

Ashmead Primary School

<https://myashmead.org>

28th September 2020

Dates for the diary

1st Oct: Census day - hot lunch available - please contact the office to book

1st Oct: Virtual PTA welcome meeting - 12 midday

5th Oct: 4pm: Y6 Virtual Meet the teacher, 4.45pm: Y5 Virtual Meet the teacher

6th Oct: 4pm: Y4 Virtual Meet the teacher, 4.45pm: Reception Virtual Meet the teacher

7th Oct: 4pm: Y3 Virtual Meet the teacher, 4.45pm: Y1 Virtual Meet the teacher

8th Oct: 4pm: Y2 Virtual Meet the teacher

Week beginning 19th Oct: Parent-Teacher meetings, details to be confirmed.

20th Oct: 9.45am: Virtual PTA AGM - all welcome

26th - 30th Oct (inc):
Half term break

4th Nov: 9.45: Virtual school tour for prospective parents

6th Nov: Flu vaccine day

21st Dec - 1st Jan (inc)
Christmas break

Reminders

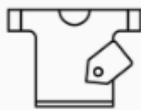
These are all reminders from previous newsletters and parentmails so you might already know all these things but these are ongoing reminders!

Siblings: Children with an older sibling can come in with them at their earlier time in the morning. If you would like to take up this option, please make sure your oldest child is capable of safely and sensibly taking their sibling to their class.



School lunches: All children from Reception - Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch every day. If you would like to take up this option, just let the office know. Don't forget we are trialling having a hot lunch this Thursday (1st October) - Burger or Hot Dog and chips (veggie options also available) plus dessert.

Water bottles: Every child must bring a water bottle to school every day as the fountains in the playground have been turned off as part of our Covid precautions. Please make sure the water bottle is named!



Named clothes: We are finding a lot of left clothes each day and the vast majority of them have no names on! It is really tricky to get the right clothes back to the right person if we don't know who they belong to. A job that might take you 10 minutes will save us hours of work so please do label everything that is brought to school - coats, jumpers, shoes, boots, bags etc.

Unnamed and unclaimed items will be washed and donated to charity at the end of each week.

Drop off times: Our trial to make drop off quicker in the morning is going well. We would really like to see if we can make it even better so that children can have more time in school. However, this will only work with the cooperation of the adults who drop in the mornings. Firstly, please be on time so that your child does not 'break the bubble' and have to enter school with a different set of children. Secondly, parents are politely reminded to leave the area as soon as you have dropped your child. Please do not stand around chatting as this clogs up the area for the next group of children and parents to start the day safely.

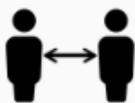


Parent-Teacher communication

We will hold parent-teacher meetings earlier than usual so a meaningful one-to-one conversation can happen in these strange times as soon as possible. Before that we are offering a brief online 'Meet the teacher' meeting for each year group next week. These will be via a Zoom link. The videos shown in the meeting will be shared online afterwards.



Minimising contact



The children have settled back remarkably quickly and are so happy and settled at school already. They have adjusted brilliantly to the new expectations and we thought it would be useful to remind parents of how minimising contact works in a primary school. Our day-to-day emphasis is on minimising contact through keeping 'bubbles' as separate as possible while maintaining some measure of social distancing within the bubbles where this is appropriate. The younger the children are, the harder and less appropriate this is. The older they are, the more appropriate it is to try and ensure social distancing and this is the approach they are trying to take in secondary schools. As the government guidance states, 'We recognise that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group'.

School Street and safety at the beginning and end of the day



Our School Street is helping to make the beginning and end of the day much safer. Thanks again for all the positive feedback about this initiative from Lewisham.

Please remember:

- Please ensure children are closely supervised on the way to and from school and while waiting - children should not be running/scooting/cycling at speed while waiting to come to school or go home. Lewisham have agreed a School Street not a Play Street. Helping us with this will keep children safe but will also help our neighbours to adjust to this change.
- The School Street is safer than before but **not** entirely safe. Residents can - and do - drive along the road if they are parked here when the school street closure starts. Motorcycles are not supposed to go down the road but we cannot physically stop them from going past the barrier. We are aware that some motorists have chosen to drive onto Ashmead Road from Friendly Street and have informed Lewisham of this. **Please remember that vehicles may still use the road** and be alert while continuing to closely supervise your children.
- School Street times are 8.30am to 9.30am and 3.00pm to 4.00pm. We are trying to minimise disruption to Ashmead residents so we are removing the barrier as soon as we can at the end of the school day - usually around 3.40pm. It is helpful if parents use the pavement and not the middle of the road whenever possible. This helps us re-open the road more quickly and helps us maintain good relations with our Ashmead neighbours.
- Sadly, despite our efforts to supervise the School Street scheme positively and calmly, staff have been sworn at, physically threatened and driven towards aggressively by drivers unhappy about the School Street. I'm sure everyone would agree that this is wholly unacceptable. I have shared these concerns with Lewisham. Eventually school staff will not have to supervise the barrier but while we do we would like to start a rota of parent volunteers to support us in safely supervising the School Street barrier. **If you could spare some time to help at either the morning or afternoon times please email admin@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk** Nearly all of the aggressive behaviour has been at the end of the day so that will be our priority in allocating volunteers. Thank you.

The beginning and end of the day is working pretty smoothly overall. This has been a huge adjustment for children, parents and staff and we thank you for your patience and cooperation.

There are a few things we'd like parents to remember so that these times get even more efficient and safer for all:

- Please be on time! This really makes a huge difference to how well the beginning/end of the day can work.
- Please try your very best to socially distance from other people. There is not a lot of space so being a full two metres from everyone else is not always possible of course. The hardest part of social distancing is how unnatural it feels; it doesn't feel 'right' to be stepping back from people we are talking with. It is a real struggle to remember this but it is certainly safer if we all make the effort.
- Now that further restrictions are in place and coronavirus cases are rising (though still, at present, very low in Lewisham) we would like to urge parents and carers to wear face coverings at drop-off and pick up. Many parents already do this and more consistency here will increase safety for all.
- Please pay close attention to where your child exits at pick-up time. Sometimes we can see parents waiting but it can be hard to get your attention. If any parent chats (socially distanced of course...) can be combined with focusing on relevant exit it really helps to speed up the process of getting your children safely to you.

Ashmead Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Parents and carers of Ashmead pupils - please join the PTA Committee for an informal online chat! Bring your cuppa/lunch and dial in to find out what the PTA has done in the past and, more importantly, discuss how we can enhance life at Ashmead for pupils this term and beyond. Our usual fundraising and socialising plans will need to be re-thought because of COVID so we particularly welcome creative solutions! Zoom Dial-In from 12 noon on Thursday 1st October: <https://ucl.zoom.us/j/95983005907>

The PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be at 9.45am on Tuesday 20th October. Open to all, the PTA annual report and accounts for 2019/20 will be presented and elections will be held for the new committee - look out for further details!

Feeling out of the loop? Make sure you sign up to the PTA email mailing list (ashmeadschoolpta@gmail.com) and join the WhatsApp group for your child's year facilitated by PTA Class Reps to make sure you are updated on PTA activities.

Looking forward to seeing you!

PTA committee 2019-20

Liz Whimperley Dixon (children in Reception and Year 5)

Gemma Jones (children in Reception and Year 2)

Wayne Flanagan (child in Reception)

Ginny Sandringham (child in Year 4)

