



Ark John Keats Academy

Dear parents,

I am writing to provide some clarity about our plans for September. I have heard from many of you already, and the overwhelming message is that you want your children to be back in school, learning. I fully agree, and we are delighted to see the government guidance which prioritises returning all year groups to school in September. The government has also indicated a return to compulsory attendance, meaning your children must attend school every day from September. I think we are united in our wish to have children back with some urgency to close the inevitable gap from a long stretch out of school.

Of course, September will not look identical to every other year at AJK. We will need to take measures to ensure your children and our staff can be safe in school. We are currently working on our plans to ensure this will happen, and we will share these with you as soon as they are finalised.

I know some of you will want clarity around the start of term. We will stagger the start of the school year, with different year groups arriving on different days. This will ensure we can build up to a full school carefully, and allows us to be responsive if challenges arise over the first days back.

Primary children will attend in smaller groups for the first week, beginning on 7th September (Year 1, Year 3, Year 6) or 8th September (Year 2, Year 4, Year 5). EYFS pupils should attend on the days outlined in a previous letter from Ms Mendoza. Ms Baird will write to all primary parents before the end of term with a full breakdown of which days your children will attend during that first week.

The first day of school for each year group in secondary school is set out below:

Year group:	First day of term:
Year 7	8 th September and 10 th September – do not attend on 9 th September
Year 8	10 th September
Year 9	10 th September
Year 10	9 th September
Year 11	8 th September
Year 12	9 th September
Year 13	8 th September

We will write to you by the end of term with more details on what the return to school will look like. Much of this is still under discussion, but we can be sure that we are very likely to have staggered start and finish times for different year groups, as well as to zone the school (with different year groups based in their own set of classrooms) to prevent the spread of the virus.

Our guiding aim in all of this is clear: to ensure all pupils are in school as often as possible, and to ensure pupils can return to school safely.

We are all very excited to welcome your children back.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Facer
Principal

Executive Principal: Jane Witheford
Secondary Headteacher: William Mackintosh
Primary Headteacher: Amy Baird

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