

Abbey Meads Community Primary School

Hugo Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN25 4GY

Head Teacher: Mr Robert M. Buckley

Telephone: 01793 723239

Fax: 01793 723201

Email: admin@abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk

Website: www.abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk

15th July 2020

September opening for all pupils

Please keep this letter somewhere safe (on the fridge?) so you can refer back to it over the summer.

I will write as normal on Friday – this is just about September.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the school year, I am writing to inform you about how we intend to open to all pupils in September. There is quite a lot here, and a few maps, but it is all really important and I hope you will spend the time to read and follow the advice and requests held within.

In September we will need to continue to manage risks and follow Government guidance. Sometimes, in fact quite often, it seems there is one rule for society and another for schools and we have to try and manage the behaviours of both children inside the school and their associated adults outside. Please try and help us by following our requests and thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding.

Class and Year Group Bubbles

In line with guidance, children will operate in year group bubbles. For the majority of each day, children will be in class bubbles but for some aspects of learning and organisation will share resources and facilities across their year group bubble. Bubbles will be no larger than one year group. All children must wear correct school uniform, may bring a small bag for their possessions/lunch boxes and will need to have their PE kit on site at all times.

Start and End of the school day– Drop-off and Collection Arrangements

The start of each day will be fluid to start with. If parents follow our requests this will remain, but if needed we will return to a staggered approach with designated times. This means that in September the MORNING ONLY routine will be to arrive between 8.20am and 8.45am and drop your child at the classroom door following the one way system in place (see Map A below). Parents are asked to simply arrive, deliver their child and walk on around the one way system. Please do not wait to talk to the teacher (use email), don't gather in groups for a chat, do not try to leave through the gate labelled as entrance only, keep socially distanced and respect other people's right to be socially distanced by not crowding or crossing other people's paths. If we can manage this we will be able to allow more flexible start times to suit you and not return to staggered starts, where some children start after 9am.

PLEASE ALSO REFRAIN FROM BRINGING THE WHOLE FAMILY. ONE ADULT PER CHILD PLEASE.

The AFTERNOON ONLY arrangements will be different for different year groups. To help maintain government social distancing guidelines outside the school gates, each year group has been allocated an entry/exit gate (see Map B). Please wait at the gate specified for your child until the gates open and collect your child at the specified time below. Please **do not** arrive before your allocated time as children from other year groups will be leaving. This means that where families have children in different year groups and leaving at different times, children must be supervised outside of school for a short period. Equally, where families have two or more children leaving at the same time via different gates, we will make arrangements for some to be near the front on exit and others near the back, so that you can move between gates.

Children in Nursery with afternoon sessions, and Reception children following the induction programme in September, will be told how this works for them when they come for their personal appointments in August.



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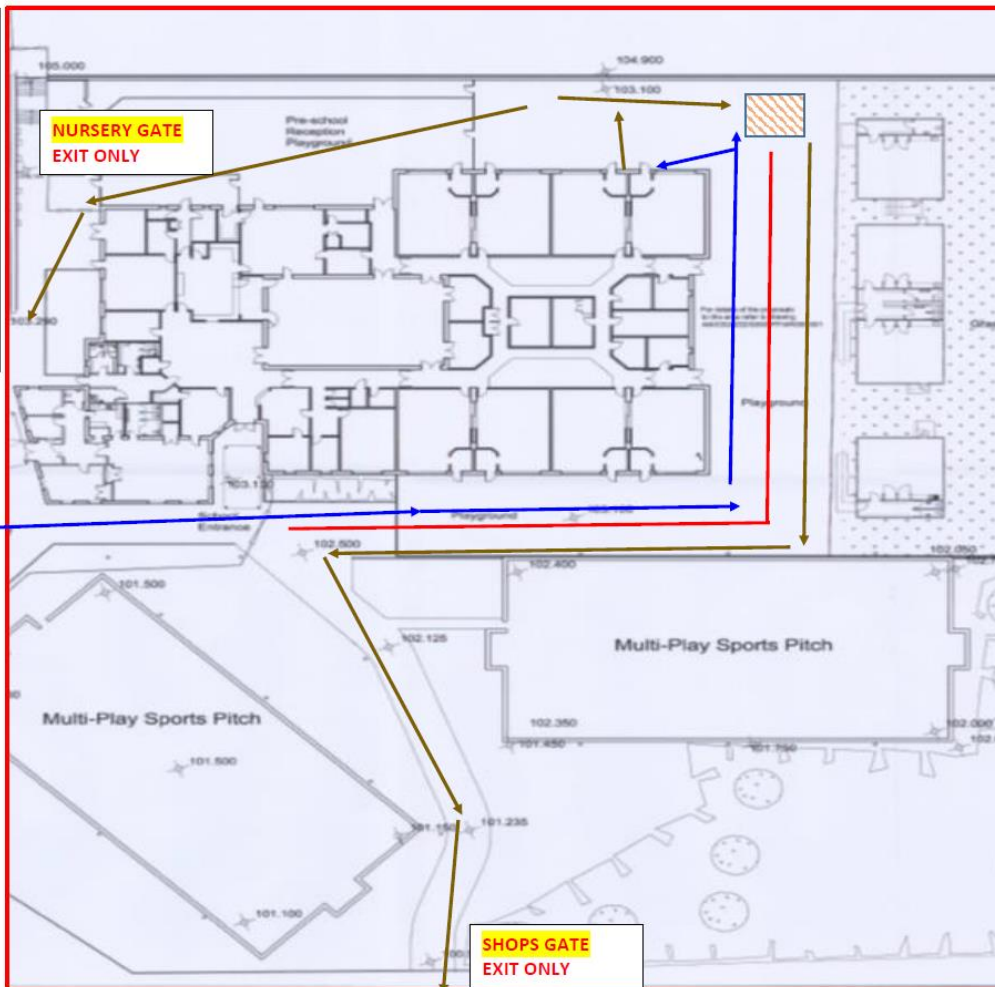


