

# TOGETHER

## THE ACRE HALL NEWSLETTER



Website: [www.acrehall.trafford.sch.uk](http://www.acrehall.trafford.sch.uk)

Twitter: @AcreHall

Email: [admin@acrehall.trafford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@acrehall.trafford.sch.uk)

Phone: 0161 748 4356 - our school office is manned from 8.30am to 3.30 pm—Mon to Friday—during this closure period.

Please do get in touch if you require any help or would like to tell us something.

Friday 22nd May 2020

### Update

We are sure that many of you will have been following the news about the possibility of school re opening to more children, primarily those in the priority year groups (Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6) as defined by the government. Everyone is entitled to their own views about this; some parents will want their children to return to school as soon as possible, whilst others may not want it at all. Under the current pandemic, this is your choice. No sanctions will be applied if you choose not to send your child back to school should a place become available.

We are very grateful to the parents from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who completed the online survey sent out last week. The survey was only sent to those particular year groups as we have been asked by the government to make them a priority. If it is safe to welcome children from other year groups in to school at a later date, we will send further surveys to gauge parent views.

The survey results and comments provided by parents helped us to understand that many parents are anxious at this time; they want their children to return to school to the normality and learning opportunities that it brings but are worried about whether their child will catch the coronavirus.

We completely understand this worry; coronavirus can be a serious disease and it is still in our local community. Whilst we can do our very best to implement social distancing principles along with following the infection control measures provided by the government, we can not guarantee that your child will not contract coronavirus from school. There is much about the disease which is still unknown and due to its apparent lack of symptoms in some cases, it would be impossible for us to confirm that it is not in school.

We will remain vigilant and follow all guidance if a suspected or confirmed case occurs. If there is a confirmed case in school, parents of children attending at that time will be informed although the name of the infected child/adult will not be given. If a confirmed case occurs and the child/adult has been in school recently, advice will be taken from Trafford infection control to ascertain if specialist cleaning is required. All of these issues will be detailed in a comprehensive risk assessment which will be completed before a wider re opening of school takes place.

It is not our intention to create uncertainty and further worries, but we feel we must be clear about the current situation and explain how school will look when we implement the new guidance, provided by the government, to cater for more pupils in school. It will not be normal school; many changes will be in place. We will not be able to confirm exact details until we know exactly how many parents want to send their children back and if/when we can open to different year groups. Some children will adapt quickly to these changes whilst others may find it difficult and upsetting.

We would all love to welcome our pupils back and make Acre Hall the lively and vibrant place we know, but that is not possible at present. Everything will be done slowly and carefully as these procedures will be new to everyone. Working within the government guidance we would only be able to have 8-10 children in each classroom. This will be known as a 'bubble' and is, in its simplest form, like a family group who isolate together in lockdown.

General principles are as follows;

- A return to school may be part time only, depending on demand for places.
- Your child may not be with their usual class teacher.
- They may not be in their usual classroom.
- Children will usually sit at desks/tables with as much distance between them as we can manage.
- Start and pick up times may be staggered.
- The children will have different playtimes/play areas to other 'bubbles' and only be able to mix with the children in their bubble.
- We can not guarantee social distancing, particularly with younger children but will encourage them to keep apart and avoid close contact with each other.
- Siblings in other year groups can not attend.
- We may not be teaching the normal curriculum as some aspects require pupils to work together and be in close contact with each other.
- Soft toys and soft furnishings will be removed from classrooms to avoid possible contamination.
- Use of toys and resources will be restricted to ensure items can be sanitised regularly.
- Drop off and pick up will be from the school gate with one parent/carer per child maintaining social distancing.
- Parents and carers will only be able to enter school in an emergency.
- If your child currently attends school and is part of our emergency childcare supervision ( for key workers and vulnerable children) it would be unlikely that he/she can swap between bubbles if/when other children at school in his/her friendship group or year group begin to attend.
- Parents must do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially outside of school. Children should, as far as possible, follow the same social distancing principles as adults. This will help eliminate the virus spreading should someone become infected.
- At this point we do not know if we will be able to offer any before or after school provision – this will be reviewed at a future date and will depend on possible numbers of children and the ability for them to social distance.

