

AYLESTONE SCHOOL

In federated partnership with Broadlands Primary School and Withington C.P. School

Broadlands House, Broadlands Lane, Hereford HR1 1HY

Tel: 01432 357371

Fax: 01432 263925

Email: admin@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk

Web: www.aylestone.hereford.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr S Robertson

14th July 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

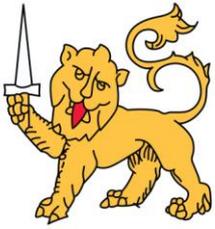
I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Last week the Government published their guidance for children's return to school in September. Since we have received the guidance we have been working hard to plan how this will be implemented and I'm pleased to be able to share this with you. As the country moves to Step 4 of the roadmap, the Government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the Government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, it is vitally important to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

Some of the measures we currently have in place will no longer be required in September, but could be reintroduced if needed. There will no longer be a requirement for:

- Keeping children in consistent groups ('bubbles') - We will operate a 'normal' timetable from September where children move around the school to specialist teaching rooms for their lessons
- Education settings to be expected to undertake contact tracing, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace – I think the reality will be that NHS Test and Trace will still require some level of input from the school
- Children under the age of 18 years old to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case - Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so
- Face coverings to be worn in classrooms or in communal areas for pupils, staff and visitors
- Face coverings to be worn on dedicated transport to school and are no longer legally required on public transport

Some of the existing measures will remain such as:

- Good hygiene for everyone - Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is now regular practice. We will continue to ensure that children clean their hands regularly using either soap and water or hand sanitiser
- Respiratory hygiene - The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important
- Enhanced cleaning – We will continue with extra cleaning during the school day with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces in communal areas
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated – We will continue to keep windows and doors open in classrooms to ensure they are well ventilated
- Anyone displaying symptoms (new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)) or being told to self-isolate through



AYLESTONE SCHOOL

In federated partnership with Broadlands Primary
School and Withington C.P. School

Broadlands House, Broadlands Lane, Hereford HR1 1HY

Tel: 01432 357371

Fax: 01432 263925

Email: admin@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk

Web: www.aylestone.hereford.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr S Robertson

'Test and Trace' should inform the school immediately and must not enter the school site. You should book a test ASAP and inform the school of the outcome. Contact tracing will now be the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace

- Any child feeling unwell must inform their teacher immediately
- If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be isolated and sent home. Please ensure you are able to collect your child at short notice if required and take them for a PCR test
- Allocated gates for year groups – This has worked very well in helping with crowding at the start and end of the day. So we will continue to ask Years 7, 10 & 11 to use the front gate and Years 8 & 9 to use the rear gate
- Allocated courts and areas of the field for each year group
- Two separate lunchtimes with allocated slots for the canteen – As the number of children in the school has grown this has worked extremely well in managing the number of children and flow of queues at the canteen. We will therefore continue with Lunch 1 at 11:10 for 30 minutes and lunch 2 at 12:40 for 35 minutes. Children will still be able to eat outside, but will now be able to use the dining hall during their slot if they wish. Year 7 & 8 will have access to the canteen and dining hall during lunch 1 and Years 9, 10 & 11 will have access to the canteen and dining hall during lunch 2.

Asymptomatic Testing

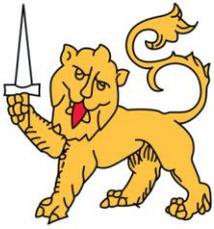
Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances. Over the summer, staff and secondary pupils should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open, such as summer schools and out of school activities based in school settings. Schools will only provide tests for twice weekly asymptomatic testing for pupils and staff over the summer period if they are attending school settings. However, testing will still be widely available over the summer and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online. There is no requirement for Year 6 pupils who are attending our summer school to test before or during our summer school.

