



Re: Arrangements for returning to school in September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a safe and enjoyable summer holiday. This letter contains all the information you will need as we approach the start of the new academic year. A checklist is provided on the final page for ease.

As you are aware, we return with a [new school day](#) - gates open from 07:45-08:20 with the standard day finishing at 15:00. Academic interventions, detentions and our new extra-curricular programme of clubs and activities will take place after school each day. We will be announcing our new extra-curricular timetable over the next week, so please look out for information in the parent bulletin.

All school communications this year will be sent via the My Child at School (MCAS) parent app. It is important that all parents download this app if they have not already done so. For further guidance on how to download and use MCAS please visit our user guides [here](#). If you need to reset your login details, please email info@arkgreenwich.org. Please use MCAS to ensure your child's records are in date, including emergency contact information, to provide consents and check attendance and events daily. We are asking parents to ensure each child's details are accurate before they return to school.

COVID-19 update

As you are aware, the government has now issued new COVID-19 guidance for schools, in line with the wider removal of restrictions across the country. Guidance states that all secondary school pupils should receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in September. Scholars should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

If you have already provided consent for your child to receive an onsite test, you do not need to take any further action. Year 7 parents and others who are yet to provide consent are asked to do so via MCAS or fill in the form [here](#) by 1st September.

It is no longer necessary for schools to facilitate year group bubbles and assemblies can once again take place with multiple year groups. Clubs, activities and sports can resume and events such as concerts and Prize Evening can take place. Whilst the wearing of face coverings is no longer recommended, we will support any scholar or staff member who wishes to wear a mask in school. Scholars should continue to follow guidance in other areas of society including on public transport.

From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 years and 6 months old will no longer be required to self isolate if they are identified as a close contact; they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result, obtained through either a PCR or Lateral Flow Test. We request that scholars do not attend school if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19, that they take a test, and you report any positive results to the school promptly so that we can work to keep everyone safe.

To read the updated scholar briefing regarding COVID Safety at AGFS, click [here](#).



Induction process

The scholar induction process has been updated to include phased testing and all stakeholders will be fully briefed on updates to our covid safe routines in a return to school assembly.

The start of the new academic year will be staggered, according to the information below:

Day	Sequence for the start of school
Wednesday 1st & Thursday 2nd September	Staff only inset days - including planning and preparation for onsite testing.
Friday 3rd September	All year groups attend COVID Test 1 at specified times below. Scholars must attend in uniform and will be sent straight home after they have received a test. Lunch is not provided on this day: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Yr. 11 - 08:00-09:30● Yr. 10 - 09:00 - 10:30● Yr. 9 - 10:00-11:30● Yr. 8 - 11:00-12:30● Yr. 7 - 13:30-15:00
Monday 6th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Yr. 7 - 07:45-08:20 COVID Test 2 followed by induction day 1. Dismissal at 15:00. Lunch will be provided by the school.● Yr. 11 - 13:00-13:50 COVID Test 2 followed by welcome assembly. Dismissal at 15:00.
Tuesday 7th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Yr. 7 - 07:45-08:20 Induction Day 2. Dismissal at 15:00.● Yr. 10 - 07:45-08:20 COVID Test 2 followed by induction day 1. Dismissal at 15:00.● Yr. 11 - 07:45-08:20 Induction Day 1. Dismissal at 15:00.● Yr. 9 - 12:10-13:50 COVID Test 2 followed by welcome assembly. Dismissal at 15:00.
Wednesday 8th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Yr. 7 - 07:45-08:20 Induction Day 3. Dismissal at 15:00.● Yr. 8 - 07:45-08:20 COVID Test 2 followed by induction day 1. Dismissal at 15:00.● Yr. 9 - 07:45-08:20 Induction Day 1. Dismissal at 15:00.● Yr. 10 - 07:45-08:20 Induction Day 2. Dismissal at 15:00.● Yr. 11 - 07:45-08:20 English and Maths Day. Dismissal at 15:00.
Thursday 9th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All year groups - 07:45-08:20 Lessons commence. Dismissal at 15:00.

Getting the basics right, relishing the rewards

It is hard work to maintain sky-high standards every day - but we do it because we care.



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Scholars must display impeccable standards of attendance, punctuality, behaviour and organisation. Scholars are expected to demonstrate high levels of independence and not rely on their parents to pack their school bag.

To achieve these standards, we need your support. Parental involvement in a child's education is a powerful force. You play a pivotal role in your child's future. To help guide parents, we have codified the top 10 things great AGFS parents do here: <https://tinyurl.com/AGFSGreatParent>. We are asking all parents to confirm that the [home school commitment](#) has been read and agreed. This can be done via MCAS under the parental consents section by the first day back in September to show your commitment to your child's ongoing success.

Scholars must arrive in good time wearing full school uniform and with the correct stationery and equipment. Our strict behaviour and uniform policy includes:

- Immaculate uniform - for a full uniform list click [here](#);
 - Please note, skirts must cover the whole of the knee when standing upright and trousers should be full length, covering the ankle, worn on the waistline (not below) and not be tight fitting or jeggings style. **If scholars fail to wear the correct uniform when they return, in line with school policy, they will be issued a sanction and removed from circulation. Parents will be notified and asked to address this before the child can return to normal lessons. We would like to avoid this situation and ask for your support in ensuring your child's uniform is fully compliant.**
- No jewellery – this includes earrings, bangles, bracelets etc. This rule extends to jewellery in the hair. Only a watch (not internet enabled) is permitted;
- A plain black school bag (a small logo is permitted);
- There must not be any badges or paraphernalia pinned onto blazers (badges may be fastened to the school bag);
- Scholars should not return to school with unnatural hair colour, extensions or grooves cut into their hair or eyebrows;
- Scholars must not wear make-up;
- Coats must be plain blue or black;
- Scholars should ensure their lunch account is topped up where applicable;
- Scholars must ensure they bring all the correct stationery and equipment - for a full list of equipment please click [here](#).

