



Abbey Meads Community Primary School

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Details for Opening on 2nd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of the details for September, in a repeat of the item on Newsletter 37 but with a little more detail. *Those attending Nursery and Reception classes will know we have an induction period for the first few days and weeks, so the details below are accurate, with the induction period overriding until the children join for their expected hours.*

Some of the key points are repeated again below - **please read everything below** as there are some important reminders and some differences for specific groups and some changes for ALL FAMILIES.

From September, we will continue to follow many of our internal arrangements to keep children safe and ensure an excellent education. With this in mind, and since we will no longer need to send home whole year groups of children to isolate, we will widen our bubbles to double age groups for internal organisation. This offers more freedom and greater interactions between pupils. These bubbles will however, reduce the number of children from which your child may contract the virus more, than if we mixed 500+ children. We will also introduce activities that allow a gradual return to that 'family feel' within AMCPs. *In September, we will introduce 'Talkie Walkies' (similar to Reading Buddies, which we are unable to run at present) where older children in Key Stage Two act as child mentors to younger children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One, going for walks and a chat outside, developing that 'family feel' and focussing on language and interpersonal skills. This also allows a time for children to walk and talk, two important aspects of what Stratts & Shore would call 'The Mind, Body and Soul'!* In addition, the organisation of tables and groupings within classrooms will return to normal.

You will see from the calendar, included in your child's report this week, that we have planned a 'normal' school year of events, but all must remain subject to change and many at the start of the year have a Covid alternative. (E.g. Curriculum Evenings and Parent Consultation Evenings in Term 1 will be virtual.)

Whilst there is an image out there that everything will go back to normal, we will in fact be following similar approaches to public transport and public spaces. Whilst parents have a choice whether to visit a shop, none of you have a choice about coming to school. Equally, I am sure I do not need to remind you that every 'outbreak' at AMCPs has come directly after, or within the incubation period following, a school holiday. We hope this does not happen in September but wish to be cautious.

With this in mind, we **politely request that you continue to wear masks on site** - especially when in crowded areas. **Masks must be worn inside the school** and you will not be permitted to enter unless you comply.

Please turn to page 2 for important changes to the start and end of the school day.



The start and end of the day for **Term 1** will remain similar to that which we are already following but there is a slight change to the morning - so please take note below.

The morning gates will now run from **8.30am-8.50am** with the same **one-way system** to allow you to walk around, drop off the children and leave.

These timings are part of a return to the normal arrangement of classroom doors opening at 8.30am.

Opening the gates at 8.30am, but allowing access until 8.50am allows for a continuation of the gradual entry to school for families remaining anxious about large numbers arriving at school. It also avoids large gatherings and 'bottle necks' outside the class doors, as classrooms will open at the same time as the gates. **Gates will lock at 8.50am**

It is our full intention to return to the normal 8.20am gates and 8.30am doors as soon as possible and by the start of Term 2.

The afternoon staggered collection times will continue for **Term 1**.

The only people needing to change gates are parents and children currently in Reception and Year 3, but as children move up through the school, most will experience a different gate time.

From September Collection times and locations at the end of the day are:

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Nursery | 11.30am/3.15pm (depends on session) | Nursery Gate |
| Reception | 3pm (1.30pm Fridays) | Nursery Gate |
| Year 1Alder | 2.50pm (1.20pm Fridays) | Main Gate |
| Year 1Birch | 2.55pm (1.25pm Friday) | Main Gate |
| Year 2Chestnut | 3.00pm (1.30pm Fridays) | Main Gate |
| Year 2Hornbeam | 3.05pm (1.35pm Fridays) | Main Gate |
| Year 3Rowan | 3.10pm (1.40pm Fridays) | Main Gate |
| Year 3Sycamore | 3.15pm (1.45pm Fridays) | Main Gate |
| Year 4Juniper | 2.50pm (1.20pm Fridays) | Shops Gate |
| Year 4Willow | 2.55pm (1.25pm Friday) | Shops Gate |
| Year 5Ash | 3.00pm (1.30pm Fridays) | Shops Gate |
| Year 5Oak | 3.05pm (1.35pm Fridays) | Shops Gate |
| Year 5Maple | 3.10pm (1.40pm Fridays) | Shops Gate |
| Year 6 | 3.15pm (1.45pm Fridays) | Shops Gate |

It is hoped we will return to the normal opening of gates at 2.50pm and collection from the classroom doors at 3pm from Term 2. This is very dependent on National Guidance at the time! We will also see the return of after school clubs in Term 2.