MAP A – MORNING ONLY

The Mornings will be a one way system around the playgrounds with only one entrance for all children MAIN GATE and two exits Shops and Nursery.

The afternoons will have staggered exits from ALL gates as per letter 15th July 2020.

MAIN GATE
ENTRANCE
ONLY ALL
CHILDREN



Key for Mornings only!

Blue is way in



Brown is way out



Red is centre of playground – keep left!



Cross over Zone to double back and out - take care



MAP B – AFTERNOONS ONLY

AFTERNOONS ONLY

Timings of exit for specific age groups at specific times.

Nursery Gate

Nursery Children
11.30am / 3.15pm

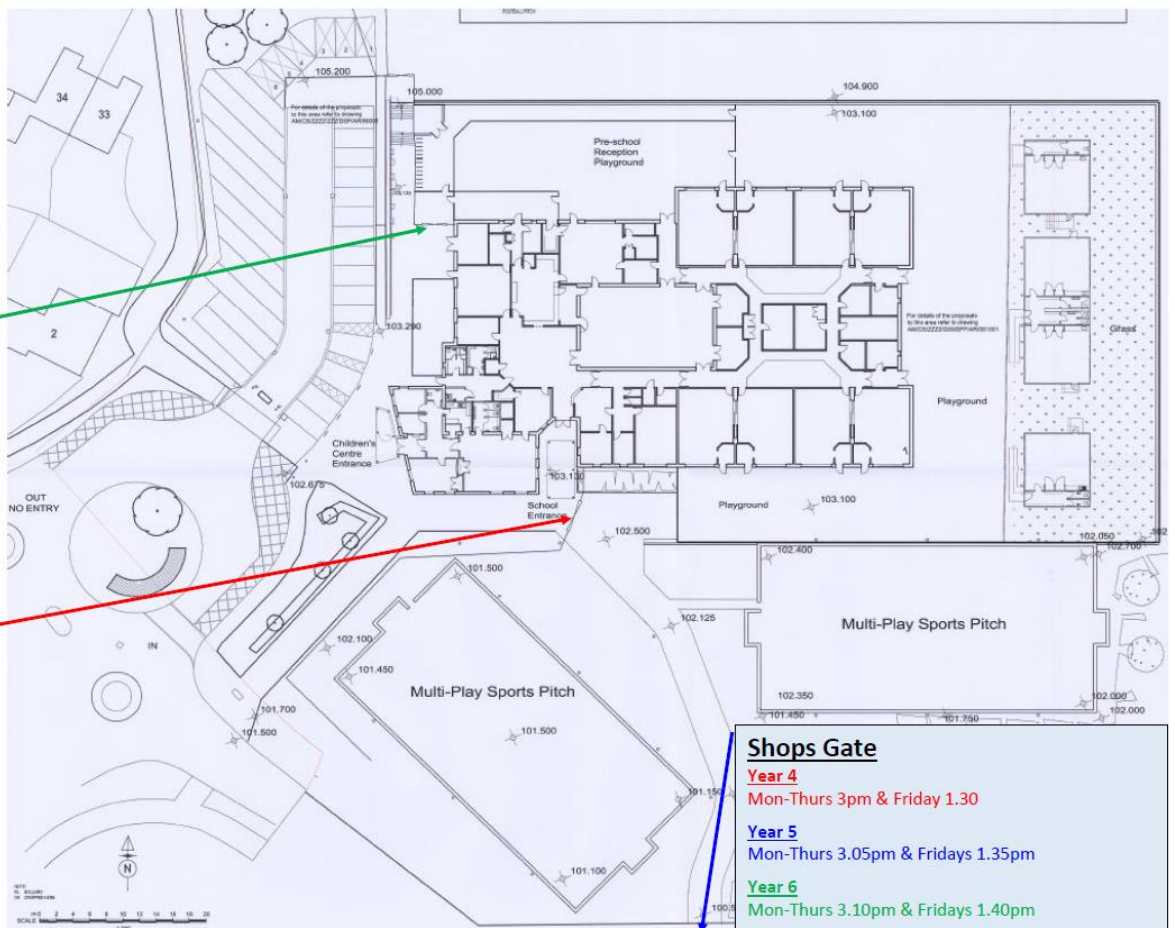
Reception Children
3pm Mon-Thurs and
1.30pm Fridays

