



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learners for Life

Farmers Forever

Ambitious, Healthy Bodies and Minds, Reflective, Resilient

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Dear Parents / Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to inform you that we will be **open to all children** from Monday 8th March 2021. We are delighted that this news has come from Central Government, and are now working hard on planning for your child's return to school, as there may be a few changes from our Autumn Term rules and routines to ensure that **safety of all remains paramount**.

Ultimately, school life will return to the procedures and plans that were so successful during the Autumn Term. However, we will be making slight adjustments to certain areas (detailed below). Below is a summary and response to the key questions asked about the return to school.

Who is returning and how?

All children will return from **Monday 8th March 2021**, and normal attendance is expected. There will be a full re-opening, with all pupils returning on the SAME day. However, some children may need a bespoke plan to support their successful and safe return to school, and these plans will be created with families as needed.

Will there still be staggered start and end times to the school day?

Yes. As a school, we will revert back to the Autumn Term timings, to ensure the safe drop-off and collection of children for all year groups.

Year group	3	4	5	6
Arrival time	8.45	8.55	8.45	8.55
Gate used	Top	Top	Bottom	Bottom
Departure time	3.10	3.20	3.10	3.20
Playground allocation	Nearest to road	Nearest to road	Nearest to field	Nearest to field

We ask that all parents and family members responsible for drop-off and collections continue to adhere to the requests for masks to continue to be worn and to ensure that you socially distance yourselves from other families, to support us in reducing the risk of transmission. Please be considerate of this and be aware that some parents will be very anxious.

Is attendance compulsory?

Full attendance of pupils is compulsory from the **8th March** except if a pupil has a NHS shielding letter (not a parent or family member - this is a Government mandate and not a choice). If this is the case, please contact the school office and your child's class teacher will discuss remote learning arrangements with you and your child.

Have you updated your risk assessment?

Yes. An updated Risk Assessment has been completed and will be available on the website later this week. If you have any questions regarding it, please email the school office on admin2421@welearn365.com

Will school adults be wearing PPE?

The guidance states that PPE can be worn by adults administering first aid or supporting with intimate care

needs. This was normal practice for all school prior to the closures due to the virus, and this practice will continue as normal. Staff will be wearing visors or masks on door or gate duties, and this will be reviewed at Easter.

Are children required to wear uniform/PE kits?

Yes. Full uniform is expected to be worn by all. However, we appreciate that many children are outgrowing their clothes/footwear and there is limited availability of replacements at this time. We ask that families try their best to ensure that clothing matches the uniform as closely as possible. Anyone who has concerns can contact us for reassurance/discuss options.

PE/Games kits are expected to be worn on PE days (these should be the same days as the Autumn and children will be reminded of these when they return on Monday). Your children should bring their kits to school and change at school, under the supervision of staff.

*Please provide hoodies/tracksuit bottoms on colder days as the majority of PE/games is still taking place outdoors, for better ventilation.

What are the options for lunch?

Lunchtimes have been extremely successful in ensuring that children enjoy a well-earned rest from their learning, eat their lunches and have an opportunity to safely play with the children in their year groups. All of this will continue in a familiar format, with additional support in place to assist children in playing together positively, via some structured games on the playground.

At the start of this term, we extended our lunch provision to include more hot meal options and increase variety from the deli bags served during the Autumn. There are far more options that now closely match what the children will have enjoyed pre-pandemic.

A new lunch menu is attached to the email and can be viewed on the school website:

<https://abbotsfarm.co.uk/parents/school-meals/>

Ordering lunches will follow the same process as previous. Please book and pay online in advance and try to avoid having to speak face-to-face with the office.

How will the children be grouped?

The children will be welcomed back into their previous classes. Each pair of year group classes will form a year group 'bubble'. No year groups will mix with any others, just as was the case throughout last year's provision.

How will children be supported with the return?

The return will be an unfamiliar experience for all children, whether at home during the lockdown or having been in mixed groups in school. Social distancing is not advised within groups. Teachers and TAs have been working hard to ensure that the curriculum provision the children return to, provides opportunities for re-engagement, for building the relationships with their friends after such a period of time away, and to support children with expressing their worries in whatever way they feel that they can.

Year group pastoral teams and Miss Poppy will coordinate any additional support required.

What will be taught? How do you know if my child is on-track/off-track?

The curriculum will offer a range of consolidation of learning and opportunities for new learning over the next four weeks and into the summer term. Year group teams will support ALL children with identifying where they are at in their learning journey and, through informal assessments towards the end of term, will be able to identify whole class and individual next steps.

Our priority remains the safe and happy return of pupils, but a speedy analysis of where children are at and a comprehensive response to accelerating learning will follow shortly.

Will home learning resume?

Yes. Home learning will restart week beginning **8th March**. Children will receive their usual balance of core skills and optional home learning. Please refer to our home learning policy on the website for details around times and balance etc. Year group teams will share the content via Seesaw weekly.

How do we communicate with school?

As previous, please use the school email (admin2421@welearn365.com) to communicate with school in the first instance. You can also contact us via telephone on 01788 576074.

We ask that parents continue to respect the request not to come onto school site unless absolutely essential e.g. to pick up a poorly child, drop-off belongings etc or if you have a pre-arranged agreement to do so.

Our biggest aim is to continue to provide effective communication channels that support our families, whilst ensuring we keep the risk to staff and adults generally to a minimum.

What if my child or someone in my family shows symptoms?

Please follow the guidance available on the school website <https://abbotsfarm.co.uk/key-information/covid-19-information/>

If anyone in the household shows symptoms, you are asked to ALL self-isolate and book for a PCR test. Please let us know the result of the test ASAP. If any member of the family has symptoms, the whole household must isolate until the person receives a negative test. Please follow the national guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

As a community, we have been very successful in reducing the risk of transmission and ensuring that 'bubbles'/groups have not closed within school. Only with your support in following the guidance can this continue.

Staff are testing themselves twice weekly with lateral flow tests at home. This hopefully will give additional confidence to parents and staff that if we have a positive case, it is detected as early as possible.

What support is there for parents?

We understand that many parents have found lockdown very difficult and continue to do so. If you have anything non educational that you would like to discuss with someone at school, Miss Poppy, our Family and liaison, is available to chat through any problems. These could be: child's behaviour at home, problems with their eating or sleeping or a problem with housing, money etc. Miss Poppy can be contacted via admin2421@welearn365.com

Is KidZone still running?

Yes. You will have received communication around bookings, timings and availability if your child/children attend KidZone.

What do we do next?

Hopefully many of you have booked for a pupil/parent meeting, which will give you and your child's class teacher a good opportunity to discuss the return in more details.

If you haven't yet done so, please book an appointment.

We hope that the above answers the majority of questions. If not, please contact the office and we will get back to you.

We are very much looking forward to bringing our community back together again to safely navigate our way through the next few weeks to...freedom (we hope!)

With best wishes,

Mr Andrews
Headteacher