



26th February 2021

Update on Full reopening of The Firs on 8th March 21

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you all had a very enjoyable half term and on behalf of all the staff, I would like to say how much we are looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school on Monday 8th March.

I am writing to you today, to give you an update regarding our provision for the full re-opening of the school. Most of the arrangements are the same as we were operating in December.

The Government has revised its guidance and we have gone through it carefully, in order to make our plans.

The provision we will be offering will be very much what the children were used to before Christmas and the hand washing routines and one way systems etc. will not be unfamiliar to them. We will be reviewing all our procedures over Easter and then there will be an ongoing / regular review of everything, following any changes to government guidance, as the summer term progresses. Naturally, we will keep you updated regarding any changes as, hopefully, we move further along the road to a return to something approaching normal!

Pick up and drop off

The pick up and drop off times / locations are not changed from December and are indicated below. It is **essential** that only 1 parent / carer picks up children and within the set ten minute 'pick up window' and we are asking that all adults **wear face masks** on the school site.

Starting and finishing times for all groups				
Year Group	Class	Entrance / exit location	Drop off time	Pick up time
Year R	Acorns	Service road entrance / Pine gate	8:45 - 8:55	3:10 - 3:20
	Conkers	Service road entrance / Pine gate	8:55-9:05	3:20 - 3:30

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Year 1	Maple	Station Road entrance / main outdoor gate	8:45 - 8:55	3:10 - 3:20
	Holly	Station Road entrance / main outdoor gate	8:55-9:05	3:20 - 3:30
Year 2	Cedar	Service road entrance / main sch entrance.	8:55-9:05	3:20 - 3:30
	Beech	Service road entrance / main sch entrance.	9:05 - 9:15	3:30 - 3:40
Year 3	Elm	From Service road / Y4 side gate	9:05 - 9:15	3:30 - 3:40
	Hazel	Station Road entrance / main outdoor gate	9:05 - 9:15	3:30 - 3:40
Year 4	Oak	From Service road / Y4 side gate	8:45 - 8:55	3:10 - 3:20
	Willow	From Service road / Y4 side gate	8:55 - 9:05	3:20 - 3:30

After drop off and pick up, it is also essential that parents/carers **leave the premises** and go home, without delay, in order to support our social distancing measures. Thank you in advance for your support.

We always advise that children of lower school age are picked up by an adult but if you decide that an older sibling is to collect your child you **must** notify the office and confirm that you are electing to give that older sibling this responsibility. Thank you.

Our system of controls

Our 'System of controls' will continue to be based on the Government advice:

- a. People with COVID symptoms, or who live with someone with COVID symptoms, do not attend school
- b. Frequent hand washing / hand sanitiser use
- c. Good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it)
- d. Frequent cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and equipment
- e. Minimising contact and mixing between small groups of pupils through environmental changes (eg staggering break and lunch times, one way systems etc.)

Specific actions we are taking:

- Continue with our established and comprehensive cleaning routine
- Continue to require children to wash their hands regularly throughout the day
- Regularly remind children about good respiratory hygiene
- Parents and visitors will not be allowed on site without a prior appointment and such face to face appointments will be kept to the absolute minimum.
- Children will operate within their own class bubbles in school.
- Pick up and drop off times will continue to be staggered with set entry and exit points.
- Staff will wear masks in all public spaces and parents/carers asked to wear them on pick up/drop off
- Staff will be taking lateral flow Covid 19 tests twice a week

Managing suspected cases of Coronavirus

I would like to reiterate that keeping everyone safe is our highest concern and we will continue to follow Government guidance in how we respond to any suspected case of Coronavirus. More guidance is available on our [Coronavirus page](#), under the Parents tab on our website.

If a child has any of the following symptoms:

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

we will contact you and ask that your child be collected and will need to be tested (details are available on our Coronavirus page). We will also ask you to pick up any siblings, and they will need to stay at home for 14 days, if the test result proves positive.

Like last term, we will keep other parents/carers in the same class (or year group if appropriate) informed and will take appropriate advice on next steps from our local Public Health Protection Team, if the test result is positive.

Curriculum and learning

In the spirit of the DfE guidance, we will ensure that curriculum planning is informed both by an assessment of pupils' starting points and gaps in their knowledge, and an understanding of what is the most critical content for progression.

We may make some modifications to the curriculum to allow us to focus on key aspects of English and maths, especially where children need to re visit key objectives. We will however prioritise science (a core subject) and PE (vital for health and well being) and ensure that children experience aspects across the whole curriculum in an engaging manner.

Wearing PE Kit

To support the delivery of the PE curriculum, we are asking that all children continue to come dressed in their school PE kit (tracksuit bottoms/shorts and Firs PE top and School sweatshirt) and trainers, on the days they have PE. PE times reminders will be shared with you by each year group on Google Classroom.

Y4 Grafham Water visit, school visits and extra curricular activities

Following Government advice, We will not be resuming any school visits or extra curricular activities before Easter.

We are pleased to announce however, that we have managed to change the dates with the Grafham Water Centre, to the 24th and 25th June, (at no extra cost) which hopefully, given the expectation that guidance will change during the summer, will mean we are able to go. A big thank you to Alyson Baker for negotiating this with Grafham Water.

Lunch Arrangements

YR children will continue to eat in the hall, Saplings children in their building and all other children will eat in their classrooms. Meals will be delivered to classrooms in sealed containers as last term. The hot school dinner menu for the spring term is included in the email with this newsletter and is available from our [website](#).

Changing reading books

Reading books will begin to be sent home again from Monday 8th.

- Y1 books will be on the table on the station road side of the netting on
- Y2 books will be on a table in the area outside the main doors.
- Y1 and Y2 books will be put out on **Tuesday and Friday**
- Pine will use the same station as Y2 on **Monday and Thursday**.

- e. Y3 and Y4 children will need to change their books themselves from class boxes and this will be administered by the class teacher.

Parent / Teacher Consultations this term

We will be holding virtual parent / teacher consultation meetings this term, in the last week of term on Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th March. Naturally staff will not have all the usual information in the absence of more than half a term of normal face to face experience. We feel however it will be important to share any initial data e.g. RWI /spelling assessments, talk about children's pastoral needs and the way forward in the summer term.

We have invested in the ParentPay parent consultation module and so we will be using this to facilitate the online meetings. There will be more details about how this will work and the booking system in due course.

A few last reminders

- Please help us reinforce the messages about frequent and thorough hand washing and catching coughs and sneezes ('**Catch it, Bin it, Kill it**).
- Please pass on messages by **email** as much as possible.
- Please provide a pencil, rubber, sharpener and some coloured pencils in a **named transparent pencil case** that Y1-Y4 children can keep on their desk for their own use.
- Children should bring in a pencil case (see above) and a **named water bottle**. They can bring in a coat, a snack in a small **named** container and a lunch box if they are having a home packed lunch. Children should **not** bring in another rucksack or bag (Bookbags and the small Firs backpacks are ok)

We have been working very hard to make all the necessary preparations to be ready to welcome back children for full reopening of the school and we can't wait to see all our children again from Monday 8th. We will see you all again very soon!

Kind Regards



Adam J.G. Campbell
Headteacher