Main Gate

Year 1
Mon-Thurs 3pm
Friday 1.30

Year 2
Mon-Thurs 3.05pm
Fridays 1.35pm

Year 3
Mon-Thurs 3.10pm
Fridays 1.40pm



Shops Gate

Year 4
Mon-Thurs 3pm & Friday 1.30

Year 5
Mon-Thurs 3.05pm & Fridays 1.35pm

Year 6
Mon-Thurs 3.10pm & Fridays 1.40pm

The table below shows the pick-up times and gates that must be used at the end of the day.

No parents are allowed through these gates at this time.

If parents need to communicate with class teachers, please do so via email.

Year group	End time	Collection gate
Nursery - Acorn	11.30am and 3.15pm	Nursery Gate
Reception – Alder & Birch	3.00pm	Nursery Gate
Year 1 – Hornbeam & Chestnut	3.00pm	Main Gate
Year 2 – Sycamore & Rowan	3.05pm	Main Gate
Year 3 – Willow & Juniper	3.10pm	Main Gate
Year 4 – Oak, Ash & Maple	3.00pm	Shops Gate
Year 5 – Elm & Holly	3.05pm	Shops Gate
Year 6 – Hazel and Beech	3.10pm	Shops Gate

Please note that Fridays return to normal from September with the School closing between 1.30-1.40pm. Nursery continues to run its normal sessions, finishing at 3.15pm on a Friday

Playtimes and Lunches

During the school day we will return to having break times and a chance to play during the lunch hour. These are carefully planned using the staff within each Year Group Bubble and designated spaces for single age groups to play. Each bubble will have their dedicated box of equipment to use at these times, as well as the option to just sit and chat! These 'playtimes' are in addition to a newly revised PE Timetable and scheduled times for learning outside during the week. For Term 1 we will only be doing PE outside. Children are welcome to wear lightweight tracksuit tops or waterproof jacket, so long as they fit in the PE bag.

Lunches will return with a 2 week cycle of menus, which are easily managed whilst meeting all nutritional requirements. We will continue to sell and serve hot food and packed lunches and these will be eaten in the classrooms until further notice. Our kitchen staff will transport the food to the classrooms for Year Group servings, and children will eat together as a class, under the guidance of the teacher.

Please order your lunches as normal via ParentPay at the start of the school year, where the menus will be available. There will be Main Meal, Vegetarian, Jacket Potato and Grab and Go Sandwich Options, with Carbohydrate and Vegetable sides along with easy to manage puddings. A reminder text will be sent when the site is ready.

Milk will need to be ordered as normal and children may bring a piece of fruit as a playtime snack (*it is hoped the KS1 Fruit deliveries will start again and we will let you know nearer the time*).

Curriculum

We will be working really hard with your children to catch up any learning they may have lost, *and to celebrate how well they have done whilst learning at home!*

Initially, we will focus as much on pupil wellbeing and mental health as on academic subjects. We will make sure children are in the right place for successful learning before embarking upon a recovery curriculum, informed by our initial assessments in September.

