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11th June 2020

WIDER RE-OPENING OF ASTREA ACADEMY SHEFFIELD – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PUPILS

Dear parents and carers,

Following recent local and national announcements and approval from Astrea Trustees, children in Nursery and Reception will be eligible to return to school from Wednesday 17th June and Year 1 from Thursday 18th June.

From our recent phone calls to primary parents, we have confirmed the number of places required and have based our planning and risk assessments firmly around these numbers.

It is incredibly important to note that we are not in a position to now change these plans – **if you did not say that you were wanting a place when spoken to by your child’s teacher, we are unable to offer a place for your child at this time.**

The academy is **not open** to any other children or year groups at this time and for these children (secondary pupils in years 7 and 8 and those primary pupils who are not in school), we will continue to provide online learning so that they continue with their lessons. Key worker children and vulnerable pupils will continue to attend provision as allocated by Astrea Academy Sheffield as they have done throughout lockdown.

There will be a very small group of selected pupils in years 7 and 8 who will be invited into school as shown below. Parents will be contacted by phone to be given further details. If you do not hear from the academy by Friday 12th June at 3pm, please assume that your child is not included in this group.

Please see the table below for key information about the academy re-opening. Please note – we are only opening the **Primary Building**, the main senior building will remain closed.

Children will be allocated into ‘bubbles’ as defined below. These groupings are fixed and cannot be changed. The staff within the bubble will also remain the same throughout.

Bubble	Start Date	Drop off/ Collection Point	Drop Off Time	Mon - Thurs Collection Time	Friday Collection Time	Classroom
Nursery & Reception	Wednesday 17 th June	Andover Street Main Entrance	9.00am – 9.15am	2.30pm <small>** or 11.30am for Part Time Nursery Children **</small>	12.00pm <small>** or 11.30am for Part Time Nursery Children **</small>	Nursery
Year 1	Thursday 18 th June	Andover Street Main Entrance	9.30am – 9.45am	2.45pm	12.15pm	Reception 1
Year 7 & 8 (Specific pupils by invitation only)	Monday 22 nd June	Gray Street Side Entrance	10.00am – 10.15am	2.30pm	12.00pm	Y1

The timings listed above **must** be adhered to, to ensure the safety of staff and pupils.



For those children returning, I want to reassure you that the safety of your children and our staff is our priority in all of our planning. Supported by the wider Astrea team, we have all been working hard to put in place a number of protective measures to help make the school as safe as it can be.

In preparing for Wednesday 17th June we have been closely following Government guidance, and there are a number of changes to the way the school day will run.

These include:

- ★ Specific drop-off and pick-up arrangements as shown above that will help everyone follow social distancing rules;
- ★ During drop off, we will be taking the temperature of each child using a non-invasive thermometer – if your child has a high temperature at this point or refuses to have their temperature taken, we will be asking parents to take them home;
- ★ Parents will not be able to enter the school building; there will be specific drop off areas as shown above – no meetings will take place with academy staff or within the academy building;
- ★ Children will be in ‘bubbles’ of no more than 10 pupils – this will be the case for Nursery & Reception combined, also Year 1 as well as the small group in KS3;
- ★ Within these bubbles during the first week, children will receive ‘training’ from staff with regards to hygiene, behavior, safety and how to manage themselves. This will be repeated daily;
- ★ Should a child start to show symptoms of COVID-19, we will isolate them and contact parents to collect them immediately. Parents will then be asked to ensure the child has a COVID test. If the test is positive, the whole bubble will need to close and all members will self-isolate for 14 days. We will ask to see evidence of the test outcome before readmitting the child;
- ★ Should a staff member start to show symptoms, we will follow the same process and staff will go home and ensure a COVID test is taken. If there is a positive result, again the bubble will be closed down and all members must isolate for 14 days;
- ★ There are some changes to the academy behaviour policy – a copy of the updated home school agreement will be issued to you on the first day of opening;
- ★ Children will remain in their bubble at all times with the same staff members – this will also be during play times and lunch times;
- ★ Lunch will be provided by the academy and will consist of a packed lunch, with a choice of sandwich, a snack and fruit available. We will provide water. Children are **not permitted** to bring onto site any water bottles or their own packed lunch;
- ★ Children do not need to wear school uniform; they should wear their own clothes that should be washed after each day. Children should wear fresh and clean laundered clothes each day;
- ★ Children should not bring a bag, equipment or any personal items. They will be given their own set of stationary to use when inside the school building;
- ★ We will implement a strict cleaning programme that follows the Government guidelines – we will be closing early to children on a Friday to conduct a deep clean of all facilities;
- ★ We will ensure that all adults and children follow strict personal hygiene with frequent hand washing, the supply of hand sanitizers and PPE (as appropriate) and follow the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ mantra.

