



## **FAQs about returning to school in September - updated August 2020**

### ***When will my child return to school?***

On Thursday 3rd September, Year 3 will return to school. They need to arrive at 8.45am and come in through the large side gate by the bike sheds. Children and parents/carers/carers will be shown round to the year 3 area and go into classes from there. If the weather is fine, we will endeavour to do a short address to parents/carers on the playground once the children are in class.

On Friday 4th September, Year 3 will have a rolling start, arriving between 8.35am and 8.50am and walk round to the classroom doors, with their parents/carers if they wish. Year 4 will be asked to arrive at 9.15am. They will line up on the playground with their new teacher and then be taken into class.

On Monday 7th September, all children will be in school, Year 3 and 4 will operate a rolling start, arriving between 8.35am and 8.50am, accompanied onto the playground by parents/carers if they wish but encouraged to start entering the site by themselves. Year 6 will arrive at 9am, line up on the playground with their new teacher and be taken to class. Year 5 will arrive at 9.15am and do the same.

To ease transition back to school, we will allow parents/carers on to the playground for the first full week of school. If your child is confident to enter the school site on their own before that date, they are very welcome to do so.

### ***What happens at the start of the day?***

After their first day back, parents/carers may drop children at any time between 8.35am and 8.50am for a 'rolling start', going straight into the classroom. From 14th September, children should be dropped at the big side gate by the covered bike sheds and walk through the playground and into class. There will be members of staff on the gate and the playground to support with this if necessary.

### ***What happens at the end of the day?***

End of the day timings have remained largely the same to help those collecting children in different year groups: Year 3 and 6 will be dismissed at 3.10pm; Year 4 and 5 at 3.15pm.

To help with social distancing and promote responsibility, Year 6 will not be dismissed directly to parents/carers. They will be allowed to walk to parents/carers on site or walk with Y6 teachers to the main side gate. At the gate, they will be able to meet with their adults or walk home on their own if they have permission to do so.

We will use two gates to make a one way system for parents/carers collecting children in other year groups. Year 3 will be collected from their classrooms. Year 4 and 5 will be collected from the main playground.

### ***How will school be organised?***



In order to reduce the risk of infection, children will be organised in class bubbles for lesson time. This means that the children will stay together as a class and will not mix with other classes or use other rooms in the school building. The class teacher and teaching assistant will stay with the class as much as possible, but there will be higher level teaching assistants covering teachers' planning time and midday assistants will supervise the children at lunchtime.

The children will be expected to clean their hands on arrival, between activities and before leaving the classroom. All classrooms have sinks for handwashing and hand sanitiser. We will maximise ventilation in the school buildings by opening windows, internal doors etc. Where possible, outdoor learning will take place at a social distance from other class bubbles.

At breaktimes and lunchtimes children will have the opportunity to play in wider year group bubbles outside, using specific year group play areas and toilets. Equipment and toilets will be cleaned after break and lunchtimes.

To ensure safety, assemblies will initially be held remotely.

### ***What will happen at lunchtimes?***

We are planning that children will eat in the dining hall one week and in their classrooms the next. There will be a hot meal served to children having a school lunch in the dining hall. Classes having lunch in classrooms will have school packed lunch. All children will still have the option of bringing their own packed lunch.

We are keen to give all children the opportunity to eat in the dining hall. The seating and tables will be disinfected between year groups. Once they've had their lunch, children will play outside with their year group bubble. Year 3 and 4 will have lunch from 12-12.45pm and Year 5 and 6 will have lunch from 12.45-1.30pm. This may be subject to change!

### ***Does my child have to wear uniform?***

Yes, uniform must be worn. As a result of increasing outdoor learning where possible, children are permitted to wear plain black trainers instead of school shoes if they wish. PE days will be advertised and children will be asked to come into school in their PE kit and wear it for the day. As per the email sent, there will be some good quality, second hand uniform on sale on the afternoon of Thursday 3rd September.

### ***What is happening about using face coverings? Updated August 2020***

The latest government guidelines issued at the end of August 2020 relate to secondary schools. They advise that face coverings are not necessary in primary classrooms. If your child comes to school wearing a re-usable face covering, please take it home, or make sure that your child has a sealable plastic bag to put the face covering in for safe-keeping. All visitors coming into the school building will be asked to wear a face covering. Some staff may wear a face covering when moving around the school building or meeting with other staff when social distancing may be hard to maintain..



If local conditions or national guidelines change, then we will review our approach to face coverings.

***Is it compulsory for my child to attend school?***

Yes, the government guidance states that it is compulsory for children to attend school from September. In a very small number of cases, medical advice for your child might mean that they are unable to attend school. Please get in touch with us if this is the case and, as per the government guidance, we will provide a full curriculum for your child to access at home.

***Will there be breakfast club / after school clubs?***

When we start back in September, these clubs will not be running. We will endeavour to open them as soon as we can and will advise you when we know more.

***What should my child bring to school? Updated August 2020***

As little as possible! To allow effective cleaning, we have cleared classrooms of additional furniture where possible so there are very few places to store items. Children **must** bring a water bottle as the water fountains are not available. Children do not need to bring pencil cases or their own stationery, as we are preparing a set of equipment for every child. They may wish to bring a healthy snack for breaktime, although there will be breakfast bagels and fruit available as well.

Please make sure that lunch boxes are in a clearly labelled lunch box.

Please don't send your child to school with a large school bag; we have gone to great efforts to 'declutter' the classrooms to create more space. We are asking the children to bring in a minimum of equipment and we ask that large bags are kept at home.

Reading books will be taken home so that your child can read with you. We will quarantine books when they are returned. Homework will also be set and this can be brought into school when requested.

**So what about the 'happiness boxes'?** This is a 'one-off' activity and the children will bring items and store them in their own box. Items won't be passed around. We believe that the boxes will help the children to settle back into school life.

***School Office***

The school office staff are always happy to help but please avoid entering the school office if you can for the foreseeable future.

**Payments** should be made via the School Gateway app if possible but if you need to pay by cash, the correct money must be placed in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class and what the payment is for. The envelope can then be placed in the secure post box which will be situated in the front foyer;



**Enquiries** should be raised by email to [admin@altonpark.school](mailto:admin@altonpark.school), by telephone to 01255 424335 or in writing with the envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class and placed in the post box in the front foyer.

**Free School Meals** There are no universal free school meals from Year 3 onwards so if you think you are entitled you will need to apply. Until the award has been confirmed by the local authority, dinners must be paid for in advance - no arrears will be allowed to accumulate. Application forms are available in the racks in the front foyer.