Please follow our guidance:

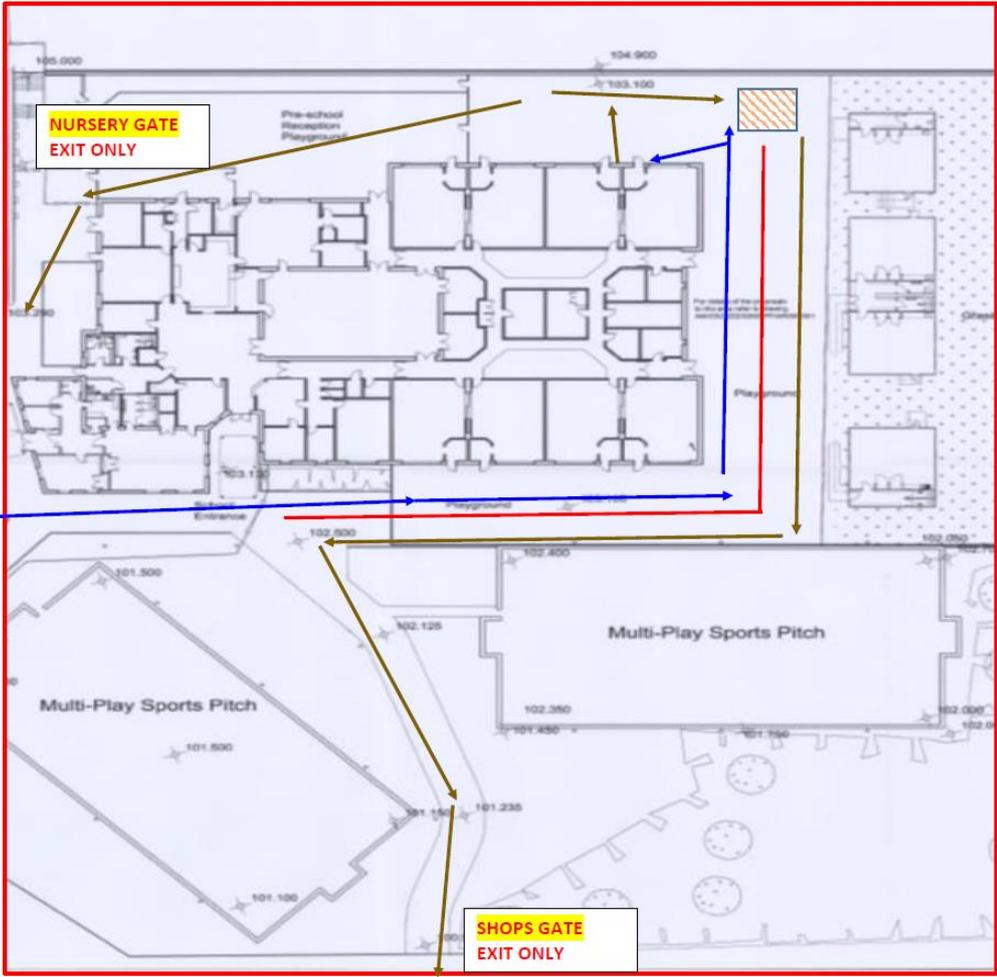
- In the morning, please still keep your distance - (8.30-8.50).
- **Please leave Disabled Parking for those with Blue Badges.**
- **Wear your mask, follow the one-way system, don't stop - just hand over your child and keep moving.**
- In the afternoon, **arrive only at your allocated time, reduce the number of adults and please respect distancing!** Please do not block walkways.
- Parents with siblings leaving at the **same time** from different age groups (EG Yr1 and Yr4) - please pick up the youngest first and we will look after the older sibling at their gate.
This is not a general comment to always pick the youngest up first. If an older sibling has an earlier exit time, please collect them first. Whilst it might be convenient for you to collect both children at the allocated time of your later child, it does cause difficulty at the gates, where we get a backlog of children from different age groups waiting to be collected late.

