

Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Safe return to school in September 2020

I hope you've had a good summer break. This week we are ensuring that all measures are in place for a safe return.

Our Government released updated guidance on 28th August regarding a full return to school in September for all staff and pupils. Here is the link to the full document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

As communicated in my letter on Wednesday 14th July, it is planned that all pupils (apart from Nursery) will return on Monday 7th September. Please remember that Reception pupils will be in school for **mornings only (including lunchtime until 1:00pm)** for the first 2 weeks. Mrs Rock and Ms Perry have written to Nursery parents. **Here are the main points from that letter:**

Here are some of our procedures to prevent a spread of COVID-19 in school

- Continue with frequent handwashing and other hygiene routines such as 'Catch it, bin it, kill it'
- Children will be part of Year group 'bubbles'
- Children will be given their own pencil, pen etc.
- Stay within Year group bubbles for break and lunchtimes
- Children who are sandwiches – will eat their lunch in the classroom
- PE/Outdoor play equipment will be cleaned before and after use
- Each Year group will be given a staggered break/lunch time and an allocated outdoor space.
- Adults will try to maintain a level of social distancing where appropriate
- Increase in cleaning in school (in particular touch points and toilets)
- Restricted numbers in the main reception waiting area
- All members of the school community are asked to engage with the test and trace programme if they (pupils or staff) develop symptoms
- One-way system in areas

The Autumn term will look and feel very different, but the health and well-being of the children will be a key priority for us - to ensure that they settle smoothly back into school.

Further Clarification

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. Attendance will continue to be recorded and absences followed up.

Will breakfast and 6 O’Clock club be offered in September?

Yes – bookings for the first 3 weeks were taken in July. The children will be placed in small groups (phases) and stay in those groups when using the provision. If you have not already booked a place – please do so ASAP by contacting our school office.

Are you operating a staggered start and finish time?

No – we will offer ‘window’ slots.

In the morning, the main gates will open between 8:35am and 8:55am. All classroom doors will be open during this time to minimise congestion on the school site. School finishes at 3:15pm, however the main gates will be open from 3:05pm to allow for collection to commence.

Dropping children off and collecting

You will notice social distance markers on the playground and outside classroom doors.

Parents/carers, please ensure that you stay outside of the social distance boxes which are in front of classroom doors. We ask that once you’ve escorted your child to their class entrance point – you leave the site as soon as you can and refrain from congregating with other parents. If you need to speak to a teacher regarding an issue/concern – please ensure that you ring the school office to book an appointment with the class teacher.

I’m not sure where my child’s classroom is... where will I need to go?

Please do not worry – there will be signs in windows and plenty of staff on site on the first day to direct you.

Will hand sanitiser be provided?

Yes – children will be asked to wash/sanitise their hands on arrival to school and throughout the day. The children who accessed our keyworker provision – will be familiar with the regime. If you want to send your child with a small tube of hand sanitiser – that is fine (however there is no requirement to do so).

Will the children be doing PE? Will they be able to bring their PE kit into school?

Yes – PE is part of the National Curriculum and we feel that it is vital for the children to access a broad and balanced curriculum. Please ensure that PE kits are sent into school – well labelled. These will be kept in lockers or on their pegs. We will ask that they are washed regularly.

Do the children need to wear face masks/coverings in school?

No. The government guidance states that Primary school children do not need to wear face masks/coverings in school. If children travel to school wearing a face mask, please ensure that they dispose of it or have a bag to store it in during the day.

Do they need to bring a pencil case?

No, their own equipment will be provided (pencils, rulers etc will not be shared in class). Please limit items to those which are essential, such as water bottle and lunchbox.

Can my child bring their ‘normal’ lunchbox? Yes

Can they bring a school bag?

A book bag or small bag – large enough to hold their reading diary and book is fine. Please do not worry if you have already purchased a large bag as most children in Key stage 2 have access to a locker to store it.

How will social distancing work in the classroom?

Government guidance states that all children need to be back in school and be part of a 'bubble'. As a school we will operate in **Year group bubbles**. In the classroom, the children will be allocated a forward-facing seat where possible.

What is happening during break and lunchtime?

Each year group will be given a staggered break and lunchtime and an allocated outdoor space with equipment to use for their bubble. Children who have sandwiches will eat their lunch in the classroom. Children who request a school dinner will go to the hall (which will be split into x2 separate hall spaces) to be served at an allocated time as a Year group. Areas will be cleaned between sittings.

What about school trips and swimming?

We will not be taking the children off site for the Autumn term and will review the risk again prior to Spring term. We hope to take Year 4 swimming from January 2021, however it will depend on the risk - which will need to be re-assessed.

What if a child or staff member develop COVID-symptoms in school?

We will follow government guidelines. If either a child or staff member develops symptoms, they will be sent home, asked to self-isolate and asked to complete a COVID test. If the results are positive, then guidance will be taken from the NHS Track and Trace team – which will have an impact on 'bubbles' within school.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school!

If you don't already, please make sure that you follow us on twitter - as we use it as a form of communication: @FibParkAcademy

If you have any further questions, please feel free e-mail: postbox@fibbersleyparkacademy.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Miss S. Reynolds
Acting Head of School