



Re: Confirmed arrangements for all scholars returning to school week beginning 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to write to confirm our arrangements for the return of all children to AGFS from the week commencing 8th March 2021.

Our staff can't wait to welcome your children back to the classroom and I know how pleased the children will be to see their friends again. Please rest assured that they will receive a very warm welcome and all necessary safety, distancing and hygiene measures will be in place. Our onsite testing facility is fully operational and scholars will receive a full culture and safety briefing on their first day back. We will move quickly to prioritise the wellbeing of all members of our community whilst responding to the academic needs of all scholars over the coming months.

The remainder of this letter sets out our detailed strategy for a staggered return to school and outlines the exciting plans we have in place for scholars this term. Please take the time to read the contents carefully with your child so you are fully prepared.

Overview

Each year group will be allocated a morning or afternoon re-induction session where they will attend school for a covid [test](#), briefing with the Headteacher and form tutor welcome. Thereafter, it is mandated that scholars remain in school full time. **Scholars returning for an afternoon session (Y8 and 10) must have lunch before they arrive onsite.**

From 4/3-10/3, where scholars are waiting to return to school, they are expected to follow their normal timetable and complete independent study tasks using the guidance [here](#), please note this guidance will be updated by close on 3rd March.

The table below provides an overview of our arrangements for returning to school:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1/3	2/3	3/3	4/3	5/3
Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning AGFS celebrates Digital World Book Day - see letter here	All staff planning days. No live lessons. Scholars will work independently using the guidance for self-directed study on the school website here .	
8/3	9/3	10/3	11/3	12/3
Year 11 arrive from 07:45-08:20	Year 9 arrive from 07:45-08:20	Year 7 arrive from 07:45-08:20	All scholars in school as usual.	All scholars in school as usual.



Lessons commence Period 4a Year 10 arrive from 12:30-12:50 Work for Y7-9 scholars will be set via Satchel One and Google Classroom.	Lessons commence Period 4a Year 8 arrive from 12:30-12:50 Years 10-11 in school as usual. Work for Y7 scholars will be set via Satchel One and Google Classroom.	Lessons commence Period 4a Years 8-11 in school as usual.		
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COVID-19 testing for children onsite

A central pillar of our return to school plan is the use of testing for all members of our community. This will allow us to identify any potential cases at the earliest possible point and minimise transmission. Information about our COVID-19 testing can be found [here](#). We have been asked to provide three onsite tests for each child spaced 3-5 days apart. Thereafter, scholars will be provided with two home testing kits per week to self-administer. Anyone experiencing symptoms or with a confirmed positive test will be required to follow the government guidance [here](#).

We will provide further guidance on using home testing kits in due course. To support our COVID-19 safety plan, it is important that all parents provide consent for your child to be tested. Please click [here](#) to complete the consent form.

Safety, hygiene and distancing measures

In addition to COVID-19 testing, a comprehensive range of control, hygiene and distancing measures are in place at school. All reasonable steps are being taken in line with government guidance and are monitored and reviewed frequently. These measures are summarised in our scholar briefing document [here](#). Measures have been updated to include:

- the wearing of a face covering at all times whilst in school where 2m social distancing cannot be maintained, including in the classroom. Masks do not need to be worn outside however social distancing should be maintained. See further information below on rules on permitted face coverings.
- Increased ventilation across school and in classrooms.
- Minimise the number of guests visiting the school.

The government is set to review this guidance at Easter. Further government guidance for parents and carers on the return to school can be accessed [here](#).

Standards and expectations

Our standards and expectations for when scholars return to school remain sky high. Please ensure your child is fully briefed on the following:



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- Immaculate uniform- for a full uniform list is [here](#)
- Face masks need to be either plain blue, black or blue medical masks
- There should be no jewellery – this includes earrings, bangles, bracelets etc. This rule extends to jewellery in the hair. Only a watch is permitted
- The school bag must be plain black, a small logo is permitted
- There must not be any badges or paraphernalia pinned onto blazers
- Scholars should not return to school with unnatural hair colour, extensions or grooves cut into their hair or eyebrows
- Scholars will not wear make-up
- Skirts must be knee length whilst standing upright and trousers must be worn on the waistline (not below)
- Scholars must wear a plain blue or black coat
- Scholars must ensure their lunch account is topped up where a packed lunch is not provided
- Scholars must ensure they bring all the correct stationery and equipment - for a full list of equipment please click [here](#)
- Detentions and academic intervention will commence upon return. A detailed table of how the behaviour system works can be found [here](#). You will be able to see behaviour and attendance notifications on your parent app MCAS in real time. If you still need to sign up for this app, please email info@arkgreenwich.org for further information

Parents are reminded that we operate a **strict no mobile phone policy at AGFS**; this policy allows us to minimise any 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 device on their person at any point whilst at school. I can confirm that we do not operate a mobile phone drop off/collection service. 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 need to attend school at the end of the half-term to collect it. Only the Headteacher can authorise an exception to the policy in agreement with the governing body.

