

Fordham All Saints C. of E. Primary School

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PRIDE IN OUR LEARNING

Perseverance, Respect, Inspiration, Determination, Enjoyment

19th August 2020

Dear Parents,

The new school year is creeping upon us and I wanted to communicate with you some important messages before our return.

Both Mrs McMillan and myself have been working hard to ensure that we are ready to open to all pupils in September. As you are aware Mrs McMillan is now the Head of School and you will shortly receive a letter from her welcoming you to the Autumn term.

In consultation with the staff and governors we have been working to formulate a plan to have all children back, in full-time education for the autumn term and beyond. This plan follows government guidance which has subsequently been adapted to suit the staffing, environment and needs of our school as highlighted in the risk assessments I have carried out. All of these documents will be on the website upon our return to school-

What is the current situation & guidance?

The Governors and I have determined that the most appropriate option is to adopt HM Government and Local Authority Guidance. This guidance is developing and may change at any time.

The current government position is that they believe it is safe for children to return to schools in the normal numbers and these children will be allocated into class bubbles. These bubbles serve two purposes; to minimize social contact for viral spread and to enable the effective use of the Track and Trace system. The head teacher and governing body are to determine how the suggested measures should be implemented safely in their own school, by risk assessing the building and staffing numbers. You will find that every school in the country will implement these

What is the school doing to prepare?

I have, in consultation with the staff and members of the governing body, undertaken a robust risk assessment to ensure that the school will be as safe as it can be. From these assessments, plans have been drawn up to mitigate the risk of viral spread. However, I have to inform you that I cannot and will not guarantee that your children will be completely safe from COVID-19 in the school environment which they will return to.

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The plans I am sharing with you are our preferred way of managing things, but are subject to change should further guidance or instruction be published by the government. It is important that you read this letter carefully so that you are fully aware of the school organisation that you and your child will be returning to.

Start and End of Day

The start and end of the day will be staggered to prevent the amount of people coming into contact with each other. It is imperative that you adhere to the timings that you have been asked to attend and leave the site swiftly once you have dropped off or collected your child. Please remember that the car park will be closed during school hours and that all families are asked to park in the John Owen car park. The walking route into and out of school will continue to be the same, however some children will be asked to enter school by the top gate at the end of the car park, and some will be asked to proceed to the playground gate. We are dividing these entrances by pods, and staggering start times by surnames to allow families with more than one child to make one drop off and pick up.

START OF DAY- 8.40AM

Surnames A to L inclusive (42 families)

END OF DAY- 3.10PM

START OF DAY- 8.50 AM

Surnames M to W inclusive (38 families)

END OF DAY- 3.20

Children in classes 2&3 (Y123) (Pod 2) are to enter into the usual playground gate where a teacher will be waiting to collect your child and ensure they are on site safely and can walk to their classroom where an adult will be waiting for them

Children in classes 4&5 (Y456) (Pod 3) are to enter into the field gate at the top of the car park where a teacher will be waiting to collect your child and ensure they are on site safely and can walk to their classroom where an adult will be waiting for them

Children in EYFS (Pod 1) will be entering through the front office door at 9am, collected by their class teacher. These children have already received communications from Mrs Lawrence on their staggered start to school.

Where you have children in both pods 2 and 3, please only escort your youngest child to the gate. Staff will be on hand to receive your children on the pod 3 gate and ensure children are entering appropriately.

The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between children and staff, and parents and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate in 'bubbles' and 'pods' and through maintaining distance between individuals. These are not alternative options and both measures will help, but the balance between them will change depending on:

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Rusty Respect



Isaac Inspiration



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Eddie Enjoyment



- children's ability to distance
- the lay out of the school
- the feasibility of keeping distinct groups separate while offering a broad curriculum

It is likely that for younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups, and for older children it will be on distancing. For children old enough, they should also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff where possible.

Break Time and Lunchtime

Children will take break times in their pods giving them the ability to play with their friends from their previous year groups. We really do value and appreciate the social element that COVID-19 has taken from our children and this will allow some very important friendship connections to be maintained at this time.

School lunches will not return to normal until later on in the term, for the start of term all children are required to bring a packed lunch and children will be eating lunch in their bubbles. Our teachers and teaching assistants are generously giving of their time to assist children at lunchtime, to maintain consistency within the bubbles. All playtimes will be in pods, at lunchtime pod 2 will have lunch and then play, and pod 3 will play and then have lunch.

Attendance

The government expects that all children are expected to return to school in September. The usual attendance policy will be upheld which can be found on the website. This does mean that where appropriate, we will engage with the local authority to pursue sanctions for families with non-attending pupils (in line with the local authority's code of conduct).

If rates of infection in the local area rise, then some parents who have children who were once shielding due to medical advice may wish to isolate their children again. We will support those parents through dialogue with the school nurse team so that appropriate advice can be offered and leeway afforded. If these families are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

What will happen next?

We remain committed to keeping our school community safe and secure as we move forwards. In order to ensure the success of this plan, you will be asked to agree to upholding the principals on the home/school agreement. We thank you for your ongoing support and flexibility thus far, and look forward to welcoming our school family back together again after the summer break. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer.

Best wishes

Mrs Sibley
Head Teacher

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