



Ark Burlington Danes Academy

05th January 2021

Dear parent or carer,

Re: Ark Burlington Danes Academy: Community Classroom

As you know, the Government has said that schools must now close until February half term, but that they will open to support vulnerable students and those of certain critical workers (see full details below).

The Government guidance emphasises that **parents should keep children at home wherever possible** and that the fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in educational setting, the lower the risk of the virus spreading. We all need to work together to try and stem the spread of the virus.

However, there are two categories of children for whom the school will continue to provide care at this time:

- 1. Children who are vulnerable:** these children may have an EHC plan, a social worker, or be identified by the school as being vulnerable for other safeguarding reasons.
- 2. Children whose parents are critical workers and who meet ALL the following conditions:**
 - The parent must be in a critical role based on government advice - full details of these critical roles are below; **and**
 - The parent must have had confirmation from their employer that their specific role is necessary for the continuation of essential public service; **and**
 - Their child cannot otherwise be cared for safely at home.

For children who fall into the above two categories, Ark Burlington Danes are committed to opening a small-scale **Community Classroom** to support your family through this difficult time.

Structure of the School Day: Our Community Classroom will be open from **8:15am until 3:15pm** each day. The structure of the school day will be as follows:

- **Student arrival:** 08:15-08:30
- **Lesson 1-2:** 08:30-10:20
- **Break:** 10:20-10:40
- **Tutor time:** 10:40-11:00
- **Lesson 3-4:** 11:00-12:50
- **Lunch:** 12:50-13:30
- **Golden Time:** 13:30-14:10
- **Lesson 5:** 14:10-15:05
- **Dismissal:** 15:05-15:15

Morning routine: Students must enter the Community Classroom through the **Du Cane Road (Primary) gate** and will be greeted by staff at the gate to the secondary playground between 8:15 and 8:30am. Breakfast bars will be available for students.

Uniform: Students are expected to arrive in **full school uniform**. Students should also bring their **P.E. kit** to school, which they can leave in our Community Classroom during the week and take home on weekends. Please provide a note if there are any issues with this.

Food: Students will be provided with a simple **breakfast, a healthy snack and lunch**.

COVID19 Safety: Students will be expected to follow **strict social distancing rules** in order to keep our Community Classroom safe for all students and staff. This will include sitting in their allocated seats, remaining socially distanced from other students and staff at all times, refraining from touching others and washing or sanitizing hands whenever instructed to do so. Students who do not adhere to these rules may be asked to leave the Community Classroom.

Students whose parents have given consent by completing the [online form](#) will also be tested at the beginning of every week to ensure that we are keeping everyone as safe as possible.

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Lessons: Lessons will be held in computer rooms where your child will have access to the **live lessons set for them online by their usual subject specialists** that other students will be completing at home.

Students will need to bring in their login details and their own headphones to access their learning. All other equipment will be provided.

Golden Time: Every afternoon between 13:30 and 14:10, students will have an opportunity to participate in Golden Time activities, such as **sports, creative arts, reading and mindfulness colouring**. Students' participation in golden time and social time at break and lunch will be dependent on good behaviour.

Behaviour: Our Community Classroom will operate under our usual school rules. These are encapsulated in our four values – **Aim High, Be Brave, Be Kind and Keep Learning**. Students will be rewarded with merits for excellent behavior and can demonstrate these values in the following ways:

Aim High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrive at school on time each day in full school uniform 2. Follow instructions first time and conduct yourself appropriately in our Community Classroom and when travelling to and from school 3. Help keep our Community Classroom safe by following social distancing rules at all times
Be Brave	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask for help if you're struggling and extension work if you find the tasks to easy 2. Challenge other students who demonstrate unkind or unsafe behavior (including breaking social distancing rules) 3. Help others when they are struggling
Be Kind	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use only kind words and actions in the Community Classroom 2. Include everyone when taking part in group activities and games 3. Remember that your teachers have volunteered their time to be here, and treat them with gratitude and respect
Keep Learning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively engage in all live lessons with excellent conduct and focus on learning 2. Complete all work set to the best of your ability 3. Attempt all work given by teachers, even when it is difficult

Students who do not adhere to our Community Classroom rules will lose out on Golden Time and social time at break and with one of our SLT members, where they will catch up on incomplete work or participate in reflective activities to help them make better choices next time. **There will be no catch ups held after 3:15pm.**

Supervision: There will be **two senior school leaders** on site at all times as well as a member of the **Safeguarding team**, who will support students and teachers through each day.

If you have any further questions about our **Community Classroom provision**, please contact me by email: Elizabeth.rhodes@burlingtondanes.org and I will be glad to provide additional information.

Please be mindful that these are unprecedented times and as a school we are working hard to come up with a system that works for the benefit of your children, while also protecting the safety and wellbeing of staff. We are unlikely to get this perfectly right from day one, but we are trying our best for our children. **We ask that you be patient and understanding with us as we embark on this new project together.**

Yours sincerely,

Dr Elizabeth Rhodes

Assistant Principal – Safeguarding, Inclusion and SENDCo
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Government Definitions of Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers

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Government Guidance on Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

Government Guidance on Critical Workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of: the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)

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- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

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