



Ark John Keats Academy

RE: September opening plans

31st August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to school!

This letter sets out some very important information for you and your child to know to be ready for the start of school.

The letter contains:

- Information on COVID-19 and the changes we have made to our arrangements.
- Timings and logistics for the school day and school year 2021-22.

Based on guidance from the government, we have made some changes to our COVID-19 arrangements for the start of the new autumn term.

The key changes are:

Bubbles

We will no longer operate bubbles in the new term, which means that assemblies and larger group activities can resume and students from different classes and year groups will be able to mix.

Face coverings

The government has removed the need to wear face coverings on school premises. However, they recommend that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may encounter people you do not usually meet. This includes public transport. We appreciate that some staff and students may wish to wear face masks at school, and they can do so if they want to.

Close contact tracing

Schools will no longer be responsible for contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19, and this will be led by NHS Test and Trace.

From 16th August, children under 18 years old identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive will not need to self-isolate and will be advised by NHS Test and Trace to take a PCR test. Children aged 18 years old will be treated as a child until four months after their 18th birthday and will then be treated as an adult.

Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak at the school or in the local area, we may be advised to reintroduce bubbles and face coverings and may be asked to support NHS Test and Trace with close contact tracing. If this becomes necessary, we will communicate this to you.

Principal: Jo Facer
Primary Headteacher: Mide Ola-Said

Ark John Keats Academy
Bell Lane Enfield EN3 5PA
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info@arkjohnkeatsacademy.org
arkjohnkeatsacademy.org



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COVID-19 testing

Testing remains essential in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within our school community.

We will continue to encourage our staff to take rapid lateral flow tests twice a week during term-time and the holidays if staff are on site.

Isolating if travelling from abroad

Keep in mind that you and your family may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. You should plan your trip so that any self-isolation should also fall within the school holidays.

The government can change the red, amber, green classification of countries on short notice. You will need to respond to the latest rules on international travel, even if you have already left the UK, while also minimising the impact on your child's education. You can find out more about the travel rules here: www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england.

Where possible, we will provide remote education for students unable to return from abroad due to COVID-19 travel restrictions while they are abroad.

Staying safe

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. If you are worried about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk> or by phoning 111. There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19, do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

We will continue to ensure students have regular handwashing opportunities: before and after eating, after breaks, changing rooms etc. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school, and we will make sure that children wash their hands often. The school will continue with enhanced cleaning arrangements, paying particular attention to surfaces that are regularly touched. We will also keep spaces well ventilated and will not allow anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to enter the site.



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School Drop off

Drop offs will continue as they did last year, with parents dropping off children at designated gates. This will ease congestion around the school and make for a more efficient start to the school day. A few things to note:

- Parents will not be allowed on the school site during drop off.
- Siblings can be dropped off at the same gate.
- The front office will not be open before 08:45 or until the congestion has eased through the front entrance.

Locations for Drop Off

- Front Gate – Nursery, Reception and Year 1
- Park Gate 1 – Years 2 and 3
- Park Gate 2 – Years 4 and 5
- Front Gate- Year 6.

