



# Ashgate Croft School

Ashgate Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 4BN

**Telephone:** (01246) 275111

**Email:** [acsinfo@learnerstrust.org](mailto:acsinfo@learnerstrust.org)

**Website** [www.ashgatecroft.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.ashgatecroft.derbyshire.sch.uk)

**Claire Jones BEd.MEd.NPQH** Headteacher

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13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I fully understand how difficult the last few months have been for families and thank you for your ongoing support. We are all desperate to return to some form of normality.

Firstly, the school will be closed as usual over the summer holidays. The last day of term is Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020. Gateway pupils will finish on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Since the beginning of June we have increased the number of pupils in school. We have ensured 'class bubbles' are in place where the same pupils, staff and classrooms are being used. This has resulted in some pupils being placed with different staff and friends. We have also ensured that all staff are wearing the correct PPE at all times.

Following the Government's announcement that all schools will be open with full attendance in September, we have been working through the DFE guidance published on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The overriding priority will be the health and safety of our pupils and staff whilst reintegrating and re-engaging pupils with their learning within school.

The plan is that there will be 3 main bubbles within the school. Bubble 1 will be all staff and pupils in the Greenbank building (Red, Silver, Blue, Orange, Purple and Middle 1 classes). Bubble 2 is for all staff and pupils in Cuttholme building (Middle 2, 3, 4, 5 and Upper 1, 2, 3 and 4). Bubble 3 will be for staff and pupils in Gateway 1 and 2. Our risk assessment has been updated for September. We will also inform SEN transport which pupils are in which bubble in the hope that they may be able to transport children together from the same bubble. However, this is completely out of my hands. If you wish to transport your own child in September you will have to contact SEN transport direct (do not contact the operators). SEN transport can be contacted on 01629 536729.

Next week, we will be sending you a link to a survey from SEN transport which I urge you to complete.

Pupils within each bubble will be allowed to mix and share areas within the school. The number of pupils mixing within a bubble will remain at a reduced level and playtimes will continue to be staggered across the day. Pupils will be eating their lunches in their own classrooms. Classes within bubbles will also have access to their own toilets.

Staff in school will continue to wear PPE. On our website you will find a social story which I urge you to look at with your child before we return in September. The link is:

<http://ashgatecroft.derbyshire.sch.uk/content/userfiles/files/parents-carers/useful-links/Coronavirus%20-%20General%20info/Bubble%20social%20story.pdf>



All the current health and hygiene procedures e.g. hand washing, wiping down of surfaces etc will continue. We will however, no longer be taking the temperature of staff and pupils on arrival into school.

We are hoping that visiting professionals will be able to work with pupils as required in September. In order to facilitate this, visiting professionals will have to arrange visits in advance and they will be permitted to see children from within the same bubble only on any one day.

When the pupils return to school in September, you will be required to send your child with a healthy snack and drink, either on daily or weekly basis. They will also be required to wear clean clothes daily (this can be school uniform or non-school uniform). Please remember to send your child with a sunhat/cap and apply sun cream before school as staff will be unable to do this. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we are unable to offer swimming at this time.

The restrictions to accessing the site will remain. We will continue with virtual annual review meetings and parents will receive a 'zoom invite' via email.

There will be no off site visits for classes during the first half term, although this decision will be reviewed if the situation changes.

I appreciate that many of you may be anxious about your child returning to school in September. I want to assure you that we have done everything we can to provide a safe environment and we very much look forward to welcoming back all the pupils.

We look forward to welcoming current pupils back into school from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September and we also look forward to meeting new pupils who are due to join us, from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours sincerely



Claire Jones  
Headteacher



Derbyshire Healthy Schools  
Community Award

