Monday 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are all very excited here to be getting ready to welcome back all of our pupils next week and very much hoping that this will be the last time children will have to be in lockdown away from school. Thank you to all our parents for your support and well done to you all for working so hard to keep your children's education going in what has been a difficult time for us all.

I have outlined below, what I hope are final arrangements for next week's return, but be aware that depending on the national picture, changes may have to be made to our plans, so please check your email inboxes nearer the time. Hopefully the tricky South Africa and Brazil strains won't impact on our plans.

As you may be aware, the DfE has released further guidance for the wider re-opening of schools on 8th March. The prevalence of Coronavirus is once again decreasing and, with the NHS Test & Trace system up and running, we are clear about the measures that need to be in place to create a safe environment within school. Please note, that **from 8th March 2021 attendance** will once again be **mandatory** for all children.

Systems of Control and Prevention

Much remains the same as when we reopened in September 2020, with similar social distancing measures in place. One key difference that provides a further level of protection for families is the regular testing of staff in school. Staff are able to take Lateral Flow (asymptomatic) Tests twice weekly. This programme is not mandatory, but all our staff have chosen to do this, so you can be assured that this should track any asymptomatic cases in our school community swiftly. Primary aged children will not be tested under the current legislation.

Children will be in class bubbles and contact between bubbles minimised, by segregating the playground, staggering start and finish times and providing separate toilet facilities for each bubble.

Staff will wear a face covering on the car park and we ask that parents do the same and do not get out of their cars unless absolutely necessary. Children in primary schools are not required to wear masks, as evidence suggests that younger children may not be able to handle a mask without risking further spread. Children should not bring masks into school without staff's permission and only then, if they have suitable storage bag to store it safely when not in use during the day.

The office and grounds will continue to be closed to visitors except by appointment. The DfE guidance requests that we remind parents that social mixing is still not permitted by law and therefore parents should not gather outside school, including in the car park.

I am sure many of you will be counting down the hours until you can hand over the reins to us once again, but we also acknowledge that for some parents and children the adjustment to returning to school may take





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some getting used to. Parents of younger children, especially, may find that they take time to getting used to the separation at drop-off; you may also find that children are more tired than usual as they get back into the rigours of school. (Some of you may have your fingers crossed for that one – but no guarantees we can wear them out, I’m afraid!) Returning to school is vital for children’s education and wellbeing; and we are here to support if you have any concerns about your child returning next week.

Our system of controls and protective measures, as recommended by Public Health England and the DFE, are in place. Our risk assessment process was reviewed and approved by the Local Authority at the end of 2020. The overarching principle for schools is to maintain class bubbles, thus limiting contact between groups. The second key focus of the risk assessment is to ensure children wash their hands regularly and display good respiratory hygiene. Staff will continue to conduct extra cleaning of resources regularly.

Within classes, children will be seated side by side facing forwards as guidelines recommend. Teachers will encourage social distancing rules within their bubbles to minimise risk and bubbles will be kept separate. However, as we have said before, young children are not able to maintain social distancing, especially when playing.

As we welcome all our pupils back parental co-operation in implementing our safety measures is vital. This includes parents being vigilant for signs of illness in your children. We will not be taking children’s temperatures routinely on entry as the PHE advice is that this is not effective. Please follow the [link](#) for further guidance on what to do if you or a member of your household has one of the three main symptoms, namely:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

Children **should not** attend school if they are unwell with any of the COVID symptoms. If a child develops symptoms in school - a high temperature, cough or loss of taste or smell, a first aider will isolate and monitor the child. Parents must be ready and willing collect their child promptly, seek a test and engage with the Track & Trace process. Where a positive test is confirmed parents must share this outcome as soon as possible. **Close contacts of anyone who tests positive must not attend school for 10 days.** The school will take advice from Public Health England about full or partial closure in these circumstances.

Drop off and Pick up times

We will continue to collect children from the car park for children in Years 1 - 6. Parents of children in Nursery and Reception we ask you hand over your child as swiftly as possible to avoid long queues forming on the pathway to Class 1. If you need to speak with a member of staff, please email or phone the office and a staff member will respond to you as soon as they are available. Government guidance is that staggered start and finish times should continue to be implemented to ensure that bubbles keep socially distanced. We appreciate that for parents, especially those who work, this can be difficult.

Drop off times

Class	Time
Class 1 – Reception	9:00am
Class 1 – Nursery	9:10am
Class 2 – Year 1 and Year 2	8:50am
Class 3 – Year 3 and Year 4	8:45am
Class 4 – Year 5 and Year 6	8:45am





Pick up times

Class	Time
Class 1 – Nursery and Reception	3:00pm
Class 2 – Year 1 and Year 2	3:05pm
Class 3 – Year 3 and Year 4	3:15pm
Class 4 – Year 5 and Year 6	3:15pm

Wraparound Care

Wraparound care will be available once again from 7:30am to 6:00pm. Please book via the school office. Parents using wraparound care will be allowed on site for drop off and pick up but will not be invited into the building. We are sorry for this, as we like to be welcoming, but we thank parents for their understanding. **We are currently using the hall in the main building for both morning and after school wraparound. Please could parents drop off and collect from the from office entrance.**

School Meals

Hot meals will resume from Monday 8th March at a cost of **£2.30**. We will also be operating a packed lunch menu for those who would prefer this to a hot meal. Children in Years R, 1 and 2 will be entitled to free school meals as usual. We would be grateful if parents of those children choosing to provide their own packed lunches keep bags and boxes to a minimum and where possible provide disposable paper bags.

Class Organisation

Children will be expected to **wear school uniform** from Monday 8th March. If parents have a problem with school uniform, please contact your child’s class teacher or the school office.

Children will need their **PE kit** in school every day, as we will be going outside as much as possible. We request that as little as possible is brought in from home to minimise risk to all children: **strictly no toys**. Each child will be given their own pencil case and contents, so children will only need a bag big enough to fit their: **named water bottle, PE kit, reading book and lunch**, if brought in from home. The government advice is for classrooms to be well-ventilated and for children to learn outdoors as much as possible. Therefore, please can you make sure that your child wears layers to accommodate the changeable weather conditions.

World Book Day

The official date for World Book Day is this Thursday 4th March, but at AddMore Federation we will be celebrating **World Book Day on Wednesday 10th March**. We have chosen to do this so that we can enjoy the day with all children in school. You should have received a separate letter about this.

My thanks to all the staff who have continued to support our children and deal with whatever challenges this pandemic brings. We look forward to welcoming all the children back on **Monday, 8th March**. I hope your children are looking forward to returning as much as we are to seeing them. It will be joyous having them back in school again.

Stay safe

Mrs Kim Stokes
Executive Headteacher

