

Applegarth Academy – FAQ's for parents about re-opening

Keeping all the children of Applegarth safe is an absolute priority. Due to the nature of this virus it is impossible to give absolute guarantees that it will not arrive into Applegarth but we can guarantee that we have and we will do everything we can to minimise the risk to the children, staff and parents/carers of Applegarth.

We understand that this requirement to return to school can cause anxiety. If you or your child is anxious about returning, please contact the school and we will do everything we can to relieve the concerns, which in turn will allow your child to come back to school. Please find below a list of key questions and answers, which we hope will provide clarity and reassurance for how Applegarth will work from September.

Does my child need to attend school?

Yes. The government have made it clear that they expect schools to reopen fully and for all children to return. If you or your child are apprehensive about returning to school, please contact the school office who will transfer your call to a member of SLT.

How will the children's Mental Health and Well-being be supported?

With such a long period of time away from school, we are keen for children to get back to normal learning as quickly as possible. As always, our first thoughts are our children's safety and well-being and our curriculum is built on giving children opportunities to talk, discuss and feel safe. For further information around our curriculum, please see our school website. In addition, for any children who want to talk and discuss any concerns further, their class teacher and our academy learning mentors will be on hand to support.

How many children will be in each class?

Each year group will form its own bubble with a maximum of two classes. Children will sit two to a desk facing forward. These bubbles will be kept away from children from any other bubble throughout the day. This means how the school will operate will look slightly different.

Will all children arrive at school and leave school at the same time?

No. Each year group has been allocated both a specific time and a school gate for both entering and leaving school. If your child attends the ELP, please use the times that have been arranged by the ELP staff.

All parents/carers are asked to ensure that pickup and drop-off timings are adhered to, to avoid gatherings at the school gates.

When waiting at the gates, please use the social distancing sign as a marker for where to stand.

Year group	Timings	
	Start of school time	End of school time
Nursery (am)	9:00am - Main gate	11.45am - Main gate
Nursery (pm)	12.00pm - Main gate	3.00pm - Main gate
Reception	9:00am - KS1 gate	3.00pm - KS1 gate
Year 1	8.45am - KS1 gate	2.45pm - KS1 gate
Year 2	8.45am - Main gate	2.45pm - Main gate
Year 3	8.45am - KS2 Top Playground Gate	2.45pm - KS2 Top Playground Gate
Year 4	9.00am - KS2 Top Playground Gate	3.00pm - KS2 Top Playground Gate
Year 5	8.45am - KS2 Lower Playground Gate	2.45pm - KS2 Lower Playground Gate
Year 6	9.00am - KS2 Lower Playground Gate	3.00pm - KS2 Lower Playground Gate

I have children that will need to enter and exit the school from different gates but at the same time, what do I do?

We fully appreciate that this will be an issue for some of our parents/carers and we will be completely understanding if one child is slightly later than their allocated time. We suggest that you drop-off/collect the younger children first.

Will I be able to go onto the school grounds?

No. In order to protect the school as a ‘Bubble’, only members of staff will be allowed on site. A member of SLT will be present at each gate for both when the children arrive and leave school. If a necessity arises for an adult to come on site, they will be required to follow the strict protocols that are in place and will be directed to a specific part of the school.

Will I be able to speak with the class teacher?

As always, the communication between parents and teacher is extremely important and whilst it will not be possible to talk with the teacher face to face in the morning or after school as it was previously, communication can still take place via phone calls. We would encourage parents/carers to contact the school office to request for the class teacher to call them at their earliest convenience. Please note that this may be at the end of the school day due to teaching commitments therefore if the message is urgent please speak to the member of SLT on your child’s allotted gate.

I have read in the news that government has now said that children will wear masks in schools. Will my child have to wear a mask at Applegarth?

No. The guidance on face masks in schools currently only applies to over twelve year old in schools and is for when the children are walking around communal areas such corridors. As all our children are under the age of twelve at Applegarth, this will not be a requirement.

How will the classrooms be laid out?

Unlike previously at Applegarth where children sat in tables of four facing each other, from year one upwards they will all now sit in tables of two in rows facing forward. As per government guidance, the classroom layout for early years will remain as normal.

How will classroom equipment i.e books, pens be stored?

Each child will have their own plastic wallet which will contain all their books and stationary that they will need. These will not be shared with any other child. As per government guidance, the use of equipment for early years will remain as normal but will be cleaned on a more frequent basis.

Will children wash their hands throughout the day?

