The Firs Lower School

25th June, 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Return to school for Parents in Oak Class

As I said in the keeping in touch letter last week, I am writing to you now to give you an update, with some more information regarding the plans for the return of Year 4 children to school on 16th and 17th July. I will set out here, more information about how the days will be organised.

We are asking that you reserve a place for your Year 4 child if you wish them to attend for the 2 days, **by the 3rd July at 3.30pm**. It is essential that we have this information by this date as if all the Year 4 pupils come back, we will need to make some modifications to the planning.

We will use this information to organise the Year 4 groups.

I will then write to you again by Friday 10th July, letting you know which group, Oak Blue or Oak Red, that 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 Thursday 16th.

Pick up and drop off times

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

Starting and finishing times for all groups				
Group	**Base**	**Entrance / exit location**	**Drop off time**	**Pick up time**
Oak - Blue	Maple	Main outside gate	8:45 - 8.55 am	3:00 pm
Oak - Red	Elm	Main outside gate	9:00 - 9:10 am	3:15 pm

We realise that by this point in the year, most Year 4 children would already be walking home on their own in preparation for September. We need to make sure that we have talked to all the Year 4s about safety and behaviour expectations, as we always do, before this happens.

For this reason, we are asking that you escort your children to and from school on Thursday 16th. We will talk to the children in school giving these important messages to them during the day on Thursday.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

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On Friday 17th, if you have given permission, Year 4 children will be permitted to come to school and leave school without adult supervision.

Oak children in both groups will be brought round to the outside gate at the end of the day (nearest to Station Road) by the staff at the appropriate time and will be handed over to you from there on the first day (Thursday 16th) and will walk home from there on their own on Friday 17th if you have given permission for them to do so.

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***.

When you contact us (by 3rd July) to indicate that you want to reserve a place for your child for these two days, you will also need to indicate to us that you are giving permission for your child to walk to and from school without adult supervision on Friday 17th July.

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 both days***.

We would like children to wear trainers so that they can easily take part in any outdoor activities which they will do in their normal school uniform rather than changing into a PE kit (which will not be required).

Bringing in a shirt to sign

We realise that it is a tradition that Year 4 children have their shirt signed to mark the end of their time at The Firs. We want to do our best to honour this tradition, whilst fitting in with the social distancing that we are committed to maintaining in school, until the end of term.

We are inviting Year 4 children to bring a shirt with them into school which they can give to a member of staff in their colour group. This shirt **must** be named either with your child's name written on it or on a sewn/ironed on label. The shirt will be placed on a table for the child's class/colour group in the hall and staff will use the 2 days to sign them. Staff will wash their hands first and/or use gloves. At the end of the day on Friday 17th, the shirts will be returned for the children to take home.

We will be adhering to the social distancing measures that are currently in place for Year R and Year 1 pupils, which includes minimal contact between children within each bubble. We are assuming that there will be some Year 4 parents who are only comfortable sending their child back knowing this and some who would not worry about such contact. We are trying to respect both these views and so we would ask that any signing of shirts by other children in Year 4 happens out of school.

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).
- A ***named*** shirt to sign if children wish to bring one in.

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
- PE Kit

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 both days. 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. Oak Blue ***or*** Oak 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. We will provide a fruit or vegetable based snack, for all the Year 4 children, if they want one that has kindly been donated by Waitrose.

Lunch arrangements
All children in Y4 can either elect to purchase a cold school packed lunch provided by Caterlink or bring a packed lunch from home. Please see the attached menu.

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

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 Thursday 16th. I will be writing to you again by Friday 10th July and in that letter I will let you know which group your child is in and with which staff.

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