

Dear Parents,

We very much look forward to welcoming all children back into school on Friday.

Below are updated questions and answers with everything you need to know in readiness for a successful, safe term ahead.

Whilst we are aware that this has been sent the day before we open, staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that every eventuality has been thought of, and all the latest government guidance is in place.

Are you definitely re-opening on Friday 4th September?

Yes, all year groups (with the exception of Reception groups) will be welcomed back into school on Friday 4th September. This is an ideal opportunity for us to support the children with a swift and supportive return to school, understanding new routines ready for a full week ahead from Monday 7th September.

Our new gates at the Nursery, KS1 and KS2 entrances will be unlocked from 8am to 9am and 3pm to 4pm. To gain entrance at any other time, you must come to the green gate that leads down to the school office and buzz for entry.

Entry to the staff carpark is prohibited unless you have prior agreement with the school and a carpark permit has been issued.

How many children will my child come into contact with?

Children will be in class groups of 30 (up to 32 in KS2). The children are allowed to mix with other children in their year groups at playtimes, lunchtimes and for specific lessons/interventions. The children will not be meeting in Key Stages, or as a whole school; there will not be any whole school assemblies until further guidance from the Government is issued. Mrs Morrison will send pre-recorded or live messages/assemblies to the children's classrooms.

Who will be looking after my child?

Your child will be taught by their class teacher and will be supported by teaching assistants as appropriate. Staff will be allocated year group bubbles that they will work in, however, this could be more than one. There are some members of staff that will inevitably have to work across the school e.g. Mrs Morrison, Mrs Uttley, Mrs Arfi, Mrs Miles and those members of staff that cover classes whilst class teachers have their release time. These members of

staff will take extra precautions and try to remain 2 metres away from other adults whilst in school where possible.

Where will my child be based?

Your child will be based in their classroom and will be able to use the group areas within their year groups. In year groups where we have more space and spare classrooms, these will be used to maximise learning opportunities.

What will be the arrangements for dropping off and picking up my child?

From September we will be changing the times of our school day slightly. This will allow for a swift drop off and collection of children on a larger site (this is a permanent change). We have also been impressed with how well our children have coped with the one-way routes into school.

Please see table below:

	Gate	Time gate open	Start time (in class by)	Home time
Nursery	KS1	8.30am	8.40am	3.20pm
Reception	KS1	8.30am	8.40am	3.20pm
Year 1	KS1	8.45am	8.55am	3.35pm
Year 2	KS1	8.45am	8.55am	3.35pm
Year 3	KS2	8.45am	8.55am	3.35pm
Year 4	KS2	8.45am	8.55am	3.35pm
Year 5	KS2	8.30am	8.40am	3.20pm
Year 6	KS2	8.30am	8.40am	3.20pm

Parents will need to adhere to these drop off and collection times to avoid overcrowding of the school site, and unnecessary contact with other parents and families. If you have children in different year groups, this may mean two trips around the school site so make sure that you are wearing your step counters!

Can my Year 5/6 child walk to and from school unaccompanied and bring a mobile phone with them?

Year 5 and 6 children may walk to school on their own. They will need to go straight to the ballcourt and line up in their classes where a member of staff will be to meet them.

If your child is in Year 5, we will assume that they will be picked up from the Ballcourt at the end of the day. Unless the office has been informed that consent has been given for the child to walk home alone. For the first half term we will review those children who have been given consent by 12pm each Friday.

For tomorrow, Friday 4th September, we will assume that all Year 5 children will be collected from the Ballcourt unless the office has been advised by 12pm.

We will also assume that all Year 6 pupils will be walking home unaccompanied unless the school has been notified until further notice.

If you make the decision to allow your child to walk to school unaccompanied they may bring a mobile phone with them. It is the child's responsibility to follow classroom expectations to store the phones securely each day in a communal locked box. To minimise any risk, we would request that, if your child brings a mobile phone into school, a fresh sandwich bag must be provided each day for the mobile phone to be stored in.

Does my child have to wear uniform?

Yes, we feel that in September it is important for school to feel as normal as possible.

Let's be proud to be Abbots Green again. We are aware that Brigade have not despatched their uniform as swiftly as we would have liked and will be sensitive to this issue until it is resolved.

On the days that your child has PE, they will need to come dressed in their PE kits for the whole day. You will be informed of your child's PE days on September 4th.

For further guidance on school uniform and PE kits, please refer to the school website. This year we are looking forward to developing our PE kit to reflect the pride that we take in our uniform.

	Play time (am)	Lunch time Delivery of meals from the hall (one hour including playtime)	
		Delivery time	Break time
	N/A	11:45am	N/A
R	10:15am	11:45-12:45 (Reception Area)	
1	10:30 Playground R	12:00pm	12:30 Playground (right)
2	10:30am Playground L	12:00pm	12:30 Playground (left)
3	10:45am Playground	12:30 pm	1:00 Playground (left)
4	10:45 am Ball court	12:30 pm	1:00 Playground (right)
5	10:15am Playground	12:15 pm	12:45 Ball court
6	10:15am Ball court	12:45 pm	12:15 Ball court

What about breaks and lunchtimes?

