



The Firs, Keeping in Touch!

Friday 26th June 2020



Well done to our returning children!

Another huge well done to all our Saplings, Y1 and Pine children, who have had another very positive week in school.

It has been lovely, once again, to see all the children here enjoying their time back in school, beginning to get back into some of the routines they have missed prior to coming back.

Learning at Home

The learning packs for next week have been emailed out and the requested printed versions will be available, outside the school today. The pack for next week is 'Summer Week 10-week beginning 29/6/20'.

As we said last week, the arrangements for collecting packs and which entrance to use are as follows:

Dry weather arrangements

- Saplings packs - please enter by Service Road gate
- Pine packs - please enter by Service Road gate
- Year 1 packs - please enter by Service Road gate
- Year 2 packs - please enter by Service Road gate

- Year 3 packs - please enter by Station Road gate
- Year 4 packs - please enter by Station Road gate

Wet weather arrangements

All packs will be on tables in the Pine outdoor area.

Everyone will need to enter by the Service road gate.

Please note:

- There is a **one way system** on entry and exit
- **Please avoid** the current staggered pick up and drop of times:
 - 8:45 - 9:25
 - 3:00 - 3:35

If your child is in Year R or Year 1 and has returned to school, please **do not** collect a learning pack for next week. They will be given a pack by us like this week.

Social Distancing and staffing at The Firs

You will no doubt be aware that the 2m rule for social distancing is being changed to 1m, although with us already only being able to distance tables in our small classrooms by 1.5m currently, this change will make very little difference, as it still means that classes have to be divided in two.

The Firs, Keeping in Touch!

Friday 26th June 2020

We have had some parents inquiring about whether the relaxing of some measures expected soon would enable us to have more children back in school. Unfortunately this is not the case and we, like all the other FARM schools, are unable to make any changes as a result of this.

We have many staff unavailable this term as they are shielding currently at home and maintaining the Saplings, Pine, Y1 and Key Worker groups are using all our available staff and nearly all our teaching spaces. We currently have no extra cover to manage staff illness as a result of this for example, but luckily, there has been no staff absence due to sickness this term.

Return / visits to school for Y2, Y3 and Y4 children

Year 4

I have written separately to Y4 parents regarding the arrangements for the last two days of term. Hopefully the information in that letter will be helpful.

Please could Y4 parents ensure that they reserve a place at school by completing the form or emailing the school by **Friday 3rd July**, so that we can have time to create the two groups for each class. We will then write back to Y4 parents, indicating the group children are in and the room etc. by 10th July.

Year 2 and Year 3

As I indicated in previous letters and in this letter today, accommodating Saplings, YR, Y1 and Key Worker children has used nearly every usable space and all our available staff. This means that sadly, there is absolutely no capacity to accommodate additional children in school, during the working day.

We are as frustrated by this as I am sure you are and despite the difficulties in organising additional provision, we are determined to offer as much as we possibly can to our Y2 and Y3 children.

I have written separately to Y2 and Y3 parents regarding the arrangements we are making to invite children back to school for a short visit, which will take place on the school field. All the essential details are in the letter and we very much hope that many or all of our Y2 and Y3 children will be able to join us for these events, as we all really miss them so much.

Sun protection

We would like to remind parents to try and ensure that children all come into school with a sun hat, some sun cream and a water bottle - all named please! Thanks.

The Firs, Keeping in Touch!

Friday 26th June 2020

Keeping positive at home

We are very aware, from the feedback that many parents have given us, that children are generally finding it harder to remain positive and cheerful at this difficult time. We have had reports of children being on a 'shorter fuse' than normal, or less happy than they usually are. We have also heard that they are less inclined to tackle the work we send home.

Talking to other headteachers and parents (both from our school and others) this seems to be a general problem and one generated by the strange circumstances children find themselves in.

We hope that the opportunities to come back to school that we are setting out this week will help to a degree, as children have a bit more contact with school and an opportunity to end their year having some contact with each other and staff who worked with them.

I have recorded a little message to the children, which we have added as a link below and in the email with this Keeping in Touch letter. I hope this helps a little too.

[Hello from Mr Campbell](#)

We understand that it must be very hard if you are balancing looking after the children, with your own working commitment. We will keep sending the packs out but, if you are experiencing problems, perhaps like the ones I mentioned above, please be assured that you and your child are not alone! We advise that you do what you can of the work we send out, maybe in very short bursts if that works for your child, interspersed with other things too. If you feel it going wrong, just put the work away, we firmly believe that the children's happiness comes first.

These are difficult times for all of us and we greatly appreciate and value all the things you are doing, to help look after your children's well being, which is our first concern too.

It has been lovely having more children back in school over the last couple of weeks and we are now really looking forward to seeing some of our Y2, Y3 and Y4 children in the coming weeks. In the meantime, I hope you all stay safe and well.

Take care everyone.

Adam Campbell
Headteacher