MAP A - MORNING ONLY 8.30am-8.50am

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 until Term 2.

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 - Staggered for Term 1

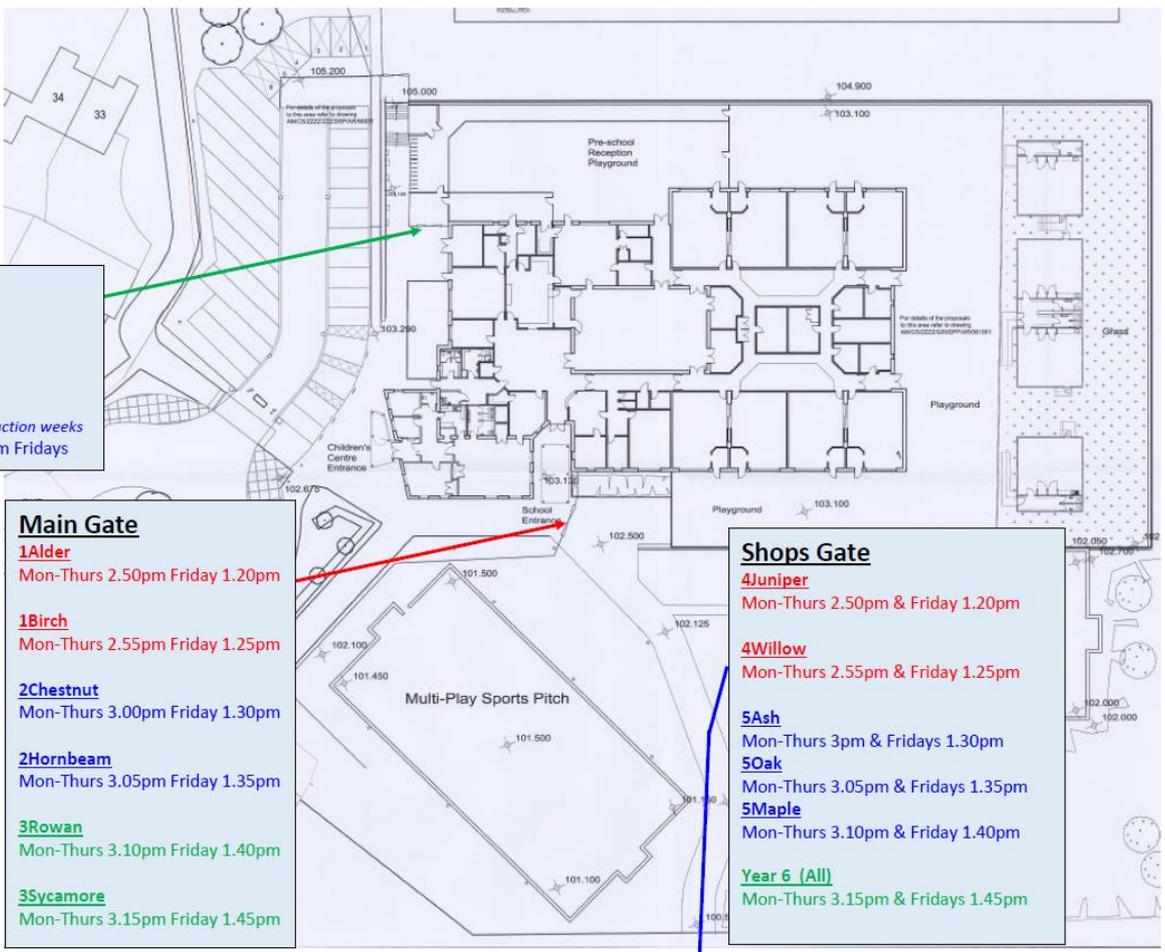
AFTERNOONS ONLY

Timings of exit for specific CLASSES at specific times.