## **Plan**

All schools in the locality are different and are creating arrangements that they feel will work in their setting whilst applying the principles above which are from the government's guidance to schools.

We feel that there needs to be a blended approach for Acre Hall pupils. For some they will wish to come in to school – albeit a very different school to normal – and may prefer to learn 'face to face' or may be in a situation where parents are no longer able to stay at home to look after their children.

There are others, including some who have medical issues and would not be able to attend due to self- isolation or shielding a member of their household, who whilst missing interactions with their friends, would feel more secure at home and are accessing the numerous on line activities set up by staff. We have been delighted by the amount of effort given by many children to completing and responding to learning tasks and wish to thank parents for their support in facilitating this.

We aim to trial the use of 'zoom' technology to provide regular lessons for the class ( we may have to split the class in half to make this easier but as any contact would be virtual, groups could be changed) with your child's class teacher to supplement online learning. This would also give the opportunity to spend a short time at the end of the lesson saying hello to friends. Seesaw activities would continue to be sent.

We can not provide the options outlined above to all priority year groups at once. The table on the following page shows dates and arrangements we plan to make. It must be understood that taking account of health and safety considerations, the best interests of our pupils and also depending on government restrictions/ staff availability we may have to alter these plans.

Date	Actions	Notes
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May Close of school for the Whit holiday	Holiday art challenge sent out via Seesaw and included on newsletter	Whilst children are welcome to post items on to Seesaw, staff will not be setting new work or responding to any tasks during the Whit holiday period ( 25 <sup>th</sup> May – 5 <sup>th</sup> June)
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	SCHOOL CLOSED	
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Emergency childcare provision only – manned by Acre Hall staff volunteers during Whit holiday period	Key workers and parents of vulnerable children should have completed the holiday cover form sent out to confirm if a place is required
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	<p>Emergency childcare provision only</p> <p>Risk Assessments for wider opening of school will be finalised and staff training will take place to ensure systems for possible wider opening are clear and work well.</p> <p><u>Enhanced Virtual Learning Trial Y6</u></p> <p>Y6 pupils will be invited – emails sent to registered parent email address ( the same one newsletters are sent to ) to join a class zoom call – it may be that this is split in to 2 groups. There will be several similar opportunities during the week. It is hoped that transition work for year 6 can be completed in this way over several weeks. We have contacts for all high schools and are looking at how we can include y7 liaison teachers in these calls so that children can meet and ask questions to high school staff.</p> <p>As these will be digital calls, we plan to include emergency childcare pupils from y6 in the trial – they can join in via school laptops located in their ‘bubble room’</p>	<p>Teachers will start responding to Seesaw posts and send further online tasks. Entries for the art challenge will be collected digitally and a special ‘virtual’ exhibition created – details to follow in a newsletter</p> <p>At the end of the y6 Enhanced Virtual Learning Trial, we will contact y6 parents and ascertain which children are happy to continue in this way and which would prefer an in school place should it be available.</p>
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	<p>Emergency Childcare Provision will continue</p> <p>Places for Y6 pupils who prefer to attend school rather than access enhanced virtual learning will be offered and can start this week – this is likely to be on a part time basis to allow thorough classroom cleaning between groups should there be high demand.</p> <p>Detailed information regarding start/finish times/ drop off and pick up points will be sent out to parents who wish their child to attend.</p>	<p>Online posts and activities for all year groups continue on Seesaw</p> <p>Enhanced Virtual Learning for y6 will continue – pupils attending school will be able to join class zoom calls via school laptops whilst in their specific ‘bubble’.</p>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June to Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	<p>Emergency Childcare Provision will continue</p> <p>Y6 Enhanced Virtual Learning and In school learning group/s will continue</p> <p>Parents of y1 children given the opportunity to trial similar Enhanced Virtual Learning Programme - As these will be digital calls we plan to include emergency childcare pupils from y1 in the trial – they can join in via school laptops located in their ‘bubble room’. Staff will be able to help children access this.</p>	<p>Online posts and activities for all year groups continue on Seesaw</p> <p>Enhanced Virtual Learning for y6 will continue – pupils attending school will be able to join class zoom calls via school laptops whilst in their specific ‘bubble’.</p>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	<p>Places for Y1 pupils who prefer to attend school rather than access enhanced virtual learning will be offered and can start at some point this week – this is likely to be on a part time basis to allow thorough classroom cleaning between groups, should there be high demand.</p> <p>Detailed information regarding start/finish times/ drop off and pick up points will be sent out to parents who wish their child to attend.</p>	<p>Online posts and activities for all year groups continue on Seesaw</p> <p>Enhanced Virtual Learning for y6 will continue – pupils attending school will be able to join class zoom calls via school laptops whilst in their specific ‘bubble’.</p>