Yes. One of the key strategies for avoiding contacting the virus is through regular handwashing. Therefore, specific times throughout the day have been allocated where children will wash their hands with either soap and water or hand sanitiser.

- Children will wash their hands: Upon arrival into school in the morning
 - Before and after breaktime
 - Before and after lunch
 - Before hometime.

I do not want my child to use hand sanitiser.

If you do not wish for your child to use hand sanitiser, please let the school know so that we can ensure that they only use soap and water.

How will playtime and lunch time operate to ensure that bubbles do not mix?

Each year group bubble will be allocated a specific playtime and playground which will be specifically for that bubble. Therefore, there will be no mixing of bubbles at playtime.

At lunchtime, only some bubbles will eat in the dining hall with the other bubbles having their lunch in their classrooms. Children, who have been allocated their classrooms as their designated eating areas, will have their lunches delivered to them. Children, who eat a pack lunch, can bring in their lunches as per usual and will eat it with their class. These measures have been put in place to reduce the need to travel through corridors and allows for children to be more socially distanced whilst eating.

Will the children be able to use playground equipment?

Unfortunately for now, the children will not be able to use equipment such as the climbing frames. Each bubble will be allocated their own playground equipment which will then be wiped down and cleaned by staff before it is used again.

Will the school carry out extra cleaning of the school on a regular basis?

Yes. The school will have cleaners on site throughout the day who will be constantly cleaning communal areas such as stairwells and corridors. They will also clean classrooms when the children are at play/lunch and will clean toilets when the children are back in class.

Will each bubble have exclusive use of specific toilets?

Yes. We are fortunate in the design of Applegarth that each corridor has its own toilets. Therefore, only children from the same bubble will have access to their toilets. Toilets will be regularly cleaned throughout the day.

Will my child have access to the school library?

No. Initially each class will have reading books within their own classroom which the children can use. When a book is returned, it will not be able to be taken by another child for 72 hours to ensure there is no transmission of any virus/germs.

What does the government currently classify to be symptoms of the Covid-19 Virus?

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What do I do if my child displays symptoms at home?

As per current government guidance, you should not send your child to school and should instead arrange immediately to have a test to check if they have the virus. If the result is negative, follow normal procedures and only send your child back to school once they are well enough to do so.

If your child tests positive, then follow government guidelines on isolating.

What will happen if a child begins to displays covid symptoms during the school day?

A familiar member of staff that the child feels comfortable with will collect the child and take them to our designated collection room. The parent/carer will then be informed that the child is displaying one or more of the symptoms listed above. The familiar member of staff will wait with the child until the parent arrives.

What will happen if a child begins to display symptoms of other illnesses during the school day e.g a stomach bug?

If your child is feeling unwell at school with symptoms not associated with covid-19, a first aid trained member of staff will monitor them and you will be informed and kept updated. If necessary you will be asked to collect them.

My child is feeling unwell at home (e.g. a stomach bug) but is not displaying a symptom of the virus.

If your child is feeling unwell with different symptoms, you should treat those as you normally would and please contact the school if your child will be absent.

I have read that schools will test children who display symptoms. Will this happen at Applegarth?

No. If you child displays symptoms at school you will be contacted to come and collect your child with the expectation that you as the parent/carer will arrange for a test.

What do I do if someone in my house displays symptoms?

As per current government guidance, if someone within your household displays symptoms the government requires for them to take a test and for the rest of the household, including children, to isolate as per government guidelines.

What do I do if someone in my house tests positive?

As per current government guidance, if you or someone in your house tests positive for the virus, all other household members, including children, must stay at home and not leave the house for recommended isolating period.

If my child needs to isolate at home, will they have access to learning?

Yes. Applegarth will provide the learning that the other children within the class will be doing. This can be found on the school website. If you have problems gaining access to the internet, contact Mr Mukhtar who will arrange for the work to be made available via paper form.

What will happen if there is a confirmed case of the virus within my child's bubble?

If either a member of staff or a child tests positive for Covid 19, the school will contact the local health protection team to get advice. The team will then inform the school of the required next steps for adult/s and children within the affected bubble.

Will Breakfast Club/After School Club be available straight away?

Unfortunately no. We will need to use the first couple of days to ensure that the systems that we have in place for the main school day are working effectively before we can offer Breakfast Club.

We aim to have After School Club operating before the end of September.

However, please feel assured that we will be continually working on ways to get these clubs up and running as soon as possible.

We hope that this documents provides reassurance and further clarity. We look forward to welcoming all Year 1 to Year 6 children back on Thursday 3rd September 2020.