Nursery Gate

Nursery Children
11.30am / 3.15pm

All Reception Children
After the completion of induction weeks
Mon-Thurs 3pm & 1.30pm Fridays



Main Gate

1Alder
Mon-Thurs 2.50pm Friday 1.20pm

1Birch
Mon-Thurs 2.55pm Friday 1.25pm

2Chestnut
Mon-Thurs 3.00pm Friday 1.30pm

2Hornbeam
Mon-Thurs 3.05pm Friday 1.35pm

3Rowan
Mon-Thurs 3.10pm Friday 1.40pm

3Sycamore
Mon-Thurs 3.15pm Friday 1.45pm

Shops Gate

4Juniper
Mon-Thurs 2.50pm & Friday 1.20pm

4Willow
Mon-Thurs 2.55pm & Friday 1.25pm

5Ash
Mon-Thurs 3pm & Fridays 1.30pm

5Oak
Mon-Thurs 3.05pm & Fridays 1.35pm

5Maple
Mon-Thurs 3.10pm & Friday 1.40pm

Year 6 (All)
Mon-Thurs 3.15pm & Fridays 1.45pm

Other Key reminders:

- Please note that the Year Group email accounts, *only used for Remote Learning when in a lockdown*, will no longer be monitored. If parents need to communicate with class teachers, please email the school office: admin@abbeymeads.swindon.sch.uk
- Government guidance states that attendance is not optional - it is mandatory.
- Uniform - we have been understanding for the last 18 months, but do request that we return to normal uniform from September. Details can be found on the website [SCHOOL UNIFORM](#)
- In Term 1 - on Fridays the School closes between 1.20-1.45pm
In Term 2 - We hope it returns to 1.30pm on Fridays for everyone.
- Nursery continues to run its normal sessions, finishing at 3.15pm on a Friday
- Sunshine Club continues with its normal timings with registered members only.
- All extra-curricular staff-led clubs will not start again before Term 2.

Please consider joining Twitter - especially if you want updates when children are away from home on residential trips etc. You can also see alerts to new information with links to newsletters and other events happening in school.

(You do not have to post anything and you do not have to accept any requests from people to follow you. You just join, follow us and then watch the info come in. Many of our followers are following 1 account (us) and have no followers of their own - by choice!)

We are known as **AMCPS-Swindon** (with a hyphen) **BUT** the tag is [@AMCPS_Swindon](#)

(notice there is an underscore _ in the middle of this.)

Please continue to check your emails, texts, Twitter and the school website for updates and new links. I will write more as time passes and try to keep information to a manageable amount each time, but if you feel something is missing please get in touch and I will answer your questions

As a reminder, from 16th August 2021 there will no longer be a requirement for children under the age of 18 to self-isolate and adults who are 'double jabbed' are afforded the same regulation. Those over 18s who are not 'double jabbed' will still need to self-isolate, and as such there could be a potential impact on any staff who fall into this category. It is hoped we can manage any such absences within the school, but will continue to keep you informed should we fall into any difficulties with this.

Once again I would like to thank all those in the AMCPS community who have offered us their continued support and trust throughout these difficult times. Like you, I wish to 'return to normal' as soon as possible but, hopefully like you, I wish to keep everyone safe and the school open just a little bit more. I wish you all a happy summer and hope we all return in September revitalised and ready to enjoy another fantastic year of learning and fun at AMCPS, including a return to our normal opening and closing times by the start of Term 2.

Best wishes

Bob