School trips will not take place in Term 1 and we will inform you if and when we are able to enjoy these again.

In fact, I am uneasy asking parents for large sums of money at a time when we are all tightening our belts, or if we cannot guarantee to get refunds.

Transport on coaches and sleeping away from home are not viable options at present, so we have also postponed the trip to the Isle of Wight for children in Year 6 (with a hope of rescheduling later in the year, but we will refund if it is cancelled) and we have cancelled the trip to London. The Year 4 trip to The Wilderness Centre has been pushed back to March 2021 and we will let you know more details on this in September, but again we will guarantee refunds should this event not happen.

Swimming has been cancelled for the foreseeable future and may well be reintroduced in a later age group for those children (including 3Oak from last year) who have missed their opportunity to swim.

Our ability to report to you at Curriculum Evenings and Parent Consultation Evenings will be hampered and I will write again in September regarding how these will operate, most likely being some form of 'virtual' alternative. Whilst we hope to be able to run some after-school teacher led enrichment clubs, these may well have to be for single age groups and we will share further information on this in September.

Sunshine Club – Breakfast and After School Care

It is hoped that Sunshine Club will return in September and we will contact those with bookings directly, to discuss how we can achieve this safely, once we are able to finalise these arrangements. I hope this will be by next week.

Supporting Your Child

As a parent, there are many ways that you can support your child in the coming weeks and as they prepare to return to school in September. First, please talk to them about what it will be like when they return. Talk about the new routines and the changes that they will see. Answer their questions and reassure them that the staff and you will support them through this time. If there is anything that has happened in your child's life you feel we need to know, please get in touch before the first day back, so we can offer the best possible support.

[Tips Returning To School](#) is a YouTube clip that was originally recorded for the June return to school, but is just as relevant for September. **It is aimed at parents** and will only take 8 minutes of your time, but it will be 8 minutes well spent when considering the emotional preparation your children will need for returning to school.

Click the hyperlink above or follow this URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H96X6zw7rgE&feature=youtu.be>

The most important thing is that your child **is looking forward to their return to school** and is physically and emotionally ready e.g. by ensuring home routines such as bed times enable a positive transition to full time schooling in September. **Be excited** about new uniform or school bags. Talk about looking forward to seeing their friends. It is really important at this time to keep practising key skills in English and Math where you can, but not excessively.

The last few months have been a very testing time for all of us and different people have been affected in different ways. What seems ok for one person is a cause of anxiety for another, but you have all been such a wonderful support and shown amazing understanding as we have tried to steer our way through the various changes and expectations placed upon us.

I will continue to try and keep you informed as changes occur over the summer and our staff will be in and out of school all over August, getting things ready for September. We won't be here every second of the day, with a response (as we have been for the last 5 months), but we will check emails regularly and respond if at all possible – *so if in doubt about anything please do ask us.*

Please continue to check your emails, texts and the school website for updates and new links.

Join Twitter (*and just follow us if it scares you*) so you can see alerts to new information.

We are AMCPs-Swindon with the tag [@AMCPs_Swindon](#) (*notice the underscore*)



Finally, please think ahead to September and be determined to help us make our flexible working a success.

We want to trust our parents to do the right thing and stick to our rules.

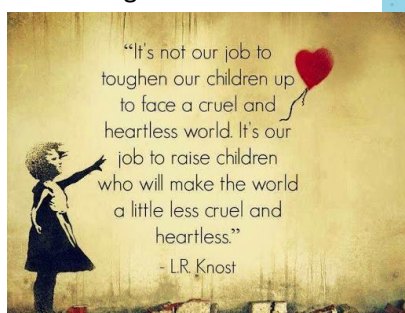
Not because we are power crazy, but because we want everyone (with varying levels of anxiety) to **feel** safe and we want everyone to continue thinking of each other by Paying Forward through their actions. I hope by doing this we will be able to offer the greater freedoms to arrival times and avoid going back to a prescribed and timed morning routine, which will cause even more disruptions to people's lives.

Take care of each other, I have said this many times but – *your children will catch up academic work in no time, but it will take us years to repair them emotionally if we forget to love each other!*

We'll Miss you! Have a great summer.



Bob



"When *little people* are overwhelmed by *big emotions*, it's our job to share our calm, not join their chaos." -L.R. KNOST

Never in the history of calming down, has someone calmed down, by being told to calm down.