



The Academy at
St James
Aspire, Achieve, Believe

The Academy at St James
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Headteacher: Mr Chris Tolson

Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming all of the children back into school on Monday! Thank you for all of your help and support during the lockdown period – we have been really pleased by the amount and quality of the work that has been handed in. We are really excited about seeing all the children and getting back into the routine of school.

It is really important that all of the children return to school on Monday. The children have already missed a significant amount of time in their education and this will have affected them not only in their learning but also with their mental health and wellbeing. It is very important for children to get back to normal as soon as possible. I can assure you that the risk of transmission is very low between young people and the school is taking every step possible to minimise any risk there might be.

Remember to make sure they get a good night's sleep, have a good breakfast and get to school on time on Monday- we will be waiting for them with lots of exciting things planned.

What will school feel like for the children from Monday?

We have tried very hard to keep as much as normal as possible for the children. Their days should feel very similar to how school ran in the Autumn term. The children have their usual lessons predominantly in their classrooms. The children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will work separately as 'bubbles'. The children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will work in separate classes as separate bubbles. These children and adults will remain predominantly together in their classroom and outside during the day; they will not interact with other children in other bubbles. In order to reduce mixing of bubbles, all Collective Worship will be broadcast virtually to each bubble; the children will not be assembling in the school hall together.

How will the children have playtimes and lunchtimes?

The children will still have their playtimes and meal times but these will be staggered to ensure the bubbles remain isolated. The children will eat their lunch in either the dining room or their classroom. The catering team will be providing a full hot and cold meal service for the children. Initially, those children in Full-Time Nursery staying for their lunch will eat within the Nursery classroom.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals, this will be provided for them. All other children will need to pay for their meal as normal through Parent Pay. We will not be able to accept cash payments.

What precautions will be in place to ensure the children and adults are safe?

As the government guidance states, the following 'hierarchy of controls' will be adhered to:

- Children or adults who are unwell will not be allowed to attend school
- Everyone will regularly wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water, soap or alcohol hand sanitizer
- 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will be in place across school
- Cleaning regimes will be enhanced, cleaning frequently touched surfaces regularly
- The children will be working in their bubbles to minimise contact and mixing

Each bubble will be allocated their own toilet cubicle or bathroom. Children will be able to visit the toilet when needed, as normal. The children will be reminded to ensure they wash their hands thoroughly after each visit. The staff will ensure there is only one child in the bathroom at a time to ensure social distancing is adhered to.

What will the classrooms look like?

The classrooms will look very similar to normal although some softer furnishings (cushions,rugs etc.) have been removed. In Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 the children will be sitting in rows, facing the front of the classroom. This is following the Government Guidelines. The older children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be provided with their own pencils, pens and rulers. If children from different bubbles are working together in a lesson (such as phonics groups) they will be seated apart from each other within the lesson to minimise contact and mixing from different bubbles.

What will a typical lesson look like?

For children in Nursery, Reception and Y1, they will access the classroom provision activities available to them. They will continue to participate in daily phonics, maths and writing sessions. They may spend some of the week outside, but this will be during a timetabled period to ensure they do not mix with other children in a different bubble. For children in Y2 – 6, they will continue to have their usual lessons in a similar way. They will continue to participate in daily maths and writing sessions along with their other lessons such as Geography, History, Music, PE etc. across the course of the week.

Will the children need to wear uniform?

The children will need to wear their school uniform when coming to school. They will also need to bring their filled water bottle (only water please), lunch box and a book bag.

We understand that children may have grown during the lockdown period and as shops have been closed, it may be difficult to purchase new shoes. **Please speak to us if you have a problem with uniform/ school shoes.**

What will the arrangements be like for PE?

We will be asking for pupils to come to school in their school PE kit (black shorts and blue/white plain t-shirt) They will need to wear trainers. They **must also** bring jogging bottoms and a jumper. They will come to school and go home in the PE kit. Non uniform will be needed on that day.