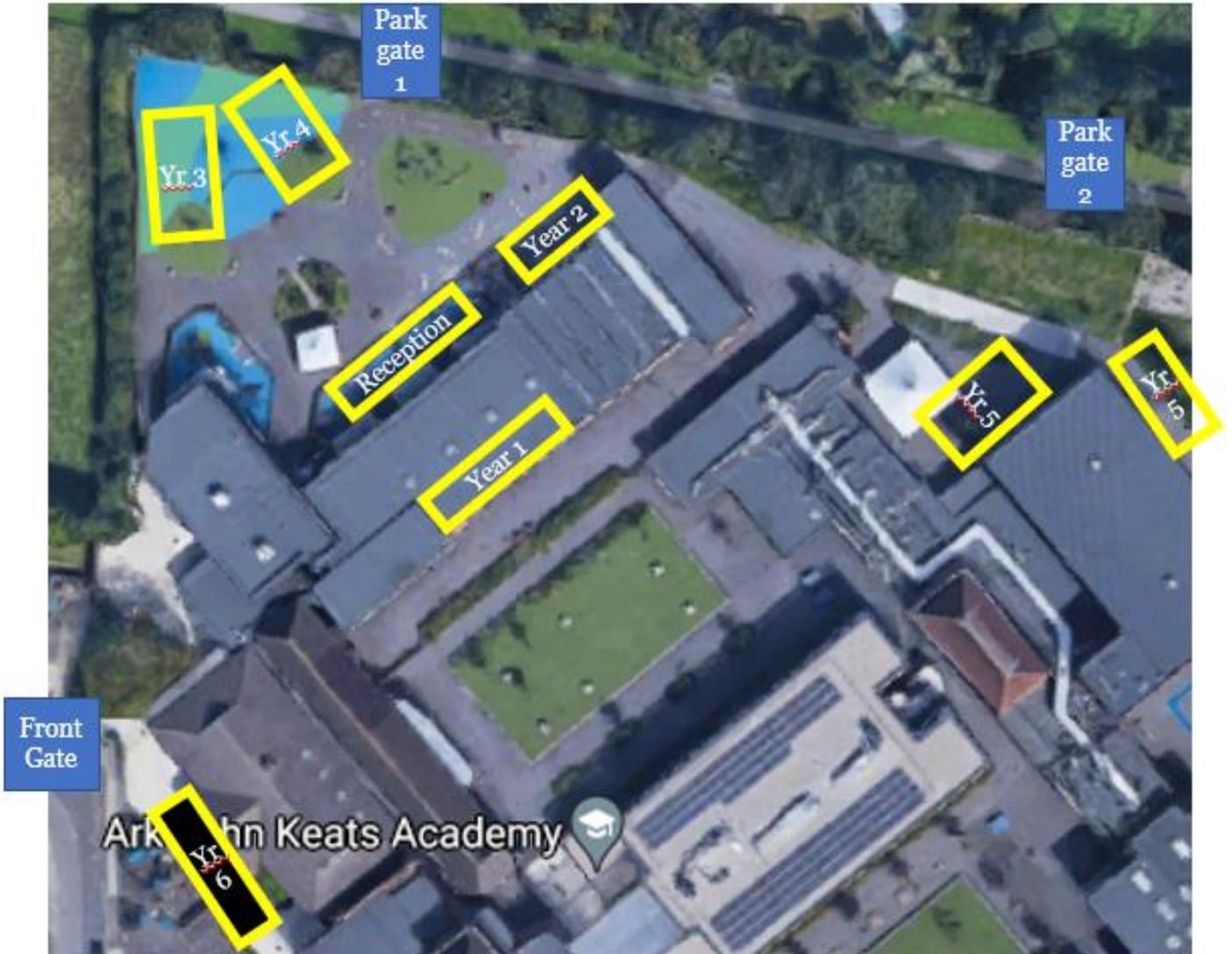
School Pickup

Parents and guardians will have from 3:30pm-3:40pm to pick up their children. At 3:39pm a member of staff will ring the school bell to inform parents that they need to leave the school site unless they have a previously arranged appointment. The bell will ring again at 3.40pm. This will result in the closing of the park gates, leaving only the front gate as a way out.

This year parents will be able to enter the school at the designated gates and pick up children within the school grounds. We would encourage all parents to pick up children from the gate nearest the child's pick up location to ease congestion.



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Primary school day 2021 – 2022

- The school day will start at 08:50am and end at 3:30pm.
- Drop off time is between 08:40 and 08:50.
- Collection is between 3:30 and 3:40pm.

Nursery sessions 2021 – 2022

- Nursery am session 08:25-11:25am.
- Nursery pm session 12:20-3:20pm.

Wrap around care 2021-22

- Breakfast club will start on the 6th September at 7:45am for Years 1- 6. The price for breakfast club will be £2 a session. Bookings can be made via the primary office on this email; primary@arkjohnkeatsacademy.org. Payment must be made using Parent Pay. This provision will operate on a first come first serve basis.
- Reception children cannot attend breakfast club until 6th January 2022 to give them time to settle properly into school life first. Nursery children cannot attend breakfast club.
- Sticky Fingers pre and post school childcare will continue to drop children and pick them up from the school site. If you would like to take advantage of their services, please contact Sticky Fingers (Sheniz) on 07732385075.
- From September 6th we will also provide onsite after school provision which starts at 3:30pm and finishes at 5:00pm at a cost of £8 per session. Light snacks are included. Bookings must be made through the primary office and payment must be made using ParentPay. This provision will operate on a first come first serve basis and will only be for working parents. Please email; primary@arkjohnkeatsacademy.org to book a place. Reception children cannot attend until 6th January. Nursery children cannot attend after school provision.



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September Start Dates and Week 1 Timetable

Year Group	Date	Drop off	Collection
Years 1-6 Half Day	Friday 3 rd September	08:40-08:50	11:30-11:40am (no lunches)
Years 1-6 Full Time Start	Monday 6 th September	08:40-08:50	3:30-3:40pm

Year Group	Date
Reception stay and play	Friday 3 rd September
Nursery stay and play	Friday 3 rd September
Reception Staggered start	Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th September
Nursery Staggered start	Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th September

We all recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that everyone has had to make, so we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.

I hope this letter offers reassurance to the measures we are keeping in place to ensure a safe start to the autumn term.

I look forward to welcoming both parents and children back for the new year.

Yours sincerely,

Olamide Ola-Said
Primary Headteacher