



5th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, schools will stay open during this period and I wrote to you at the beginning of the week to explain our situation. Last night, however, the Government issued guidance for all secondary schools in the country stating that:

"Face coverings should be worn by adults and children aged 11 and above when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms or activity rooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained"

This will be from Monday 09/11/20. We will issue further information in Friday's newsletter to support you and your child to ensure that everyone feels happy and safe for the remainder of this term. Teachers will work with students and will do this in a nurturing way. Pupils and staff are not required to wear facemasks in lessons. Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to this.

For primary age pupils, the regulations have not changed. I have tried to summarise some key points that will help support you and your child during the lockdown period.

<p>Key Government Websites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020?utm_source=4%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19 • https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus • https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools
<p>Key Avanti Websites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google classroom (for each class), available via the pupil login on our school website - https://avanti.org.uk/avantihall/ • https://uk.ixl.com/ • https://www.gcsepod.com/
<p>Principles from government guidelines</p>	<p><u>Existing Government Guidance</u></p> <p>Schools must comply with health and safety law, which requires them to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. Schools should thoroughly review their health and safety risk assessments and draw up plans for the autumn term that address the risks identified using the system of controls set out below.</p>

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"Avanti Hall School" is an academy school within the trust, and is effectively a trading name of the trust.

	<p>These are an adapted form of the system of protective measures that will be familiar from the summer term. Essential measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a requirement that people who are ill stay at home • robust hand and respiratory hygiene • enhanced cleaning arrangements • active engagement with NHS Test and Trace • formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable. <p>How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grouping children together • arranging classrooms with forward facing desks • staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible <p>These control measures continue to be applied through the school's ongoing Covid-19 risk assessment, which is review regularly, and can be found on our website:</p> <p>https://avanti.org.uk/avantihall/coronavirus-updates-3/</p>
Student Bubbles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students continue to be grouped into "bubbles" based upon a primary and secondary bubble. • The length and structure of the day have been revised to ensure movement around the school, including break and lunchtimes, are effectively and efficiently managed. • Students will have lessons in all subjects and will follow a 'normal' timetable in all key stages.
Clinically extremely vulnerable children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. • Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend childcare or nursery during the period this advice is in place. • Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education or childcare.
Start and finish of the school day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are staggered starts and finishes to the school day. Times of the day are highlighted below.

- Each bubble continues to have an assigned gate and must hand sanitise on entry.
- Students will make their way to the prescribed locations or form rooms as outlined at the start of the day.
- You must adhere to the times allocated and arrive promptly.
- If students are being dropped off, then please use surrounding side roads not the parking area adjacent to the school.

Primary Phase:

Arrive 8:30

8:45	Registration
9 - 10	Learning Session 1
10 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 12:15	Learning Session 2
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 14:15	Learning Session 3 (reception children, home at 3pm)

Secondary Phase:

Arrive 9:00

9 – 9:15	Registration
9:15 – 10:15	Lesson 1
10:15 – 11:15	Lesson 2
11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:30	Lesson 3
12:30 – 13:30	Lesson 4
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	Lesson 5

