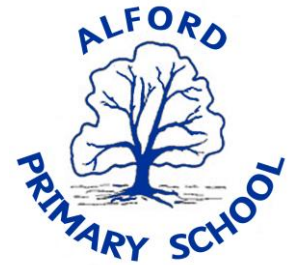


# Alford Primary School

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## Headteacher

Mrs Vicky Ross BSc. (Hons) NPQH

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**I am writing to you to confirm that, following the government announcement yesterday, Alford Primary School will be open to all pupils from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

As a school, we are very pleased and can't wait to see all the children again. We are now working hard to review our risk assessments and to organise the children's return. We are sure that you have many questions, some of which we have tried to answer below. Please bear with us as we will be communicating a lot, via ParentHub, over the next fortnight.

In regards to education, this is the first time that I have felt confident about a slow return to some sort of normality. We, parents and school, have worked through the pandemic, as partners in providing an emergency education for Alford's children, and now it is time to get back to the full learning that enables our children to be the best that they can be.

As a school, we will work relentlessly to identify and plug any educational gaps, to catch the children up on any missed bits of learning and to provide a rigorous and broad education for them. We have planned ahead for supporting pupils' wellbeing, anxieties and any other concerns around returning to school. We need just one thing to be able to make all this work – your children to be in school!

Good attendance will be crucial over the coming months if children are to make progress. The latest government guidance insists on a return to rigorous attendance monitoring and legal action if attendance is low. With this in mind:

- **All children MUST return to school on March 8th. The government has said that this is mandatory, and parents are liable to fines for non-compliance. Children must attend on time and stay for the whole day.**
- All children with medical conditions, or with families with medical conditions, will be expected to attend school. Only a very few children will be authorised to remain at home. You will have received a letter from your GP/Consultant if this is the case. Please contact your GP if you think your child falls in this category as the school will need written evidence if shielding children are expected to remain at home.
- In March, any normal absence from school, as before, will need to be reported before 9am via email, phone or via the Parent Hub on the first day of absence. Parents should then report absence daily unless the office says this is not necessary. School will contact parents immediately if children are not in school



*without a reason being reported and will conduct home visits if contact cannot be made.*

- *Regular non-attendance will be monitored and reported to the Local Authority. This could result in a fine.*
- *If parents are considering not returning their children to school in March, they should inform the school IN WRITING that they wish to home educate. The school will contact you to discuss this option and then this information will be passed to the Local Authority who will contact parents directly for confirmation and assessment of suitability.*



#### **Uniform, PE kit and Belongings:**

We know that this year has been tough. Buying uniform (shoes and clothing) is still difficult with many shops still closed and many children now grown out of their autumn uniform. With this in mind, we will be taking a relaxed approach to uniform when the children return. We understand that children may appear with the wrong shoes or non-school jumpers. As shops reopen, we will ask parents to replace items so that the children will be super smart again for September.



If struggling, the Alford Hub can often support with uniform and we are happy to accept donations to stock our pre-loved section of our web shop.

When children return, we will continue to ask that they come to school dressed in PE kit on PE days. Teachers will communicate which days via ParentHub.

Purchasing of new uniform should be done via the online shop. This can be found at <https://shop.alfordprimary.co.uk/> or accessed through our website.



#### **Social Distancing:**

When all the children return, and the numbers in school increase, sticking to social distancing will be very important to keep us all as safe.

- All year groups will continue to have a soft start to school. Children should arrive between 8.45am and 9am. This is to minimise the number of adults on the playground.
- Children can be collected between 3.10pm and 3.20pm (3pm for EYFS) from their classroom pick up point.
- We will continue to insist that parents do not gather in the playground or near the gates. Parents should bring their children to the correct doors at the correct times and MUST adhere to any one-way systems.
- We will insist that all adults follow social distancing guidelines AT ALL TIMES on and around the school site - including staying 2m+ away from staff, other parents and children.
- Only one adult should bring children to school and wherever possible siblings and pushchairs should not be brought into school wherever possible.
- Adults bringing children to school must be symptom free.



#### **Masks/Face Coverings:**

- All adults on school premises will be expected to wear a face covering unless they have medical exemption



- Children will not be required to wear masks in school as per the current government guidance.
- If a child comes to school wearing a face covering, they will be asked to remove it on entry to the classroom and place it in a plastic bag until home time.

**Transport:**

Parents should continue to avoid public transport wherever possible. School buses will be running from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please ensure the school office is informed via email that your child will be using the buses so a member of staff knows that they will be arriving.

**Communicating with the Office/School:**

As before, parents will not be allowed to enter the office or school except by invitation: email and phone queries only please ([primaryschool@alford.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:primaryschool@alford.lincs.sch.uk)). The school is still unable to accept cash payments. Uniform and Breakfast/After-School club places will need to be purchased via our web shop. This can be found at <https://shop.alfordprimary.co.uk/> OR accessed through our website.

All parental meetings and conversations with staff will continue to be via email or telephone.

**On a personal note, I would like to offer my most huge and sincere thanks to all the parents, friends and extended families that have supported the school through this lockdown, and through the last year. I am humbled and so, so grateful for the support and positivity that you have shown to the school and look forward to being able to say this in person on March 8th.**

Kind regards.

Mrs Vicky Ross  
Head teacher