There are likely to be changes to the provision as we run through the rest of the term – we would like to ask parents to be sure to read carefully all communication that comes from the academy.

We appreciate that you will have questions and concerns about your child returning to school – we have published a list of Frequently Asked Questions and attached them to the end of this letter.

As ever, please do get in touch to discuss any concerns on info@astreasheffield.org.

In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Kim Wilson | Executive Principal



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. My child has specific medical or educational needs, if my child is with a different teacher how will they know?

As part of our preparations, we will be holding training sessions for our teaching and support staff. During these sessions, specific pupil needs will be shared with the teacher responsible for the class. In the same manner as we do when our children move year to a new class.

2. If my child is showing any symptoms of being unwell, should I send them to school?

If your child is showing any symptoms of being unwell, you **must not** send them into school, particularly if they are displaying symptoms consistent with Covid-19 such as a dry cough, high temperature or a loss of taste or smell. If they are showing symptoms, they should be referred for a COVID test without delay.

3. What if my child or someone in my household is currently shielding because they are considered 'clinically vulnerable'?

Children who are considered '**extremely** clinically vulnerable' are not expected to attend school as they are considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus, although it is expected that only a small minority of children will fall into this category.

Children who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend school if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child is able to understand and follow those instructions. Please seek medical advice on the best arrangements for your child and then make early contact with your school.

In cases of children who are considered 'clinically vulnerable' (but not 'extremely clinically vulnerable' – see above), parents should seek medical advice on the best arrangements for your child and then make early contact with your school.

Children who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend.

4. What if my child is eligible to return to school but has siblings who are not?

We are asking that only those children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 return to school at this time. This does not include siblings in a different year group. The only exception to this is if you are a critical worker or your child has a social worker, in which case they may return to school regardless of year group. This should have already been discussed with the school.

5. Can the school guarantee the safety of my child, including social distancing?

As a school we have carried out detailed risk assessments so that we can put in the best measures we possibly can for the safety of both children and staff following the government guidance. This means that the risk to anyone in the school building is minimised.

6. If my child returns to school, will they be taught by their usual class teacher?

Not necessarily. Part of the plans to reintroduce children safely is that they should be placed in 'bubbles' of no more than 10 with an adult and to remain in that group throughout the day. It follows, therefore, that not all children will be able to be in the same group with their teacher. This also means that they may also not be in their normal classroom.

7. Will school meals be available?

Yes, packed lunches will be available – please see guidance in the letter above.

8. What will the school do if a pupil or staff member becomes ill with Covid like symptoms?

Should any pupil or staff member start displaying Covid-like symptoms, they will be immediately isolated from others at school and parents will be contacted to arrange immediate collection. Whilst we wait for a child to be collected from school, they will be attended by a member of staff, who will be wearing appropriate PPE. We will advise parents to arrange for a COVID test to be completed. If that test is positive, the whole 'bubble' will close down for 14 days and all pupils & staff will need to self-isolate. We will ask to see evidence of the test outcome before readmitting the child.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

9. Will the school let me know if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at school?

Yes, should any member of staff or pupil receive a positive test result, we will let you know as soon as possible. All pupils and staff within that bubble will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

10. What happens if there is a confirmed case?

If your child or another member of staff have a positive test then you and your class or group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days in accordance with Public Health England guidance:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance.](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance)

11. Will pupils and staff have to be tested for coronavirus when pupil return to school?

The Government has said that staff and pupils will be eligible for testing *if they become ill* with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their households.

A negative test will mean you are able to go back to school. If your child or another member of staff have a positive test then you and your class or group will be sent home and will need to self-isolate for 14 days in accordance with Public Health England guidance:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance.](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance)

12. What if I need to collect my child early?

Parents must contact the academy by phone and arrange this in advance. You will be asked to wait outside the school building and staff will bring your child to you.