



Ark Elvin Academy

18 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well we have made it to the end of Summer Term 2020 – and it is certainly one we will never forget. It was so lovely to see so many of you for our end of year celebration assembly – if you and your child missed it and would like to watch the recording of it please click [here](#) (your child will need to log in using their school account). Congratulations to all our award winners – your certificates and awards will be posted to you over the summer.

Re-opening our school in September

As you all now know the government has announced that all children will return to school in September. Although many of our pupils have done a brilliant job of learning from home, it is not the same as being in school. We have missed teaching them in person, and we're excited to welcome them back.

We have been working hard to make sure that returning to school is as safe as possible for your child and so there will be some big changes when your child returns to school in September:

- Pupils will be in year group bubbles and will not be able to mix with pupils from other year groups
- Pupils will remain in the same classroom for much of the school day to reduce the contact they have with other pupils. This means that your child's form group may change as they will remain with their form group for the whole day. We will contact you in August with the details about which form group your child is in.
- In the mornings we will open three different entrances to the school so that year groups are separate from one another:
 - Year 7 and Year 11 will enter through the main school gate entrance
 - Year 8 and Year 10 will enter through the vehicle entrance on Cecil Avenue – no vehicles will be allowed to enter between 08:00-08:30 to allow for this

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- Year 9 will enter through an entrance from the footpath beside our MUGA straight into the courtyard
- Children in different year groups will have different lunch times. The lunch on offer will be a 'grab and go' packed lunches. Pupils will be able to bring in their own packed lunches but of course they must be healthy and cannot include Chocolate, sweets, fizzy drinks or jumbo packs of crisps. The dining hall tables will be cleaned between each sitting and pupils will clean their hands before and after eating.
- We will run a slightly shortened school day. We will be reducing the length of each lesson by 5 minutes as children will no longer be transitioning between classrooms and time will be saved.
- We will also be dismissing year groups at different times at the end of the day to avoid the normal congestion on the high street.
- Pupils will be required to wear their full school uniform every day. On the day that they have PE they will be expected to wear their full PE kit to school as we will not be using the changing rooms. It is important that your child wears the full PE kit – and when it is cold this should include the PE jumper. Full details can be found [here](#)
- Pupils will be strongly encouraged to walk or cycle to school and if possible, not use public transport
- We have employed 4 additional cleaners to carry out additional cleaning through the day, particularly of things people touch regularly like tabletops and door handles
- Pupils will be required to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day
- Within their class bubble pupils will not be expected to maintain a social distance and will, for instance share a table with a partner in their classroom. However, they must maintain social distance with all adults in the building and with all pupils not in their class.

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- At break and lunch pupils will mix with other pupils in their year group but must maintain a strict 1m+ distance from each other – so there will be no physical touching. Year groups must not have any contact with pupils from other year groups. All pupils MUST understand the importance of the social distancing rules. Any child who deliberately breaks the social distancing rules will be removed from the class and their parents contacted.

These big changes will take some getting used to and we want both you and your child to feel fully reassured about a safe return to school in September. We will be writing to you to invite you to the following events to help you and your child prepare for the reopening of school:

- A virtual parent's meeting in the last week of August where we will explain the measures, we are taking to keep your child safe and answer the questions that you have
- A face to face parent meeting in school for you to meet your child's form tutor, review your child's summer home learning and explain the safety measures we are putting in place
- Each year group will then return to school for induction before the full timetable begins.
- All the dates for each year group can be seen below:

Start of Autumn Term dates for each year group

Year group	Virtual parents meeting	Parent review day meeting	First day of term
Year 7	Tuesday 25 th August 12:00	Monday 7 th September	Tuesday 8 th September
Year 8	Tuesday 25 th August 13:00	Tuesday 8 th September	Wednesday 9 th September
Year 9	Tuesday 25 th August 1pm 14:00	Tuesday 8 th September	Wednesday 9 th September

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Year group	Virtual parents meeting	Parent review day meeting	First day of term
Year 10	Tuesday 25 th August 2pm 15:00	Tuesday 8 th September	Wednesday 9 th September
Year 11	Tuesday 25 th August 2pm 16:00	Monday 7 th September	Tuesday 8 th September
Year 12	n/a	n/a	Tuesday 8 th September

We have emailed you the link to join our virtual meetings.

Summer Home Learning

After such a difficult few months I do hope that all our families manage to get some sort of break over the summer holidays – you really do deserve it. I know it will feel like a long six weeks after a period of school closure, so it is really important that all our pupils complete the summer home learning we have set. We will ask your child to bring this in with them to their parent review day meeting with us at the start of term. You can see your child's home learning pack below.

[Year 7 Summer Homework Pack](#) and [Year 7 Maths Booklet](#)

[Year 8 Summer Homework Pack](#) and [Year 8 Maths Booklet](#)

[Year 9 Summer Homework Pack](#) and [Year 9 Maths Booklet Sets 1-3](#) or [Year 9 Maths Booklet Set 4](#)

[Year 10 Summer Homework Pack](#) and [Year 10 Maths Booklet Set 1](#) or [Year 10 Maths Booklet Sets 2-3](#) or [Year 10 Maths Booklet Set 4](#)

We have also posted this home to you so you will have a pack delivered to your home address in the coming few days.

Sad farewells

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Of course, at the end of the year we always have some sad farewells to make to staff who are moving on. This year we are saying goodbye to: Mr Sroka, Dr Wood, Ms Lester, Ms Way, Mr Entwhistle, Ms Lunn, Ms Amin, Mr Austin, Ms Spiers, Mrs Saunders and Ms Bayes. They have all played an important part in the journey our school has been on and we will miss them hugely. However, we have some great new members of our team joining us in September and I am very much looking forward to giving them a warm Elvin welcome.

Thank you

Getting through this Covid pandemic and keeping our pupils learning at home has been a momentous team effort. Thank you to all our parents and carers for all the support you have given our children at home and thank you to all our teachers and support staff who have worked tirelessly to support our children. You are the best!

With huge thanks to you all. Take care and stay safe.

Ms Curtis

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