Will the children and staff be required to wear face masks?

Staff will wear face masks as they are moving around the school building/ school grounds and when they are welcoming and dismissing children at the start/ end of the day. We ask parents to wear a face mask when they enter the school site. Children do not have to wear face masks but they can do if they choose to.

What if I have borrowed a chrome book and a Dongle

These **must be returned to school on Monday to the class teacher** with the charger. The AUP you have signed will help us support this process.

What can I bring to school?

We are advising that pupils do not bring their own pencil cases or avoid bringing any unnecessary bags with them. Your child can bring:

- A water bottle (which must be taken home and washed daily);
- One school bag/ book bag – these must be brought to school daily;
- Packed lunch in a lunch box/bag;

Please avoid bringing anything else into school.

What will happen if my child needs first aid?

We will still care for your children as best we can to ensure they are happy and safe. All of our staff can administer first aid if needed at a basic level.

What happens if there is a possible case of coronavirus in school?

If a child develops coronavirus symptoms whilst in school, we will isolate them and call the family for immediate collection. The child will continue to be supervised and cared for whilst in isolation; the staff member may need to wear PPE including a face mask. Staff and pupils attending will be able to organise to have a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and are encouraged to get tested.

Will the Breakfast Club and After-school clubs be open?

Yes. Due to the high number of children attending, breakfast club will be hosted in separate areas. It is £2 per day per pupil and begins from 7.30am or 8.00am. You can contact Rebecca Oxley (Rebecca.oxley@academystjames.com) and the school office should you need a place.

The first day back – Monday 08th March 2021

Staff will be outside to assist with the safe drop-off of the children to their classes for the next few days. I attach the timetable below so you have a copy of which class and time you will enter and exit:

To reduce the risk of overcrowding when arriving at school we will be operating staggered start and end times. It is **crucial** that families arrive at their **designated time**. This is not just about attendance; this is about reducing the risk of infection to yourselves and others. To help us reduce this risk even further we will only be allowing **one parent** or family member to drop-off pupils. I am also sorry to say that parents will not be permitted into the school classrooms.

Please do not arrive earlier than your child's start time (unless they have older siblings). You will not be able to enter the site until it is your allocated time.

Nursery am	8.30am	11.30am	Nursery Entrance
Nursery pm	12.30am	Children can be collected between 3pm and 3:15pm.	Nursery entrance
Reception	8:50am		Reception Cloakroom
Y1/2 Successful Swans	8.50am		Year 1 and 3 entrance
Y1/2 Swooping Starlings	8.50am		Year 1 Cloakroom
Y1/2 Daring Ducklings	8.50am		Y1 Cloakroom
Y3/4 Stupendous Squirrels	8.40am		Children can be collected between 3pm and 3:15pm.
Y3/4 Wondrous Whales	8.40am	Classroom door	
Y3/4 Blissful Badgers	8.40am	Outside the classroom door- see markings	
Y5- Omniscient Otters	8.30am	Classroom door	
Y5 -Super Seals	8.30am	Classroom door	
Y6 Leaping Lions	8.30am	Y6 classroom door	
Y6 Magnificent Monkeys	8.30am	Y6 cloakroom entrance	

NOTE: If you have siblings you will be able to drop them all at the earliest time. For example, if you have a child in Reception, Year 3 and Year 6 you would drop them all at 8.30am.

Risk Assessment <https://academystjames.com/covid-19-risk-assessment/>

In preparation for the wider opening of school to more children, we have completed Risk Assessments to minimise the risk to parents and children as much as possible. A copy of this risk assessment can be found on the school website under the **'key information'** heading on the top bar.

We have missed you all very much and can not wait to see you on Monday morning!

If you need anything clarifying, please contact the school office this week and they will endeavour to help you. Remember we are a team and we will do our very best to help you out.

Thank you for your continued support

Chris Tolson

Headteacher