Rewarding scholars when they exceed our expectations remains central to our approach. Assemblies this term will contain an array of awards including vouchers, medals, certificates, games and more. We also have our digital detox awards to give out which include an Amazon Echo and fitness tracker watches. Upon returning to school, we will also be launching a range of COVID safe lunch and after school clubs, and Friday afternoons will be dedicated to sports. There will be two full drop down days at the end of term where the whole school community will enjoy a variety of activities. Enrichment sessions commence for Years 7-9 on Wednesday 10th March. There will also be an opportunity to celebrate World Book Day by dressing as your favourite literary character on 24th March.

Teaching, learning and assessment

Once scholars have successfully completed their re-induction back into school, the focus in lessons will be on responding to the results of the spring knowledge checks and filling any gaps in understanding that may have emerged since January. Thankfully, because scholars have responded so well to remote teaching, we know that they have not fallen behind and, in many cases, they have overtaken their peers nationally. Teachers will nevertheless revisit the core



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knowledge and skills that have been developed this term so that these are secure and that scholars are confident in what they have learned.

Scholars will revise the next round of 'spring golden nuggets' over the Easter break, with a summer knowledge check taking place in the first week of the summer term. You will receive the results of these assessments so you can see the progress your child has made during the remote learning period.

Given the unusual nature of this term, formal end of term assessments will not take place on this occasion. A full series of summative assessments have been planned for the end of the year, after which you will receive a detailed report of your child's attainment.

Over the course of the term we will use carefully planned assessments to identify scholars who may need a little extra support. This may include the use of small group tutoring and summer camps where appropriate.

Arrangements for Year 11

The Government published guidance on the process for issuing GCSE grades yesterday. We are looking at this guidance very carefully and will write to all Year 11 scholars and parents with a full outline of this process, including mock examinations, next week. We will do everything we can to ensure that Year 11 scholars receive the grades they deserve and can progress to the post 16 provision of their choice. In the meantime, Year 11 scholars must continue to demonstrate full commitment to their studies including any homework and independent learning.

The wellbeing of our community

Attendance at school will be mandatory. There is a strong correlation between good attendance and strong academic performance. Therefore it is vital that all scholars take steps to ensure they are staying well and looking after themselves. Three of the best ways to keep healthy, physically and mentally, are:

1. Sleep – Sleep is vital for our physical and mental health. Teenagers need between 8 and 9 hours of sleep per night. They should turn their phones and other electronic devices off an hour before bedtime to help them wind down and relax ready for sleep.
2. Exercise – Getting regular exercise is really important and as the weather gets warmer there are more opportunities to get out and about and go for walks, runs or bike rides. Please encourage your child to stay active.
3. Eat fruit and vegetables - Encourage your child to eat fruit and vegetables every day to help keep their immune systems well.

Our great AGFS parent guide can be found [here](#), this document contains a range of helpful reminders of the key things you can be doing to support your child from home.

We understand that this has been a challenging time but we know that for the great majority of scholars a return to normal school routines will provide the required antidote. Rest assured we have a comprehensive package of pastoral support in place to help scholars over the coming months. All scholars will have time to check in with their tutor on their first day back and the pastoral team will be available to support them with any concerns they may have. We also have a team of trained staff that will be available to offer small group counselling sessions if required.



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Our carefully designed character and reading programmes will allow scholars the opportunity to explore some of the challenges faced during this period of lockdown.

There are lots of places that you or your child can go to for advice or help, and below are some recommended links to which you may wish to explore further:

- <https://www.childline.org.uk>
- <https://www.headscapegreenwich.co.uk>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk>
- <https://www.samaritans.org>

Over the past year we have seen an increase in the number of children who are showing signs of harmful addictions to social media and gaming. It is important that parents carefully control time spent on social media or gaming. Rather, scholars must be encouraged to take fresh air and exercise and spend time with their family and friends. We will be working with your children on digital detoxing and sharing more information in upcoming parent bulletins.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Scholars

Government guidance continues to state that people who are classified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) should be shielding until 31st March. Scholars who fall into this category will have received a letter confirming this. Please contact Ms Gainey (vgainey@arkgreenwich.org) if your child is classified as CEV and share a copy of the shielding letter with the school so that arrangements can be made to support your child during this time. A list of conditions which classify someone as CEV and more information can be found [here](#).

Government guidance states that all scholars, except for those classified as CEV, must attend school. We know that there may be some anxiety around this, particularly where scholars live with vulnerable family members, and if you would like to discuss this please contact Ms Gainey (vgainey@arkgreenwich.org).

Please use the above information to prepare your child for returning to school and email info@arkgreenwich.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Spiers
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'Ambition, Growth, Fellowship, Scholarship'