



ALMOND HILL
• JUNIOR SCHOOL •

Almonds Lane, Stevenage,
Hertfordshire, SG1 3RP
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E: admin@almondhill.herts.sch.uk
www.almondhill.herts.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs E. Fordham

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for your patience whilst we have spent this morning making preparations for our critical worker and vulnerable children onsite provision alongside quality remote learning. As you can imagine, we have received many phone calls and emails, and it is very difficult at this time to respond to each one individually. Therefore, within this letter, we aim to answer as many of your general queries as possible and will endeavour to answer anything more specific individually over the next few days.

The School Day

The staggered start and finish to the day that was employed in the autumn term will continue.

Year 6	8.30am – 8.35am	2.50pm – 2.55pm
Year 5	8.40am – 8.50am	3.00pm – 3.10pm
Year 4	8.50am – 9.00am	3.10pm – 3.20pm
Year 3	8.40am – 8.50am	3.00pm – 3.10pm

Children and adults will be expected to use the same entrances and exits and one way systems that have served us so well so far. In order to reduce the transmission of Covid as quickly as possible, we would strongly urge that only one parent accompanies children to and from school and that face masks are worn by any adults whilst on site. Please adhere strictly to the timings and do not congregate at the school gates unnecessarily. There will be a member of the senior leadership on duty each day.

Children will be taught in their year groups by one of the year group teachers and be based in their year group classrooms.

Children will be expected to wear uniform and told which days to wear PE kit instead. Premier will email parents before the end of the day to outline the provision they are able to make for wrap around care.

Please could I also ask parents to park considerately as we have had complaints from our local neighbours.

Dinners

We are expecting to offer school dinners in the same way as last term with a hot and cold option daily. If your child is entitled to free school meals and is not attending school each





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day we are able to provide a packed lunch for you to collect daily. Please let us know if you would like this arranged.

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Pupil Provision

Thank you to those of you who have booked a critical worker place so promptly so that we have been able to plan for this provision. These places are limited and the Government has suggested that we ask for proof of critical worker status in order to secure these places. We do not feel the need to do this at the moment, but will do so in the future if places become short in supply since we wish to allocate these as fairly as possible. Some of our on site provision should be allocated to children who are deemed as vulnerable. If we think this is the case you will be directly contacted by the school.

There is clear criteria for this on the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Ideally, we would prefer to have all children in school, but in order to keep it a safe environment it is essential that we limit numbers.

Remote Learning

School staff have been working extremely hard to ensure that the remote learning provided matches as closely as possible to our original plans, as well as what is taking place in school. We will not be offering live lessons. There are two main reasons for this. The first one relates to safeguarding, and the second is linked to feedback received from parents. Many parents have told us that devices at home are shared and live lessons would add to the difficulties they experience when trying to support remote learning. However, teachers will be providing at least three personalised lessons a day mostly using Powerpoints with voice overs. It is our aim at Almond Hill to support families with their differing needs, and this means we will endeavour to make contact in a variety of ways, such as online learning, telephone calls, TEAMS meetings and the provision of paper packs. We know that different families need different things, and it is our aim to ensure we help you as much as we can to make remote learning work for you and your child. Please bear with us for a few days whilst we get this up and running.

If you do not have your TEAMS password please email admin@almondhill.herts.sch.uk

Weekly Booking Form

Since I wrote to you yesterday, the Government has announced that schools in England will be working in this way until February half term at the very earliest. For this reason we will send out a booking form every Wednesday by 9.00am which must be completed by 9.00am





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each Friday. If this deadline is missed then a place will not be allocated for your child. If you do not hear from us this means your child has been allocated a place. However as stated previously, places are finite so I would urge parents to only use them if absolutely necessary.

On a final note, we would prefer that children who have been allocated a place attended school all week since this would aid the continuity of both their learning and the teaching of the whole group. We will not enforce this as we understand this is not what all parents may prefer.

I hope this answers all of the questions you have at the current time.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Fordham
Head Teacher

