



04 January 2022

## Returning to School – 5/1/22 Important Information

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a lovely holiday and I would like to wish you all a happy new year.

The staff at school are looking forward to seeing all the children after the break and have been busy planning for the term ahead.

As part of our plans, we have been updating our measures in line with the latest Government and Cheshire East guidance to help prevent the spread of COVID 19 on our return to school. We are still remaining vigilant but have adjusted some routines, taking on board the recommendations given to schools.



### Return to School – Risk Assessment

The whole school community wants all children and staff to return to school and most importantly, **stay well!** The last thing anyone wants is future periods of isolation for individuals or groups and therefore we must all be extra cautious at this time. We believe the greatest risk to your children’s education is insufficient staffing levels which could result in combining year groups or home learning and therefore it is imperative that we all follow the guidance and importantly use lateral flow tests and go for a PCR test if we have any symptoms to reduce the risk of transmission. Please be extra cautious at this time.



The AECPS Governors have updated the school risk assessment for reopening on 4<sup>th</sup> January. The full version of this is available on the school website.

School Governors are responsible for the school risk assessment and have read and approved this document. Therefore, any comments or complaints regarding the measures in place should be directed to the Governing Board.

### Reminders

Start and end times of the day		<p>We are continuing to operate normal start and end times for all children</p> <p><u>Before school:</u> Doors open at 8.45 am Doors close at 8.50 am (<i>late arrivals after this time must go to the school office accompanied by a parent</i>) Registers close at 8.55 am</p> <p><u>After school:</u> Reception, year 1 and year 2 – leave school at 3.15pm Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 – leave school at 3.30pm</p>
Uniform		<p>Children should now wear their PE kit on PE days as we are reducing the number of children mixing in enclosed spaces for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Children must wear PE kit in school colours with t-shirts, joggers and sweatshirts. These should be plain or with the school logo. No fashion logos or football shirts.</p>



<p>The need to isolate</p>		<p>The DFE has provided clarification that children may also now return to school from <b>day 8</b> of their isolation <b>subject to 2 negative lateral flow tests, (LFT)</b>, taken at least 24hrs apart. Cheshire East Public Health agree with this approach but recommend that schools gain assurance from the child or parent/carer that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are well and symptom free</li> <li>• They have had 2 negative LFT, at least 24hours apart</li> <li>• They do not return before 8<sup>th</sup> day after their symptoms started or they took a positive test, e.g., if symptoms started on Mon 1<sup>st</sup> then the earliest date of return would be Tues 9<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> <p>Children who are unable to use lateral flow tests should isolate for the 10 days.</p>
<p>Close contact isolation</p>		<p>From October 2021 Cheshire East Public Health Directors provided the following advice to schools and settings as a result of the high number of cases in the 0-19 year olds.</p> <p>Children who are household contacts of positive cases are advised not to attend the setting for 5 days from the first symptom or positive case. During this time they should have a PCR test. If this is negative they can return after 5 days. Pupils in Y7 and above should take an LFT each day until the isolations in the household have ended. Primary pupils can also undertake daily LFT if their parent/carers feel that this is appropriate for their child.</p>

### Insufficient Staffing Levels

Keeping our school open has been our priority and the staff and governors have worked extremely hard to ensure that all our children have been able to experience face to face education since September. We have been fortunate so far but are conscious that the greatest risk to your child’s education is teachers being ill or having to isolate and therefore they are unable to deliver high quality face to face teaching and learning. We will do everything in our control to protect face to face teaching. In the event of a teacher having to isolate we will consider:

- Classes covered by other AECPS teachers
- Use supply staff or those linked to the school
- Flexible use of support staff
- Learning Support Assistant in class with remote teaching from teacher
- Making changes to the timetable or curriculum
- Teach classes together in large space, e.g. hall
- Combine classes with small numbers present

Please note the last 2 options would only be considered if other options are not possible and in discussion with Public Health/LA Covid team. Parents would be informed.

High staff absence is likely to be linked to an outbreak and so any measures taken will form part of the Outbreak Management Plan agreed with Cheshire East Public Health/Covid Education team and Governors.

### Does my child have to return to school?

Yes - school attendance is compulsory for all children. Non-attendance, with no acceptable explanation such as



illness/medical appointment, will be classed as unauthorised.