Detentions will commence from the first day back. A table of how the behaviour system works can be found [here](#). You will be able to see behaviour and attendance notifications on MCAS in real time.

Excellent attendance at school is vital to a child's education. If, due to illness or other exceptional circumstance, your child is unable to attend school, please follow the process set out in our attendance policy [here](#), including calling the absence line before 8:05am on 0208 319 3692.

Parents are reminded that we operate a **strict no mobile phone policy**; this policy allows us to minimise online bullying, distribution of indecent images, exploitation, theft and distractions to the learning environment. The policy refers to ALL mobile communication devices. Scholars must not have a mobile phone on their person at any point whilst at school. We do not operate a mobile phone drop off/collection service and phones must not be kept in school bags. Randomised searches are



undertaken and if a scholar is found to have a banned item on their person this will be confiscated, and parents will be invited to attend school at the end of the term to collect it.

Additionally, with the new school day finishing earlier, parents are reminded that AGFS scholars should make their way directly home after school unless they are taking part in an approved extracurricular activity, detention or academic intervention. Scholars are expected to give way to members of the public whilst using public transport and on footpaths and to be polite and courteous at all times. Specifically, scholars must not loiter in public spaces such as Woolwich Town Centre or Hornfair Park after school or partake in any form of behaviour which might bring the school into disrepute. This is to guarantee their safety.

Rewarding scholars when they exceed our expectations remains central to our approach. Assemblies this year will continue to contain an array of awards including vouchers (up to the value of £50), medals, certificates, branded items and more.

Summer Independent Learning

If scholars do not regularly revisit their learning, they will have forgotten it all within a month of their first encounter with it. It is therefore essential that we help scholars interrupt [the forgetting curve](#) during the summer break. In July, Scholars in years 8-11 were issued with the 'golden nuggets' of the previous year's knowledge to revisit over the summer break. These concepts are the most important ideas from the previous year that they will need for rapid progress this academic year.

- Scholars must complete a minimum of 2 pages of self quizzing of these terms in their independent learning books. Instructions on how to self quiz can be found [here](#) and [here](#). If scholars run out of space in their independent learning books, they can use A4 paper.
- In the first or second lesson of each subject in September, scholars will show this self-quizzing to their teacher. To measure whether the forgetting curve has been truly interrupted, scholars will sit the autumn knowledge check. This is a short 30 minute activity testing knowledge of the golden nuggets.
- Scholars who achieve more than 80% in all their knowledge checks will be invited to the autumn knowledge mastery party as a reward for their effort. The mastery party involves party food, music, time out of lessons, and a slightly earlier dismissal. Scholars can also invite a friend to this party.

The autumn core knowledge books, with the summer golden nugget lists, can be found below. Please click on the link of your child's **September year group**:

- [Year 8](#)
- [Year 9](#)
- [Year 10](#)
- [Year 11](#)

Year 7 scholars were set separate independent learning for the summer break. They must have read *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* ready for their first English lesson, logged a minimum of 12 English and maths workouts [here](#) and practised their times tables using their new Times Tables Rockstar account. Scholars will be rewarded for logging additional workouts.

Digital Devices

We are providing all scholars with an opportunity to loan a Chromebook for the entire academic year.



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This device would be kept at home to help your child complete any online learning, access resources that teachers share with them and provide a gateway to a restricted number of approved websites, including for careers and post-16. Whilst we recognise your child may already have a device at home, the Chromebook we provide is configured to ensure your child browses only the approved websites during a restricted number of hours - enabling them to safely and responsibly develop their learning further without compromising their well-being.

There is no charge to borrow this device. However, there is a fee if the Chromebook is stolen, lost or damaged. You will be required to sign a contract (linked [here](#) under AGFS Chromebook Agreement and Consent form) to this effect on MCAS, which we are happy to talk through with you.

And finally, although there will be changes as part of the easing of restrictions, we will continue to operate with caution and will be fully prepared should the number of cases rise. The safety measures for our school community will be regularly reviewed and updated based on government guidance and mindful of the local situation.

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us via reception at info@arkgreenwich.org. Once again, thank you for your ongoing support during this period and I look forward to seeing your child in September.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Spiers
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www.arkgreenwichfreeschool.org
'Ambition, Growth, Fellowship, Scholarship'

Overview of links and actions in this letter are listed on the following pages.

Item	Link	Action required
How to Be a Great AGFS Parent	https://bit.ly/3tNNmXm	Review and implement within your home before 1st September
Home School Agreement	https://bit.ly/3caGYnO	Review and consent on MCAS by the 1st day of school
Uniform	https://bit.ly/31grZSb	Ensure your child has all required items in advance of the 1st day of school

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Equipment	https://bit.ly/316vj2e	Ensure your child has all items in advance of the 1st day of school
Attendance	https://bit.ly/3BlIo8Q	Should your child be ill, call the absence line before 8:05am on 0208 319 3692
Structure of the Day	https://bit.ly/3eDKC9Q	Ensure you and your child are familiar with this schedule before the 1st day of school
If Displaying Covid-19 symptoms	https://bit.ly/3rkSKB7	Consult the NHS if you or your child display symptoms and report to NHS Track and Trace
Summer Independent Learning	Assigned on your child's Show My Homework account or via the links below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 8• Year 9• Year 10• Year 11	Check that your child is completing these tasks to 80% or higher and has completed these before the 1st day of school- at least 1 hour per day
For more information	www.arkgreenwichfreeschool.org	Please visit our website for key information for all year groups