The Firs Lower School

26th May, 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Re-Opening Letter 3 - For Parents in Maple Class

As I said in the Re-opening letter 2, sent out 21/5/20, I am writing to you now to give you a second update, with some more information regarding the plans for the return of Year 1 children to school on 3rd June. I will set out here, more information about how a day will be organised.

We have asked that you let us know if your Y1 child is ***not*** going to be coming back from Wednesday 3rd, so that we can have an idea as to starting numbers. We would ask you to get that information to us by ***no later than 9:30am on Monday 1st June***.

We will use that information to organise the two class colour groups (Blue and Red) so they have roughly equal starting numbers.

I will then write to you again by the end of the day on Tuesday 2nd at the latest, letting you know which group, Maple Blue or Maple Red, your child is in and which staff will be working with them. We want to make sure they know this of course, before they come back on Wednesday 3rd.

Pick up and drop off times

The table below shows you the pick up and drop off times for Maple Blue and Maple Red, so that you are prepared for both possibilities:

Starting and finishing times for all groups (Wednesday pick up times in red)				
Group	**Base**	**Entrance / exit location**	**Drop off time**	**Pick up time**
Maple - Blue	Maple	Main outside gate	8:45 - 9:00 am	3:00 pm / 12:00 pm
Maple - Red	Elm	Main outside gate	9:00 - 9:15 am	3:15 pm / 12:15pm

Maple children in both groups will be brought round to the outside gate (nearest to Station Road) by the staff at the appropriate time and will be handed over to you from there.

We would encourage you to walk to school where possible to reduce traffic in Station Road and the service road.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

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Sainsbury's School Games Gold
Ruth Miskin
RSP
Forest School
Healthy Schools
Pivotal Education Behaviour Award

In the interests of social distancing we would ask that ***only 1 parent / carer*** accompanies your child to school.

We also ask that once you have dropped off or picked up your child, you go straight home, ***minimising your time on the school site***. This is really important in helping us to ***work together to keep everyone safe***.

Communicating with us

There will be an adult on duty at the gate when your drop off your child(ren) but you will understand that we are endeavouring to social distance and avoid both face to face meetings and parents staying in the gate area as others are arriving to pick up or drop off their child, so we would ask you ***not*** to use this moment (as we would normally encourage you to do) to engage the member of staff in lengthy conversation.

We would also like parents to know that to provide enough adults for 'gate duty' for all the different starting times, ***the office will be closed from 8:45 - 9:30 every morning***.

If you want to get a message to us or discuss any matter therefore, the best way is to put it in an email to the class teacher or school office or phone the office after 9:30am and we will be ***very*** happy to help.

Uniform

We are asking that children ***do*** wear their school uniform as we think it is important as a reminder that children are back in school and that we all have a Firs' community we belong to.

We are also asking however that children come into school in '***fresh from the wash'/clean clothes every day*** and we are aware that this could be difficult for parents, if everything is in the wash and unavailable to wear by Wednesday!

For this reason we have thought about this and we suggest the following solution, in this order, during the week:

1) Start off the week wearing uniform as normal
2) If you run out, switch to their PE kit (weather permitting) as it is still Firs uniform!
3) Use Wednesday pm as a chance to get something washed for the end of the week?!
4) If you run out of clothes, children can wear their own 'clean' clothes. If you have anything in Firs' colours that would be great, if not, don't worry, as long as it is 'fresh from the wash'!

It seems strange to write all this and shows what odd times we are living in but we are very grateful for your support in helping us navigate our way through them!

What to bring with you and what to leave at home!
We have tried to minimise the amount of items coming in as much as we possibly can.

Your child **should** bring in…

- A ***named*** water bottle
- A lunch box (If they are having a home packed lunch - see lunchtime section below)
- A coat (if the weather seems to warrant it.)
- A hat and perhaps sun-cream (see section below on sun safety and hayfever).

Your child should ***not*** bring in…

- Any toys or personal possessions of any sort
- Items to share such as certificates or objects made at home*
- Pencil cases
- Playtime snacks (see section on playtime below)
- Backpacks or bookbags

To further minimise the movement of items between school and home, we will not be issuing or changing reading books this term. Your child will not need a bookbag or backpack and school cloakrooms will ***not be in use*** and so there will be nowhere to store them.

*****If your child has made something at home or has a medal or certificate to show etc., we would really like you to email (contact details will be shared in letter 4) a picture to the colour group teacher and we will be delighted to create times to show / celebrate this in class.

Sun safety and hayfever
We will be trying to learn outside as much as possible, so if your child suffers from hayfever, please make sure you give them any preventative treatment they use before coming in.

To ensure they are safe from the sun, please make sure they come in wearing a hat each day. Please also either apply 'all day sun cream' before they come in or send your child in with a bottle of sun cream ***that has their name on***, that they can apply themselves.

Playtime
Children will have their playtime with ***only*** the children in their own group e.g. Maple Blue ***or*** Maple Red.

In order to reduce the amount of items coming in from home, we are asking that children do not come in with a playtime snack.
Either using the National free fruit scheme and/or from our own resources, we will provide this term, a fruit or vegetable based snack, for all the Year 1 children, if they want one.

Lunch arrangements
All children in Y1 will be entitled to a lunch provided by our kitchen, run by Caterlink. Y1 children will be eating in the classroom in which they are based and so there will be 'school packed lunch' options only.

With this letter you will find further information from Caterlink about what they will be providing. If you do not want a school packed lunch, your child should bring a home packed lunch in their own named lunchbox.

Children will have their lunch playtime with ***only*** the children in their own group e.g. Maple Blue ***or*** Maple Red.

Home Learning Packs
The school will continue with Y1 Home Learning packs. If your child is ***not*** returning to school, you will continue to be emailed a pack and ***you can complete*** the weekly Google Form to order a printed copy. This will be available on Friday, outside the school, as normal.

If your child is in school, the work they do will include the materials from the pack and so you will **not need** to order a pack.

Illness
We ask that you be especially aware of any change in your child's health, as of course, it is more than usually important that children remain at home if unwell. Parents are now able to access testing for children (see the Coronavirus page on our website), and if this is the case, please keep the school updated. Getting tested.

If you or your child develops any of the symptoms listed by the Government as possible indicators of Coronavirus, you should follow the Government guidance and isolate for 7 days (14 days for others in the household):

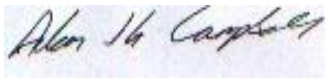
The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If anyone has any of the symptoms above they should self-isolate at home.

I hope this gives you the majority of the information you need before your child starts back with us on Wednesday 3rd. I will be writing to you again by Tuesday 2nd and in that letter (no4) I will let you know which group your child is in, with which staff and a little about the induction morning they will be taking part in on Wednesday 3rd.
Thank you in advance for your support and your patience and I hope that you and all your family remain safe and well.

Kind regards



Adam Campbell
Headteacher