



Dear Parents

It has been lovely to be back in school. The children have been so happy to play and learn with their friends and teachers. Thank you for your support and cooperation over this first week. The majority of the plans that have been put in place are working and will continue to be regularly reviewed against updated guidance and our context.

Yours faithfully

Miss Blythe

Welcome to Astbury

We have welcomed nine new reception children, seven new Pre-School children and seven other children into year groups across the school. We have also welcomed many new staff to join our Astbury family.

Astbury Acorns

Our Pre-School has grown tenfold since January and is now open full time from 8:45am – 3:15pm with the option of linking into Merckats for before and after school care. The children love exploring and playing together in our bright and stimulating indoor and outdoor environment.

Social Distancing

Please remember to keep your distance on the school path, there are black and yellow markers along the fence to support you to keep 2m apart from other families. Thank you to all who have continued to keep apart on the playground too. This includes when talking to staff. It is important that you stand side by side or more than 2m away.

Updated guidance form Cheshire East

All schools in Congleton are following this guidance regarding symptoms of COVID-19.

Do not come to school if your child or anyone in your household develops these main symptoms of COVID-19.

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- Loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Children may also display gastrointestinal symptoms.

If you or your child has these symptoms you should self-isolate for 10 days and the rest of the household for 14 days. The person with symptoms should get a COVID-19 test.

During the school day, if your child develops these symptoms, they will go to the first aid room and you will be called to come to collect immediately from the double black gates onto School Lane. Any siblings will also be sent home to isolate for 14 days.

Your cooperation in managing the health and safety of our Astbury family is greatly appreciated.

Reading books and diaries

On Mondays, all children will be given a school reading book, or several, depending on their stage of reading. These will be collected in on Fridays and left over the weekend in line with current guidance re cleaning of resources. For older children, if this is a longer text that they wish to continue to read, they can have the same book again for the next week. Children will not have reading diaries at the moment as many hands touch these! We will continue to record your child's reading at school. Please continue to read books from home, share stories together and encourage your child to read for pleasure. Discuss authors and the language in the text.

Remember that your child also has a bug club log in which gives access to many books for reading at their level and also supports reading comprehension through the green bugs in the text.

Times Table Rock Stars, Letter Join and Purple Mash

Children in years 1 – 6 have times table rock stars log in details to practise times tables. These have been set specifically for your child.

Children from reception to Y6 have letter join log in details to practise handwriting and letter formation. They also have a Purple Mash log in which supports all areas of the school curriculum. We are currently exploring Purple Mash for Pre-School children.

If there are any log on issues, please ask your child's teacher as we pay subscriptions to these sites and want the children to be using them regularly to support their learning.

PE days – come to school wearing PE kit

Class Noah – Wednesday

Class Mary – Monday and Friday

Class Jacob – Monday and Tuesday

School Office

Due to budget constraints there have been changes in the structure of the school office. Until October half term Mrs Cameron will be working Monday to Thursday from 8.30-1.00pm. Mrs Cameron will be taking redundancy from October half term. Due to this change, this will leave the school office unmanned in the afternoons. If you need to contact the school then please leave a message on the school answerphone which will be checked by another member of staff at the end of each day. Mrs Loomes is our school business manager and she is working different hours away from the school office. At present, there is less time for administration and please remember that we are a cashless office except for charity donations and Parents and Friends Association (PFA) fundraising.

Lunch and snacks

Thank you for your perseverance in working with ParentPay to pay for and order your child's school lunch. This system is starting to work in school, saving teaching, learning and admin time. Settings have been changed in our account, so that lunches can now be ordered up to 8am on the morning of the lunch required. If you select a school packed lunch for your child, there is currently no option to select which type of sandwich your child would prefer, Alison will ask in school. Please remember that for children in Reception, Y1 and Y2, lunches are free of charge but still need to be booked via ParentPay.

Snack money for food and milk is payable in cash to Alison. Children under five are eligible for free milk.

School Uniform

All uniform is now purchased from DP Sportswear on Bromley Road by appointment only. Please do not pay for school uniform through ParentPay. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform. We do have a small amount of second hand uniform available that parents have donated to school, please ask Miss Blythe about this if required.

Parent Governor

We have a current vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you want to support our school as we continue to build on our current growth and improvement then please see the school website for details <https://www.astburyschool.org.uk/page/governors/53353> .If you would like to discuss what the role involves then please speak to a member of school staff who can put you in touch with one of our Governors or contact the Chair of Governors, Kath Moore kmoores@astbury.cheshire.sch.uk

Staff

We still have staff in quarantine following their summer holidays. Miss Hall is not currently in school. Staff are regularly in touch and we look forward to seeing them back in school soon.

Merekats

Merekats offer wrap around care from 7:30am to 6:00pm each day in school. This play based provision is also available throughout the school holidays. Please see this link from the school website for further details. <https://www.astburyschool.org.uk/page/wrap-around-care/54148>

TicTok

There is a TikTok video that is in circulation showing a man taking his own life. We would advise that you monitor your child's use of social media carefully. Please see useful information for Parents on our school website. <https://www.astburyschool.org.uk/page/e-safety/56314> TikTok is not advised for Primary aged children and there are several children at Astbury that use it.

Diary Dates

Wednesdays	3:20 collect your child from church (not Pre-School)
Friday 9 th October	'Tempest' family and individual photographs. 8.30am for younger siblings.
Friday 23 rd October	School closes for half term
Tuesday 3 rd November	School opens for pupils