At the beginning of July we will assess if there is space in school for more children to safely attend. As the group sizes can be no more than 10 children, due to the size of classrooms, to allow some sense of social distancing,( although it would be unrealistic to expect children to be able to keep to a strict 2M rule at all times) we will have to use more rooms and utilise most of our staff should demand for 'in school' places be high. We will assess if we can open to more year groups safely. The government have asked us to make Reception and Nursery pupils a priority also and we will make a decision on whether this is possible at this time.

If the Enhanced Virtual Learning works well and we have enough staff to supervise the children in school, we may be able to give the option of enhanced home learning to more year groups.

### **A message from Mrs White**

I apologise that this guidance is lengthy and somewhat complex; it is not a simple situation. It requires careful and considered management to ensure everyone is as safe as we can make them and that our pupils can continue, as best as possible, with some form of education during this pandemic. In the 14 years that I have been teaching at Acre Hall I have learnt that Acre Hall families, more than any school I have ever worked in, care so much for their children. As parents you will know which approach will suit your child best. I will be providing further opportunities to gain your feedback but am always happy to talk and try to answer any questions that you may have.

### **Art Competition**

School is now closed for the Whit holiday. During the Whit holiday period staff will not be responding to or setting new online learning tasks, however there will be a whole school art project set. See below.

*During the lockdown you may have experienced many feelings new and known to you. All these feelings and emotions are important in your journey through lockdown and your time at home with your family. The teachers at Acre Hall want you to tell your journey in the most creative way, personal to your experience. This may be in the form of a sketch, painting, poem, dance, rap, song, story, digital art, 3D sculpture or design etc. Your choice of media and the way you tell your story is up to you.*

*We want to see and/or hear about your achievements, dreams, fears and problems. Uniting us together through our time at home. We will then decide a creative way to exhibit your responses upon our return to school. Please share pictures and ideas of your creative journey along the way through Seesaw. Discuss your approaches and what you aim to achieve.*

### **Year 6**

We feel desperately sad for our year 6 pupils who would, if things had been normal, have been returning today from their residential visit to Winmarleigh Hall. Due to lock down and social distancing requirements the visit could not go ahead. Residential visits provide a unique experience for pupils and we very much hope that our pupils will have chance in the future, at their high schools, to take part in a similar visit.

We are now in a position to start refunding money that had been paid on Parent Pay for the visit. This has been transferred to the system and will take several days to clear before it can be refunded to individual accounts. For most people we can do this directly but if you have paid via a pay point, we will have to refund the money in to your bank account. We will contact you if that is the case.

We will be refunding the money to Parent pay accounts week beginning 1st June. We apologise that this has taken some time but it has been out of our control.

### **Y6 Hoodies**

We plan to order hoodies for our y6 leavers and will send a form out week beginning 1st June so that parents can make an order. The hoodies are likely to be £15 each although this will vary depending on size of hoodie required.

Further details will be sent out after the holiday.