



ASH LEA

*Working together to be
the best that we can be*

20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As schools receive more information, guidance, risk assessments; we have been able to start to put our plans together to introduce more children in school. This will not be starting the week beginning Monday 1st June but more likely to start Monday 8th June. We have not received all the parent replies to the survey which was sent out Sunday 17th May; therefore, do not have all the information we require.

Our thoughts at the moment are:

- Children will be based in small groups with the same staff each day for a week (if the child is in full time). They will not necessarily be with children from their current class.
- They will have access to a classroom, bathroom and an outside space
- The classroom space will be de-cluttered so it can be cleaned effectively and any soft toys and soft furnishings i.e. beanbags etc. will be removed.
- They will not be mixing with children or staff in other groups to minimise transmission of infection and ensure we do not have to isolate all children and staff if there is a suspected case of the virus.
- Children will be discouraged to bring things from home with them; preferable no bags at all.
- Staff will be on a week on week off rota; in order to prevent risk of transmission and to plan work and keep in contact with children not in school. This will mean that although the children in school will have familiar staff they may not have their current class staff.

As soon as we know more information we will share this with you.

School received a letter earlier this week about home school transport from the Local Authority. Throughout the Covid -19 period, transport has been running as normal. With all the talk about increased numbers of children coming in to schools; special school transport need to know predicted numbers. The information below is taken directly from their letter.



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England

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1. *Where ever possible we advise that parents/carers transport their children during this period as we believe that this limits the risk to them in contracting the virus. During this period, we are able to offer the following to parents who choose to do this*
 - a. *Mileage reimbursement – this is based on 22.6p per mile (4 trips per day) and paid in arrears. To reinstate transport, we will need at least two weeks’ notice, for some children we may need a little longer to put them back on transport this is dependent on their needs. We will need parents to complete a form to request this.*
 - b. *Personal Budget (DTAP) – this is based on 45p per mile (4 trips a day). Where parents would like to transport their child on a more permanent basis they can apply for a personal budget. We would expect that parents who choose this option will do this for at least 1 academic year. To reinstate transport for these children we will need at least 4 weeks’ notice. We will need parents to complete a form to request this.*
2. *We do not expect that all families will choose to transport their children for various reasons and of course we will continue to provide transport for young people who are eligible for assistance. Transport and Travel Services will assess all transport that is operating in conjunction with the operator to ensure that we are taking appropriate precautions to minimise the risk to both the young people travelling and the staff on the transport.*

This will include:

- a. *splitting transport runs to provide some distancing on the vehicles, this could mean additional transport or double runs may be required and young people may not be travelling on the same transport they were on prior to March 2020 We will work with schools and colleges to achieve the most appropriate solutions.*
- b. ***advising*** *all transport staff to wear appropriate clothing and PPE*
- c. ***advising*** *all transport staff to minimise contact with the young people on the vehicle (this of course will be dependent on the needs of the young person)*
- d. ***advising*** *parents that where possible young people traveling should wear a face mask or face covering. We appreciate that for many young people with SEND this may not be possible and we will not be enforcing this. However, government guidance is that this should be done on transport and obviously the more of our young people that are able to follow this guidance the risk for all is reduced.*
- e. *Young people will not be transported unless school/college have agreed their attendance at school/college*



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- f. Young people will not be transported if the crew believe the young person to be ill*
- g. Young people will not be transported home from school/college if they fall ill at their educational establishment*

If more parents are planning to bringing their own children into school, we will have to stagger this and manage the numbers coming in at any one time. All children will have to be dropped off and picked up from the pupil entrance (not main reception), where staff will come to the vehicle and collect your child. Once your child has a confirmed place, we will discuss your transport plans.

Our thoughts have been turning to September and many teachers have been undertaking virtual transition meeting with our new pupils. There will need to be some changes with 8 children leaving and 11 joining us but we are confident that minimal disruption for both staff and pupils will support a smooth transition into the new school year. We are not at the point of sharing class information with staff or parents yet but will do so, as soon as it is finalised.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and cards today for my birthday. It was such a lovely surprise to receive it today; watching the video made me feel very emotional and so appreciative of being part of the Ash Lea community.

Thank you for your continued support

Dawn Wigley
Head Teacher



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