

Amble First School

Edwin Street, Amble, Northumberland NE650EF Tel: 01665 710388

Headteacher: Helen Bruce Deputy Headteacher: Dawn Hunter

www.amblefirst.northumberland.sch.uk/website

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29.05.2020

Dear Parents,

What is a bubble?

A bubble is a group of staff and children that stay together for the duration of the teaching week. This bubble works and plays together away from other bubbles as part of our endeavours to minimise risks by significantly reducing the number of people that each person socialises with in school. The government guidelines state that bubbles should be 'small groups of no more than 15.'

On June 1st, Key worker children will be welcomed back in this first week. The format for these pupils has changed to reflect the government guidelines and in preparation for the wider school opening. All key worker children will be welcomed back in their own settings/ classrooms with their own teaching team (KS2 will be one bubble- due to very low numbers which makes social distancing simpler). This will mean that each child is in the correct year group 'bubble' to support the measures required to welcome more pupils back to school. This benefits the key worker children as they have their own dedicated year group team and they will be able to work alongside their own classmates when they return. If they stay as a key worker bubble they can't then join a class bubble later on. **The school hours for key worker children are Monday to Friday, 8:30am- 3:15pm.** We are no longer able to manage the breakfast club or after school club as pupils and staff would then be mixing 'bubbles.' Key worker families are expected to follow the same guidelines as outlined below. For the moment children are still required to bring a packed lunch if they are staying all day. Can this go in their named bag with their coat, please. (see below for more details)

On June 8th we will proceed with stage two of our school reopening plan by welcoming back our Reception class. As we have fifteen pupils in Reception, Mrs Donaldson and Mrs Mallaburn will manage the whole class as one 'bubble.' In order to support social distancing this will be done in two smaller groups. On Monday and Tuesday, Group A will come to school from 9am - 12 pm. On Thursday and Friday Group B will come to school from 9am-12pm. On Wednesday school will be closed to allow for the teachers to plan and manage home-schooling, prepare in school teaching and to allow for extra cleaning.

Groups will be organised week beginning, Monday June 1st once we have established who will be returning. We will contact all Reception parents during this week.

On June 15th we will welcome year one pupils back to school using the same format. Mr Wonders and Mrs Brown will manage the first bubble of 15 pupils over the week, in two groups. If numbers exceed 15, Mrs Poulton, Mrs Bruce and Miss Wilkie will manage the second bubble.

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Groups will be organised week beginning, Monday June 8th once we have established who will be returning. We will contact all Year One parents during this week.

Our parent survey told us you were worried about the consequences for not sending your child back and that you were concerned about your child falling behind. We can reassure you:

- The government guidance advises that 'parents will **not** be fined for non-attendance at this time.
- We will continue to provide home learning for pupils who are not in school. Staff will continue to be vigilant in monitoring home school learning and support families with concerns.

Please also note, that due to the unprecedented nature of the Covid 19 virus and the daily updates and guidance schools are receiving, these plans are still subject to change!

Our parent survey told us you were concerned about what social distancing measures would be in place to ensure your child's safety. You also told us you were worried these measures would be too different for the children to manage. You talked about 'the effects of social distancing; how it could impact on their mental health; how their perception of school as 'normal' may be affected.

The Covid 19 virus means no school can guarantee the safety of all in school but we can do our best to reduce the risks.

Staggered Opening

We are moving slowly with caution to ensure we have the capacity to maintain the highest standards of safety.

- June 1st- Key workers only
- June 8th - Reception class
- June 15th - Year One
- Other year groups start dates to be confirmed

Our year groups will also have staggered drop off and collection times:

- Key Workers: 8:30am - 3:15pm
- Reception: 9:00am - 12:00pm
- Year One: 8:45am - 12:15pm

Families with siblings must pick a single year group time for all of their children. During this time queueing methods will be put in place. Staff will be on hand to support parents with this. In the first instance Key workers and Reception children will be asked to come in the main school entrance.

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Children must be dropped off and collected at the right time in order for this measure to work effectively. If late, parents must wait until the respective year group is finalised and staff are able to escort the child into school safely.