All children will be expected to be in school. Normal attendance policy and processes will be in place – see school website for further details - <https://www.aecps.org/page/attendance/113818>

## What hygiene and safety arrangements will be in place?

We have maintained our current health and safety arrangements

- Clear routines and expectations for hand hygiene and provide multiple opportunities during the day
  - ❖ Entering and exiting the building (start/end of day, breaks, lunch)
  - ❖ Before eating
  - ❖ After going to the toilet
  - ❖ After PE
  - ❖ After coughing /sneezing
  
- Promote 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'
- Designated one way systems for moving around school and outside
- Increased ventilation
- Wearing of masks on site by staff and visitors in communal areas
- Bins with lids for tissues that will be emptied regularly during the day
- Give children individual, set places for work and listening
- Give children their own resources (e.g. stationary) where possible
- Quarantine or clean any shared resources between groups / individuals e.g. PE equipment
- Additional cleaning during the day
- No larger gatherings this half term – no assemblies
- Increased the support for emotional wellbeing of children

## Ventilation in cold weather

We will be keeping the windows open as much as possible. However, in very cold weather, health and safety guidance states that temperatures inside the building should not fall below an agreed minimum level. Therefore, a dynamic risk assessment will take place to strike a balance between the need to ventilate classrooms and provide a room temperature so children and staff can work. It may be that windows are closed during periods of work and opened during breaks/lunch to allow the air to recirculate.

***Please ensure all children are wearing extra layers during this half term.***

## What if my child is ill?

If your child is genuinely ill, please keep them at home and contact the school office.

If your child shows any symptoms (even mild ones) of the coronavirus please begin a period of isolation and contact NHS 119 to arrange a PCR test.

- a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on 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 they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste

## What if my child is ill at school?

Parents will be contacted if a child is unwell at school and normal processes will apply for sickness and diarrhoea.



Children with symptoms of the coronavirus will be sent home from school and a COVID test requested.

It is important that the parent/carers of a child with symptoms get them tested as that helps enables us to determine whether there are others in the school who may be at risk of developing symptoms. We will be following the guidance for a child with symptoms, i.e., they will be sent home and advised to get a PCR test. If a negative test is returned the child is able to return to school.

### **Concern for clinically vulnerable children and family members**

The national requirement for shielding was removed some time ago. Whilst we appreciate this will be an anxious time, we want to assure you that measures will be in place to support you and your child.

AECPS are following normal absence procedures, it is important that you speak to us if you have any concerns or, if you prefer, you can contact Cheshire East Council on [CESchoolattendance@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:CESchoolattendance@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

### **Will parents know if there is a confirmed case in their child's class?**

Following the confirmation of a positive PCR test for a child or staff member from your child's class, we will send out a letter to warn and inform to relevant parents and staff.

### **What if there are multiple cases class, classed as an outbreak, of COVID 19 at AECPS?**

We have written an Outbreak Management Plan which will support us if we have multiple cases of COVID 19 and help to determine the best way forward. Any decisions will be made in conjunction with the Governing Board and Cheshire East COVID 19 Response Team

For most education and childcare settings, whichever of these thresholds is reached first is classed as an outbreak:

- 5 individuals (children, pupils, students or staff), who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period, or
- 10% of a group of individuals (children, pupils, students or staff) who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

We maintain our Remote Learning policy and procedures in the unlikely event of an outbreak that results in class / school closure or periods of isolation for individuals. This is available on the school website.

### **How can I communicate with school?**

To find out general, non-essential information please use the school website or APP as your first port of call as these are the most up to date.

The usual channels are available to contact school or your child's teacher. Please email [admin@aecps.org](mailto:admin@aecps.org) or telephone the school office and leave a message. The class teacher will return your call or email at their earliest convenience and may arrange a further appointment either face to face or via TEAMS if necessary.

For urgent communication Mrs Walsh or Miss Platt are available.

### **Will The Squirrel Club be available for before and after school provision?**

Yes –The Squirrel Club is fully open. Places are limited so will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Ad hoc bookings are available.

### **Reminders for Parents and Visitors on Site**



# ALDERLEY EDGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

admin@aecps.org 01625 704 510 www.aecps.org



- In an attempt to limit number of visitors on site we ask that only one parent drops off and collects children, where possible AECPS siblings who do not attend AECPS should be left at home.
- Children (including siblings) MUST remain under parental control at all times before and after school and must not be running around or playing before and after school
- One-way systems should be adhered to where possible (the only exception is for pushchairs or wheel chairs needing access between the upper and lower site)
- Year 1 parents and children must use the KS2 football pen to wait if needed. This area is out of bounds to all other year groups before school.
- Children who are late and miss the 8.50 closure of their door go must to the front door with their parents to be signed in
- All medical appointments should be made for children outside the school day where possible
- Only essential items should be dropped off for children at the school office during the school day
- Any payment e.g. dinner money must be made online

As always, if you have any concerns or questions regarding the return to school, please contact the school office via [admin@aecps.org](mailto:admin@aecps.org).

Kind regards

Lindsey Walsh

Head Teacher