



6 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following my brief letter on 4 January 2021, I just wanted to give you a further update, now we have had a chance to assess the situation and put further plans in place.

Which children are allowed to attend?

- Children in Nursery;
- The children of those parents classified as critical workers;
- Children who are classed as vulnerable. We have spoken with all relevant families, so they are aware if they fall into this category.

If you are unsure if you are classed as a critical worker, please see the national government guidance.

Can I also make the point that the children of critical workers are allowed to attend in order for the parent or parents to carry out work deemed vital to continue crucial services. We are, of course, very supportive of this.

I just want to ensure that we are supporting all families with their circumstances, whilst at the same time ensuring we can do everything possible to protect everyone on site. I am sure you can appreciate that this is a difficult balance.

What should I do if my child is supposed to be attending but is ill?

If you have told us that your child is attending, they should attend. If they are ill, please contact us in the normal way to inform us or this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

If you have told us that you want them to attend but no longer wish them to do so, please either ring the main office or contact us on the main Academy email:
enquiries@theddlethorpeacademy.co.uk

What will the new bubbles look like for those children who are attending?

Unlike the previous lockdown, there are currently, far more children attending. Therefore, there will be more bubbles and more staff on site than during the March lockdown.

We will be keeping children in the same year groups together. Therefore, bubbles will continue to be based around 3 groups:

- Nursery and Reception
- Years 1 / 2 and Years 3 / 4
- Years 5 and 6



Who will teach these bubbles?

The children will be taught by staff they are familiar with.

What are the arrangements for arrival and the collection of the children?

This is fairly similar for most children but different for a small number. During this lockdown period:

- All children should arrive at 8.50am.
- All children should be collected at 3.30pm.

They should arrive and depart from the following gates:

- Early Years – Nursery and Reception – Carpark entrance
- Years 1 and 2 – Main front gate
- Years 3 and 4 – Main front gate
- Years 5 and 6 – Main front gate

This will commence on Monday 11 January 2021.

How will the children be taught when they attend?

The children will mainly follow their normal curriculum pattern, though it may be slightly changed in places to tie in with those receiving remote learning.

Do the children need to bring anything different into school?

No, they should continue to bring as little as possible in to the Academy, as before.

It is important that they all have a PE kit in school as there will be PE lessons as normal, and perhaps additional PE lessons at times.

What will remote learning look like for those who are not attending school?

As you will be aware, we implemented a new system, Frog, during the previous lockdown which has proven to be very successful for the majority of children and families.

However, we have been working hard to consider other systems to improve this service for the children and families as we know that it is not ideal for everyone, particularly for those who access the work through all mobile devices. We want to make it easier for the teachers to share examples of work and enable them to communicate more easily with the children. We also want a system which will be easier to upload short videos to show the children how to attempt certain tasks, and our plan is also to move towards an element of live learning at some point.



Therefore, we will be moving to a new system, called Microsoft Teams, which many of you might already be familiar with. We did a lot of work on this last term, but were not quite ready to start this before the lockdown. Therefore, we hope to start this new system next week.

I will write a separate letter with full details about this system. We want to make sure that everything is clear and in place before we make the transition from Frog to Teams.

In the meantime, staff will continue to upload work to Frog for the children to access. If you have any questions about the work, please either contact your child's teacher through Frog or through the main office email: enquiries@theddlethorpeacademy.co.uk

What happens if my child is entitled to free school meals?

If your child is attending school, they will be required to bring in a packed lunch.

If your child is not in school, we will be reverting to a similar system that we implemented during the previous lockdown:

- Aspens will provide a weekly hamper that will provide the equivalent of 5 meals for each child.
- Where you have more than one child, a hamper will be provided for each child.
- This hamper will be available every Tuesday and will need to be collected from the Academy at 12.00 noon or Co-op carpark at 12.15 p.m.
- Please note, this could mean several families collecting at this time, so please ensure social distancing is maintained at all times and that you are respectful of all other families and staff members.
- This system will start on Tuesday 12 January 2021.
- The first hamper will include additional items to allow for the missed days this week. As I am sure you can understand, it hasn't been possible to sort this any earlier, due to the short notice we received on Monday evening.
- Please note, this only applies to those families who have applied for and have had confirmation that they are entitled to free school meals. This does not apply to those children who just receive, what is described as a universal free meal, purely as they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

If you would like further information about FSM or the hampers, can you please email enquiries@theddlethorpeacademy.co.uk

What happens if my child is attending and does not receive free school meals?

Your child should bring a packed lunch in the normal way.



What do I do if my child is displaying any Covid-related symptoms and should be attending?

This is exactly the same as before.

It is absolutely vital that no pupil is sent into the Academy if they are displaying any of the key Covid-19 symptoms. If these rules are not abided by, children, family members and staff will immediately be put at risk, which can so easily be avoided.

I must also insist that everyone abides by the strict guidance and rules regarding self-isolation. If a child or adult should be self-isolating they must do so to protect everyone else in our school community.

I know that this is an extremely challenging and difficult time for you all. We will continue to do everything we can to support the children, those who are on site and those who are working from home. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way, either via email or by phone through the main office. There will be someone in the main reception area during normal working hours to take any calls.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S Cook
Principal