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, the Government are asking that all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. This is similar to when children returned to school in March. The Government has recognised that this is a huge logistical challenge and are therefore allowing schools to stagger the start of the autumn term for children. As such, the arrangements for the return of students is as follows:

Monday 6th September (8:45 am) – Year 7 (Staff will be around to help the children get to the right place)

Monday 6th September (1:15 pm) – Year 11

Tuesday 7th September (8:45 am) – Year 10



AYLESTONE SCHOOL

In federated partnership with Broadlands Primary
School and Withington C.P. School

Broadlands House, Broadlands Lane, Hereford HR1 1HY

Tel: 01432 357371

Fax: 01432 263925

Email: admin@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk

Web: www.aylestone.hereford.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr S Robertson

Tuesday 7th September (1:15 pm) – Year 8

Wednesday 8th September (8:45 am) – Year 9

We ask that on the day your child returns they arrive as close to the arrival time listed above to enable us to maintain social distancing on site. If your child is travelling to school without an adult please remind them to maintain social distancing. On arrival they are to go straight to their allotted area where they will be sat socially distanced until we have completed the testing.

| | Lower Gym | Upper Gym | Dining Hall |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Monday 6 th September (8:45 am) – Year 7 | 7A | 7Y | 7L |
| Monday 6 th September (1:15 pm) – Year 11 | 11A | 11Y | 11L |
| Tuesday 7 th September (8:45 am) – Year 10 | 10A | 10Y | 10L |
| Tuesday 7 th September (1:15 pm) – Year 8 | 8A | 8Y | 8L |
| Weds 8 th September (8:45 am) – Year 9 | 9A | 9Y | 9L |

The school minibus will run as normal before and after school. We ask that if your child is due to arrive at school for an afternoon session (1:15 pm) that you make your own arrangements to get your child to school. If this is a problem then please get in contact with Steve Cameron scameron@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk. If your child travels to school using transport provided by the Local Authority then please contact them directly.

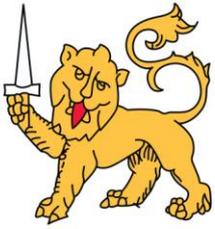
If your child is due to return to school at 1:15pm then please ensure they have had something to eat before they come to school.

Your child's second lateral flow test will be completed 3-5 days apart in school. Once we have completed the two tests we will send home a testing kit to enable your child to test at home. Home testing is currently expected to continue until the end of September when it will be reviewed by the Government.

For the March return we had consent forms returned for the children and we will continue to follow those wishes. If you have changed your mind with regards to this then please contact Becky Kastania bkastania@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk to inform her. We will be contacting any new student's families including our New Year 7 asking them for consent to lateral flow testing when we return in September.

End of Term Contact Tracing

As with previous school holidays, schools are required to be available for track and trace purposes after the end of term. This is to assist in identifying any close contacts should a child or staff member test positive for coronavirus (COVID -19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. As school finishes on Wednesday 21st July the 48 hour cut off for anyone displaying symptoms whilst at school for us would be Saturday 24th July. Can I ask that if your child does display symptoms before this time you book a PCR test and you alert us



AYLESTONE SCHOOL

In federated partnership with Broadlands Primary
School and Withington C.P. School

Broadlands House, Broadlands Lane, Hereford HR1 1HY

Tel: 01432 357371

Fax: 01432 263925

Email: admin@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk

Web: www.aylestone.hereford.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr S Robertson

by emailing testresult@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk (this will be the only communication method that will be regularly monitored) to make us aware we are awaiting a result that may require action from the school when it is returned. Once the PCR test result is confirmed then please email the same email address with the outcome (positive or negative). This will allow us to know after the cut-off point whether we should be expecting any results or whether we are potentially clear of having to do any further track and trace during the holidays. Where a child develops symptoms on or after Saturday 24th July there is no need to contact the school. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated.

I understand there is a lot of information to digest, but it is important I share and remind you of the relevant parts of our updated risk assessment. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back in September in a safe way. The children have been absolutely brilliant throughout the pandemic and I fully expect this to be the case when they return in September. Your support and understanding will be invaluable. I can assure you we will regularly review our risk assessment and adjust things as necessary in line with the Government guidance. Once again, thank you for your support. If you have any questions then please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Robertson'.

Simon Robertson,
Executive Headteacher