The Firs Lower School

10th June, 2020

Dear parents / carers,

Re-opening of The Saplings Pre-School

In order to facilitate the re-opening of the Saplings with smaller group sizes, to ensure we reduce the risk of transmission as much as possible, we have needed to reorganise the allocation of places and sessions in order to be as fair to everyone as possible.

We have divided Saplings up into 4 colour groups who will attend Saplings for different sessions during the week. Each colour group has been allocated 2 days and your child has been placed in the Saplings Green Group.

Saplings Green Group - Thursdays and Fridays	
Group Base	New Saplings Building
Group staff	Vicks Taylor, Oriana Pearce, Jenny Ashley, Angie Dvorkin and Maria Lydon
Arrival at school	9:10-9:20 Enter the new Saplings Gate from the service road.
Lunchtime	11:30 - 12:10
Going Home	3:10 pm Enter the new Saplings Gate from the service road.

The Green Group children will be in The new Saplings building. There will be parking available in the run-off from the turning circle in the service road. After parking please use the pavement and path marked with yellow footsteps. Please cross the service road using the zebra crossing and there is a pathway leading to the new Saplings gate, where a member of the Saplings staff will be there to greet you. Please use the left-hand side of the path when going in and the same going out. There will be markings and signs pointing you in the right direction.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

The Firs Lower School • Station Road, Ampthill, Bedford MK45 2QR
Telephone: (01525) 402735
Email: office@firslower.org • Web www.firslower.co.uk

Sainsbury's School Games Gold
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Things you need to know:-

- We are asking that children come into school in '**fresh from the wash'/clean clothes every day.**
- The children in each Saplings group will only play (indoors and outdoors) **with children in their group.**
- The Wednesday when Saplings is closed will be used to **thoroughly clean resources** etc. ready for the next 2 groups on the Thursday and Friday to use the same space. (There will be provision for the Saplings key worker children on a Wednesday morning).
- There will be **regular cleaning** of particular contact surfaces such as door knobs every day.
- Staff will ensure that children **wash their hands or use hand sanitiser** when they arrive at Saplings and at regular intervals during the day, such as after having played outside etc.
- You will understand that it is difficult to social distance with our younger children and **staff will intervene physically to support children where appropriate**. For their own safety, however they may wear items such as aprons and wash their hands after having physical contact with the child.
- In order to ensure everyone's safety, it is very important that you **do not** send your child to school if they are **in any way unwell.** Parents are now able to access testing (see the Coronavirus page on our website) and if this is the case, please keep the school updated. **Getting Tested**
- Your child will eat their lunch in the room they are in. You can choose a packed lunch made by Caterlink or you can provide your own packed lunch. A menu is included again with this letter.

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 lunchbox if your child is not having a school packed lunch
- Coat if the weather warrants it.
- A hat and suncream
- A change of clothes on the first day in a **named carrier bag** - to be left in Saplings.

Your child should not bring in:-

- Any toys or personal possessions (unless they have a particular comfort toy they need).
- Show and tell objects from home*
- Playtime snacks (they will be provided by us)
- A bag every day

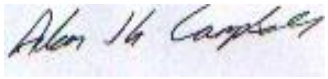
*If your child has something to show we would really like you to email The Saplings at The Saplings@firslower.org with a picture and the colour group staff will be delighted to show/celebrate this with the children.

During this period, we are trying to limit face-to-face conversations with our parents and so for this reason, we would ask you to support us with this and please email or phone The Saplings to speak to a member of staff about any queries or information you need to discuss with us.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to The Saplings next week.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher