

No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND NO 3 IN 2018

Top 10 National Pupil Progress

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



5th January 2021

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your support and patience as we make plans to move to remote learning following the national lockdown announced late last night. I know that going into another lockdown will have challenges for our community in different ways and wanted to continue to reassure you that as a school, we are here for you all. Today we have been working on our plans and this letter is to outline these for you. First of all, thank you for completing the questionnaire if you are eligible, your speedy response really helps us to be planning ahead and to know the number of children entitled to have their education in school. We will communicate more details to those of you requesting free school meal hampers tomorrow morning. Please note that as the Government have announced, all Nursery settings are to remain fully open, Little Stars Nursery will continue to run as usual with all children having a place.

We have set out this letter with two key sections, one for parents whose children are accessing education in school and one for those whose children will be accessing their education remotely.

Children accessing education in school

On the days your child attends school they will be accessing their education alongside other children in their year group e.g. both Year 2 classes will be taught alongside each other. We will be having the same safety measures as are currently in place, with regular hand washing, additional cleaning, good ventilation and no mixing with other year groups.

Start and end of day

Please familiarise yourself with the updated beginning and end of day times for your child and their year group.

Year group	Gate	Beginning	End
6	Kitchen gate	8:30am	3:00pm
5	Eagles gate	8:30am	3:00pm
4	Eagles gate	8:35am	2:55pm
3	Little Horses fire exit	8:35am	2:55pm
2	Main gate	8:40am	2:50pm
1	Kitchen gate	8:40am	2:50pm
EYFS	Cloud gate	8:40am	2:50pm



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Uniform

Children will need to wear full school uniform as normal.

School lunches

School lunches can be ordered and paid for in the usual way via School Money. If your child is entitled to universal or income based free school meals these will be able to be ordered as usual, children not in these categories will be able to order a school lunch at the cost of £2.45.

Friday afternoon closing

In order to deep clean and prepare learning for pupils in school and at home we must close each Friday at 12pm. We are unable to provide the statutory planning time (PPA) that staff are entitled to during the week because adults cannot safely cover other pods. Closing is the safest option for your child. Therefore school will be closed each Friday, from this Friday 8th January, at 12.00pm.

After School and Breakfast Club

This will continue to run as it has been this academic year for children of critical workers and must be booked and paid for via School Money as usual. Breakfast Club will continue to be £1.50 per session and After School Club £7.50 (£6 for siblings). After School Club will not run on a Friday afternoon when we are closed.

Children accessing education remotely

Children not attending school will now need to access their learning remotely via the Google Classroom platform. Your child will already have been given their log in and used this as home learning during September and October. Please read the instructions in the letter entitled 'Google Classrooms Guide' which can be found on our Academy website: <https://ellacombe-lap.co.uk/learning/remote-learning/> to re-familiarise yourself with this.

Remote learning will begin to be up and running from 9.30am tomorrow morning.

Contact with their teacher

In addition to the remote education, there will be three live sessions a week with the teachers from your child's year group using Google Meet. This will give the children a chance to interact with their teacher and each other and the invites for these will be sent to your child's account before the meeting. These sessions will take place on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and we have staggered these times as we know some children may need to share a digital device with their siblings and therefore cannot all be on at once. When accessing these sessions please ensure the following:

- That your child will be working in a secure and appropriate environment and consider what can be seen on screen e.g. appropriate backgrounds.
- That all people attending the session are appropriately dressed.
- Please mute your sound to ensure there is no background noise or interference during the session. We will invite the children to unmute or use the chat at times during the session.

Year Group:	Time slot: (Tues/Thurs/Fri)
Year 6	9:00 - 9:30am
Year 5	9:30 - 10:00am
Year 4	10:00 - 10:30am
Year 3	10:30 - 11:00am
Year 2	11:00 - 11:30am
Year 1	11:30 - 12:00pm

There will also be a weekly assembly held by Mrs Semmens on a Monday at the following times (again using Google Meet and an invite will be sent out for these times to the children):

Year 1 and Year 2 - 9.30-9.45am

Year 3 and Year 4 - 10.00-10.15am

Year 5 and Year 6 - 10.30-10.45am

Information for all parents

As we enter this new lockdown, we thought it helpful to remind families of some staying safe messages that we have shared with you before:

Staying safe online- Some key things to remember are:

1. Ensure passwords are strong and not shared.
2. Never share any personal information online (this includes name, address, school etc)
3. Keep electronic devices out of bedrooms so that you are able to monitor what your child is doing.
4. Make sure that 'parental controls' are in place to block any unsuitable material.
5. Explain the importance of 'keeping safe online' to your child.

This is a link to the NSPCC website that offers clear advice that supports parents to monitor their child's safety online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Staying connected and looking after our mental health.

We know having to stay in, changes that some of you may be having with work or finances and wider impact of the COVID pandemic, can really impact on mental health. One of the ways to support this is to check in with each other and stay connected, even if we can't be physically seeing each other. We are hoping to be able to plan some ways to connect together with parents in fun and creative ways. Over the next few days, we will be sharing with you how we will continue to connect and communicate to you during this national lockdown. In the meantime, here is a link to a



resource (and some top tips) for parents to help their children's mental health and wellbeing. The link to the full document is: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>.

The key points are:

1. **Listen and acknowledge:** let your child talk to you about how they feel and reassure them that it is ok to feel sad or frustrated.
2. **Provide clear information about the situation:** be honest and open about what is happening in an 'age appropriate' way.
3. **Be aware of your own reactions:** be the 'calm in the chaos'!
4. **Connect regularly:** FaceTime, Zoom, Hangouts!! Keep connected with family and friends.
5. **Create a new routine:** a little exercise, a little reading, and a little craft!! Children thrive on structure and routine.
6. **Limit exposure to media and talk more about what they have seen and heard.**

Finally, I'd like to offer my thanks and appreciation of your patience, kindness and support as we navigate our way through the new measures and ways of working together. Although this current time is no doubt hard, there is light and our Vision of 'Together we take strides towards a brighter future' really is so clear, thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Semmens".

Mrs E. Semmens

Head of Academy