

ACKLAM WHIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Always a chance for everyone!”

Headteacher: Mr D Gamble **Address:** Carlbury Avenue, Acklam, Middlesbrough TS5 8SQ

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3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and have had a lovely summer holiday. As you will be aware, our children return to school on **Monday 6th September**, and we are really looking forward to seeing them all again. Our new Reception and Nursery children have already been sent additional information about their start dates - please contact school on, **Monday 6th September** if you need a reminder.

New Guidance for schools

Following the new guidance updated on 27th August, the government has stated the priority is for all children to be in school so they can receive face-to-face education. They state that evidence indicates that being out of education causes significant harm to our children's educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. They are also no longer recommending that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups/bubbles. The children will now return to being able to mix freely with their peers at playtimes and lunchtimes. There will no longer be the requirement for strict social distancing between children, although hygiene guidance will still be followed.

Self-isolating

Individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they 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. Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. We appreciate this is a significant change to the guidance.

Face coverings

It is no longer required for parents to wear face coverings when bringing or collecting your child from school.

Measures in school

We will continue to ensure good hygiene and appropriate cleaning regimes are maintained and that we keep occupied spaces well ventilated. We will also continue to follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

If someone develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19

If a child is feeling unwell in school, we have a medical room available where the child will be looked after until a parent can arrive to pick them up.

Pupils with a positive Lateral Flow test (LFD) result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Please be assured that we will continue to ensure necessary risk assessments have been carried out in order that we can run the school as we have been doing, in the safest possible way.

What if my child is feeling unwell?

Please can you make sure no children are sent into school with any symptoms.

Where a child is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will offer them access to remote education.

How will the start and end of school day work?

We are returning to normal school hours. All children will be welcomed into school for 8:50am. All children will be collected at 3:15pm. Nursery hours are 8:30-11:30am and 12:30-3:30pm. Any child arriving after that time will need to come through the school office. We ask for your support in ensuring your children are on time every day, so we can get their learning started and ensure we can start the new school year on the right track.

Uniform and PE Kits

From September, our usual rules around uniform and PE Kits will recommence. Footwear will return to plain black shoes, which should be worn at all times in school except on PE Days. Trainers will not be permitted unless in exceptional circumstances and agreed with school or on your child's designated PE day. Children coming to school in PE Kits on PE days will continue. Children are not permitted to wear make-up to school, this includes the wearing of nail varnish and transfers / temporary tattoos. Patterns cut into children's hair or unusual colours are not in line with our high expectations and are not permitted.

All necessary children's medication (EpiPen, inhalers) must be in date and in school from the first day your child is returning.

When will after school sports clubs start?

Mr Jackson will be starting before and after school sports clubs from week beginning 13th September and he will send out information for these later next week.

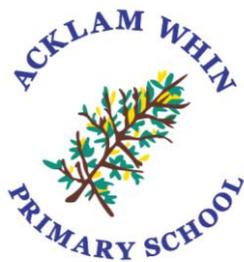
School Meals Price Increase

Middlesbrough Council have increased the cost for primary school meals to £2.10. The increase came into effect from 1st September 2021. Dinner money will return to the usual arrangements and any changes to lunch arrangements must be made with one weeks' written notice.

Important Dates

Here is another reminder on the important term dates coming up.

Friday 3rd September	PD Day
Monday 6th September 2021	Children return to school
Monday 25 th October – Friday 29th October 2021	October Half term
Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January 2022	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 4th January 2022	Spring Term begins



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Monday 21st February– Friday 25th February 2022	February Half Term
Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April 2022	Easter holidays
Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022	Spring Half Term
Friday 22nd July 2022	School closes today for summer holidays

As always, we are here to listen and support, please contact us if you have any further questions or concerns. Unfortunately, Mr Gamble is not in school at the moment due to illness, we hope he is feeling better soon.

All our staff are looking forward to starting the academic year with their new classes and to seeing all our children on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Prince