

Breakfast and After School Club Update

25th September 2020,

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to update you on my current thoughts concerning our wrap around care offer. Over the last 6 months, we have become a little more accustomed to situations changing on a weekly and sometimes daily basis. September has not been any different and we have already been warned that we can expect significant restrictions to daily life for the next 6 months. I thank everyone for the efforts you continue to demonstrate in keeping yourselves and others around you safe and for the personal sacrifices we are all continuing to make.

What has changed since the start of September and what are the concerns about running breakfast and after school club?

1. Testing for Covid-19 is not meeting demand nationally, leading to delays in results. This will continue to put pressure on organisations' ability to maintain staffing levels reliably. Extensions to the school day are more difficult to cover as staff cannot simply be reassigned within their normal working hours and at short notice.
2. We have moved to alert level 4 nationally, meaning that virus transmission is high or rising exponentially. Opening our childcare in the way it has run previously would involve mixing bubbles, increasing the daily contacts of children and staff at a time when we should be focussing on reducing our contacts.
3. Many workers have now been asked to work from home, meaning the demand for wrap around care may well be reduced to the point that it is not viable to run.

What happens next?

In order to make the decision on what we do next, I need to know how many parents and carers define their need for extended provision as essential to them. We may be able to run a simplified, less flexible model with reduced timings.

I do not intend to pursue opening breakfast club at this point due to the complexities of the staggered starts to the day and the limited impact that opening would make.

I would like to explore the demand for a limited version of the after school club, running until 5.30 daily. Children will need to be kept separate from those in other bubbles therefore there will be a limit to the numbers we may be able to accommodate and limited activities. Due to the increased ratios required to achieve safe social distancing and enhanced cleaning, we do not envisage being able to provide food.

Please contact Claire Tennant (ctennant@arbury.cambs.sch.uk) to register your interest by no later than midday on Tuesday 29th September 2020 for a place in after school club. You will need to give your child's name, class and the days that you would need (a simplified system may lead to bookings for the whole week, rather than specific days). We will consider the demand before being able to confirm what we may be able to offer. Communications after midday on the 29th will not be considered in the next stage of planning.

Thank you in advance for your understanding,

Ben Tull - Headteacher