Starting School

We need 48 hours (2 working days) notice if you wish your child to return to school at any point over the Summer Term. We need this time to ensure we can place them securely with adequate resources and appropriate adult supervision. For everyone's safety we will not accept any pupil without this level of prior notice.

The Bubbles

Children will be organised into year group 'bubbles'. At present, due to very low numbers, Key Stage Two (Year Three and Four) will be managed together. Each bubble will have their own classroom and resources for learning and play. They will not mix with other bubbles in school.

Outdoor times will be staggered and/or bubbles will be given allocated areas of the playground to keep everyone safe.

Learning environment

The classrooms have been organised to allow for each child to have their own working space. Each child will be given a tray with their own resources which will not be shared.

In Reception and Nursery, the classroom has been organised into play spaces which will support the pupils to social distance from one another. We will limit toys and resources to ones that can be easily and regularly cleaned.

As the guidance states,

"Early Years and Primary aged children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff...we will aim where possible to reduce contact"

We are not able at any point to guarantee social distancing but we can do as much as possible to reduce the risks.

This will be done by:

- Minimising contact and mixing of groups
- Regular cleaning
- Frequent hand washing
- Children will be asked to follow hygiene measures following a cough or sneeze.

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- Children will be encouraged where possible not to touch their faces or to put objects in their mouths.
- Children to wear clean clothes for each school day
- Ensuring parents are advised to keep children with symptoms at home

Responding to symptoms of coronavirus

Please DO NOT send your child to school if they are experiencing any symptoms of coronavirus. If anyone in your household has symptoms you MUST NOT send your child into school and your household should isolate.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

If a child has symptoms in school we will isolate the child with an appropriate adult. The adult will wear PPE. Parents will be called immediately to collect their child and testing guidelines must be followed and the school informed of the results.

At the same time, the rest of the year group bubble will be phoned. The children and staff in school will be sent home and the setting will be cleaned in line with 'the cleaning of non healthcare setting guidelines' (Public Health England). The staff and children in the bubble need to follow the stay at home government guidance until contacted by the school. If the test is negative children can return to school on the next working day. If the test is positive all those in the bubble will have to isolate for 14 days as per government guidance.

Clothing

Children should wear their school jumper. The rest of their outfit just needs to be sensible for school, for example a PE day/ school trip. Children will be partaking in lots of PE and activity so trainers are a good idea. Nothing unsuitable for running around!

To help us minimise risk, we ask that pupils wear clean clothes for each school day.

Children should bring nothing to school other than their coat in a named plastic bag. The children are not allowed to bring any toys or items from home. This is simply to minimise the spread of germs.

Movement around school

Each bubble will have specified toilets and will be supervised when entering and exiting their designated spaces to ensure social distancing can be maintained. At playtime, children will be supervised in designated areas of the school grounds and encouraged to play non- contact games.

A lot to take in I know and I'm sure you still have questions!

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The staff and governors are committed to supporting our school community and ensuring the safety of everyone who enters Amble First School. We appreciate all the comments from our surveys, Facebook and in our telephone and doorstep conversations. We have taken them into consideration and we hope to have answered your initial queries.

We will phone Reception class on Monday June 1st. We have enlisted the help of our school nurse Jane Crudace to support us with risk assessing the medical needs of our pupils so we may ask her to phone your home and please let us know if you would like advice.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please feel free to phone school from Monday morning.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Rachel McGarvey
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Mrs Helen Bruce
HEAD TEACHER

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Home School Agreement

By sending your child to school you are agreeing to the following:

I will drop off and pick up my child at the correct designated times. If I am late I will wait until all other pupil groups have entered school or staff indicate it is safe.

I will observe social distancing when dropping off and picking up my child.

If I want my child to come to school, I will give 48 hours (2 working days) notice.

I will keep my child at home if they or anyone in the household has Covid 19 symptoms. I will inform the school. I will only return my child when it is safe to do so. (Following a test or isolation as per government guidelines)

I will send my child with no extra items (toys, books etc..) other than their coat in a named plastic bag.

I will send my child in sensible clothing for play and their school jumper. I will put them in a fresh set of clothes for each school day.

I will support the school if my child is sent home with Covid 19 symptoms by following the national test procedure and isolating according to the guidelines.

I will bring my packed lunch in my named plastic bag. (Initially, Key workers only)

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