Classroom

- Each classroom has been structured for 30 pupils, each distanced by 1m, with two chairs per desk using a seating plan.
- The teachers have a 'space' of 2m space at the front of the classroom around their desk.
- Cleaning stations have been provided for each classroom and are monitored each day to ensure supplies are replenished for the next day.
- Students can bring their own sanitisers but are required to clean hands at the start and end of each lesson.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors and where possible windows remain open at all times to minimise use of handles and increase ventilation.
Lockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will not be able to use their school lockers, they must carry their books and equipment for the day's learning and activities. • There may be individual cases where students are allowed to use their lockers.
Movement around the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An orderly one-way system continues to be used throughout the school with clearly marked directions to follow. • The corridor floors are marked to support the concept of social distancing where possible. • Stairwells have clearly marked signage for movement up and down.
Lunches for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunches are served following the menu communicated by Govindas. • Students have a set rota for lunches. • Teaching and support staff will be on duty. • Students will have to bring enough water for the entire day to prevent the use of water fountains. If students forget their water, or run out, bottled water will be provided.
Cleaning of the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is enhanced cleaning of the school during each day with cleaners employed during the day to clean toilets, corridors, door handles and surfaces that are commonly touched. • Hand sanitisers are supplied in all classrooms and lidded bins to enable disposal of tissues, these will be double bagged and regularly disposed of. • Regular hand washing is encouraged throughout the day.
Parents before school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents or carers must check their own children and not send to school if they are displaying symptoms or have been in contact with anybody who has been positively diagnosed. • If householders are displaying symptoms but undiagnosed they will also be asked to remain at home.
Children who are displaying symptoms whilst at school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The procedures that were previously followed regarding isolation and collection by parents will be followed. • https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection • https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will continue to wear their PE kit on days when they have PE lessons as they have been, to reduce time spent in close proximity in changing rooms.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important that children continue to remain fit and active and, wherever possible, have the 60 active minutes of daily physical activity recommended by the Chief Medical Officers. • There may be some exceptions required to this which will be assessed on a case by case basis.
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical lessons to take place but pupils must use their own equipment, including pens, pencils, erasers, etc. The school will provide any other necessary resources. Equipment must not be shared. • Students studying GCSE level will be supported with protocols and guidance on completing portfolio work, pending further government guidance.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to communicate every week following the themes of curriculum/welfare and an overall update every Friday via our school newsletter.
Use of shared educational equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical lessons will not be using shared equipment. • There will be no practical lessons for Science to prevent the sharing of equipment-if required the teacher will demonstrate. • Practical lessons for music will be allowed but equipment will be cleaned between lessons. • Peripatetic lessons on site will not take place and practice rooms will be shut.
Trips and Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No residential trips will be taking place. • Duke of Edinburgh planning will be on hold nationwide due to national Lockdown guidance. • All other out of school activities not being primarily used by parents for childcare to work or seek employment should close for face-to-face provision for the duration of the national restrictions. • School clubs are running within bubble groups and are therefore able to continue as normal.
Classroom Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a Student has an Educational Health Care Plan and requires some additional in class support by a Teaching Assistant; the support will be socially distanced from both the teacher and the students and further supplementary guidance will be provided when released nationally.
Parental Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings will continue where possible to be conducted by telephone conversations or via a remote platform e.g. 'Zoom' or 'Microsoft Teams'. Where there is no other option available we will resume with small external meetings adhering to the guidance we have received with regards to social distancing between adults. • There will be a maximum number of people invited to attend the meeting depending on the room size e.g. likely to be no more than 4 people. • Meetings will be scheduled well in advance and by appointment only. Meetings might be held with parents or with professionals and external agencies only where another alternative is not possible or feasible. • Meetings will be held in well ventilated rooms and there will need to be gaps of a minimum of 30 minutes in between meetings to ensure that the rooms can be thoroughly cleaned. Staff members will need to organise cleaning requirements in advance with the premises team.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All external visitors will continue to be required to provide detailed contact information at reception to meet Track and Trace requirements.
Assemblies and gatherings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no assemblies or gatherings, these will take place digitally to communicate to the students if required.
Blended learning during lockdown or isolation.	<p>If there is a local lockdown, or if a year group bubble is asked to self-isolate, the following will happen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First 2 days - work will be set for pupils in the class Google Classroom • From day 3 onwards, lessons and resources will be set to follow the planned scheme of work, teachers will deliver 15 minutes of instruction via Teams for each timetabled lesson. Guided support will continue through Google Classrooms. • Contact information for the relevant staff has been made available on the website site should you require further guidance. • From day 4 onwards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For a year group bubble <u>blended learning (Zoom lessons)</u> will take place as per the current timetable. ○ For a local lockdown, an amended timetable will be released detailing when <u>blended learning</u> will take place. <p>If an individual pupil is unable to attend school due to self-isolating, the following will happen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils can access the <u>remote learning</u> through the class Google Classroom for relevant material • Contact information for the relevant staff has been made available on the school website should you require further guidance. • Zoom or Teams details and other relevant material will be shared via Arbor for <u>blended learning</u>.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines on the use of public transport -please see links for clear guidance on use. • https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/926732/coronavirus-safer-travel-easy-read-guidance-document.pdf • https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers • Secondary students will be strongly encouraged to walk or cycle. • Parents must be mindful of not sharing transport with other children from different families.

Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Prime Minister and Education Secretary have been clear that exams will go ahead next summer, as they are the fairest and most accurate way to measure a pupil's attainment. Pupils now have more time to prepare for their exams next year, as most GCSEs will be held 3 weeks later to help address the disruption caused by the pandemic.• We are waiting further guidance in relation to Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 SATs.
Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The following school frameworks have been reviewed and are linked on our school website:• Attendance• Behaviour• The up-to-date Risk Assessment can be found on the school website.



Phil Arnold

Principal