These will be staggered so that different year groups will be outside at different times, again staying in their separate outdoor spaces or classrooms allocated to your child's year group.

Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms. Your child can either bring their own packed lunch or they can have one provided by

the school's normal catering company (Vertas): children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free 'Universal Infant Free School Meal' as normal, and children in Years 2 to 6 who are eligible for Free School Meals are also entitled to a free packed lunch. All other pupils can purchase a packed lunch

A revised hot meal menu will be shared on our website as soon as this is available.

Scientific guidance states that the risk of transmission is much lower outdoors. However, we will still be reminding children about keeping apart and each year group will have its own times for breaks and lunchtimes. All children will have 30 minutes to eat their lunch and then go outside in their year group bubble.

Will there be tuck shop on a Friday?

No. Children can bring in their own healthy snack each day. Fruit or vegetables only please.

What are you doing to keep schools as clean as possible?

In addition to our normal rigorous cleaning, we will have a cleaner on site from 12-6pm each day to clean toilet areas and to help with cleaning classrooms.

How are you keeping my child safe when they are in class?

Following Government guidelines, children will all be seated facing the same direction; the school will provide the children with their own equipment (this will remain in school) to use, and shared resources will be kept to a minimum. Children will be asked to wash their hands regularly.

What will my child be learning in school when they return?

We look forward to delivering the Abbots Green curriculum from September. This will create a balance of all subjects with additional opportunities to learn outside.

We recognise the importance of supporting our children's emotional needs as we start a new year; we will need to balance this carefully with ensuring we gain an understanding of where child's academic needs are placed.

We will also be educating and supporting the children specifically around the topic of Coronavirus e.g. if a child coughs, this does not mean that they have the virus.

PE lessons will be taught outside – we will be implementing the summer curriculum (athletics, team sports) in the Autumn Term.

Your child will be reading to adults (appropriate to each year group) but will be unable to bring reading books home – this will be reviewed in September in line with Government guidance.

Statutory tests (e.g Y6 SATS/Y4 times tables test) will go ahead as directed by the Government

What can my child need to bring in?

- A named water bottle
- A packed lunch (if applicable)
- A named coat (weather dependent)
- Inhalers/medication where applicable – please send these with your children on Friday 4th; they will be collected and stored safely and appropriately by an adult (see further information below).
- Your child DOES NOT need to bring in a bag/back pack.

My child was sent home with their inhaler and consent form prior to the summer holidays/lockdown. How should these be returned to school?

All children who have medication kept in school (inhalers, epipens etc) should return these with the consent form when they return to school, in a small labelled bag and handed to their class teacher. Please ensure that the medication is labelled and in date. The medication will be stored safely and securely in your child's class base.

What will happen if my child gets a cough or cold?

We will continue to follow NHS guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), you must stay at home (self-isolate) and get a test.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. **Stay at home (self-isolate)** – do not leave your home or have visitors. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also self-isolate.

2. **Get a test** – get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, should also get a test if they have symptoms.

Get a test to check if you have coronavirus

What if someone in the school gets Covid-19?

The current guidance, is that if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19, the children and adults within that year group bubble will have to remain at home for 14 days. If schools have 2 or more confirmed cases of Covid-19 within 14 days, they may have an outbreak, and will need to take advice from the Local Authority.

Do I have to send my child to school?

Yes, the expectation is that all children attend school. It is a parents' duty to make sure that their child attends school regularly where they are a registered pupil at school, and they are of compulsory school age. At Abbots Green, we will record attendance and follow up absence - your child's well-being is integral to all that we do.

Will you still provide distance learning to those children that cannot attend school?

It will be our intention to share distanced learning only when a bubble is closed. Home learning will be set weekly for all year groups.

Will my child be able to access Sunrisers/Sunsetters

Yes, as a school we are very proud of the wrap around care that we offer. This will be slightly different with children being placed in year group/ key stage groups to minimise contact - further details of these arrangements are being sent separately. All children requiring a place at Sunrisers/Sunsetters will be given a place where possible.

How are schools going to adhere to social distancing rules and measures?

Within year group bubbles, social distancing will not be possible. Children will be taught about the importance of socially distancing. However, we recognise with classes of up to 32, this will not always be possible. We will not be having any whole school assemblies.

How will first aid be administered?

Staff will administer first aid as they normally do, but will be wearing PPE – a mask, a visor, an apron and gloves.

How will the school inform parents of any changes/updates due to Covid-19?

We will put this document on the school website and will update it regularly.

We will also hold another parents' forum within the first 2 weeks of September. We will address more questions then, including whether or not we will be holding a parents' evening during the autumn term. We will also use the newsletter to signpost to updates on the website

How can I communicate with school?

To correspond with your child's class teacher, email addresses will be available for each class for example kenyaclass@abbotsgreenacademy.co.uk.

We are looking to reduce as much physical and face to face contact as possible therefore the school office will remain closed, however contact can be made with the school office by either telephoning on 01284 718818 or emailing office@abbotsgreenacademy.co.uk. The exception to this is if you are collecting your child for a medical appointment or if they are unwell.

We will continue to update this document on a regular basis – please check the school website for any updates.