

The Firs, Keeping in Touch!

Friday 12th June 2020

Learning at Home

The learning packs for next week were emailed out yesterday and the requested printed versions are available, as usual, outside the school today. The pack for next week is 'Summer Week 8- week beginning 15/6/20'.

If your child is in Year R or Year 1 and you are intending for them to come back to school from Monday 15th June, please **do not** collect a learning pack for next week. They will be given a pack by us, which they will keep in school.

Saplings, Year 1 and Pine - Returning to school next week

I wrote to Saplings parents on Wednesday informing them about the final few details regarding the way we are organising the return of the older Saplings children to school from the 15th.

Today all parents of Year R and Year 1 children will receive a letter that gives the final details needed, such as which group children are in and when they need to be dropped off etc.

The letter is accompanied by a presentation that we have made for each group. We want every child to come back into school with a smile on their face, but we realise school will look different, they may be with different staff and we want to help with any anxiety or uncertainty they are feeling.



Welcome back to The Firs
Holly Blue!



A title page from one of the presentations we have created.

The idea is that you sit down with your child(ren) and go through the presentation with them, looking at the pictures and videos (which are links to our Firs YouTube page). We hope that the presentations help children to begin to get used to the way the school will be different and support the process of coming back into school again.

We will place the presentations on our website too, so that any YR or Y1 children who join us at a later date, can access them too.

Welcome To Holly Blue

To help us with our social distancing, we have split classes in half. Holly is split into Holly Blue and Holly Red.



You are going to be in Holly Blue.

You will work in Holly classroom with Miss Blake and Mrs Higgs.



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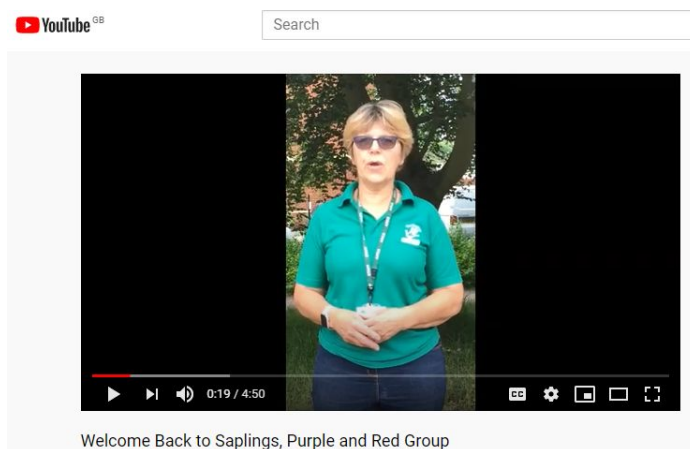
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Saplings Videos

To help our older Saplings children settle back in, Mrs Sherry and her team have worked really hard to create videos to support the induction of their children back into life in Saplings. The links are available below and on our website:

[Saplings Blue and Green Groups](#)

[Saplings Purple and Red Groups](#)



Year Two, Year Three and Year Four

I am very aware that, in following the Government plan we are needing to focus on the return of some of our children and I have said before that we haven't forgotten the children who sadly, cannot be with us right now.

I know that the recent announcement from the Government, regarding abandoning the plan to return all children before the end of the term, will have been a huge disappointment to many, especially perhaps in Year 4.

I also know that some people will be relieved because there is considerable and understandable concern about safety and worries about sending children into school. We respect both 'views' on what is obviously becoming an important national debate.

We are missing all our children terribly and I think we would all just like the chance to return to some form of 'normality' if we could.

We are currently having meetings to look at the way forward and to explore anything we can do to get any / all Y2, Y3 and Y4 children back into school for even a very short visit. We know that this is particularly an issue for Y4 given that this is their last year with us.

The difficulty we have however is that all our staff and nearly every classroom sized space in school is currently being used to implement the return to school for the older Saplings, Year R and Year 1 children. We also have a complex Risk Assessment and associated procedures we need to follow, such as reducing the movement between different 'bubbles' of staff and children and so this is a very complex and difficult issue.

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Please be assured that we will do everything we can to get children back briefly, to see us and each other and we will prioritise providing the Y4 children with a short goodbye/transition event.

We are aiming to give you an important update on our plans this term in the next Keeping In Touch Letter, at the end of next week.

Thank you for your ongoing patience, understanding and support, which means a great deal to us in these difficult and stressful times.

A Message from Alameda to our Year 4 children

Hello Year 4's,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Thank you very much for all your friendship forms that have been returned, this will help us in allocating you a form group. Please follow the link for a full video tour of Alameda. I hope you enjoy it, there is lots of information but don't worry we will go through this again when you join.

https://youtu.be/kLN-_cx8Nr8

In a few weeks' time Miss Warner and myself will deliver the Welcome to Alameda parents evening through video. You will meet your new form tutor via video link in July. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Mrs Sibley
Year 5 Leader 2020-21

Key worker Provision

We are under increasing pressure regarding requests for additional Y2, Y3 and Y4 key worker places. This is very understandable given the fact that people are returning to work increasingly. The difficulty we have is that we cannot have groups bigger than 15 and all our staff are now needed to run the existing KW group and the new groups coming in from next week.

All FARM (Firs, Alameda, Russell, Maulden) schools are experiencing these difficulties and we are liaising with the LA about the problem.

We would like to remind all current Key Worker provision parents and parents considering applying for places that they **must only consider using/applying for any time in school** if there is **absolutely no other child care available**.

Story Time Videos

There are more 'Firs Story Time' videos available on our Firs YouTube site for you to enjoy with your children.



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Mrs A'Court will be sending out emails with links to these stories later today. Hope you enjoy them!

We all look forward to welcoming our Saplings, Year 1 and Pine children back next week and as I said earlier, I will be focusing on an update for our other year groups next week. In the meantime, I hope that you all keep safe and well.

Take care everyone.

Adam Campbell
Headteacher