



Date 3/9/21

Welcome back to The Firs!

Key information for parents / carers at the start of the new school year.

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope that you and your family had a really enjoyable summer break. I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you all today to welcome all our existing and new children back to The Firs and to give you some important information ahead of the start of term on Monday 6th September.

Arrangements returning to normal.

Many things at The Firs will be returning to normal this term e.g.

- Children will be free to mix with others and the 'bubble' system will no longer be in place
- The arrangements to support social distancing such as one way systems, separated playgrounds etc. are no longer in place
- Children will be able to eat lunch together in the hall
- Staff and parents / carers will no longer be required to wear face coverings on site
- The school will be 'open to visitors' e.g. parents/carers are now very welcome to come into school to visit the school office and to attend meetings etc.

Drop off and pick up arrangements

As we communicated to you at the end of last term, the drop off and pick up times have reverted back to the way they were pre Covid (with the addition of a new one way system) e.g:

Drop off

- Children in **Y1 - Y4 will enter by the main gate** (near Station Road).
- The gate will open at **8:45** and will close at **8:55 am**



- YR children will enter by the normal Pine gate into the outdoor area. The times will also be **8:45 to 8:55 am**.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

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Pick Up - Trialling a new one way system

- Children can be picked up at **3:30 pm**
- **YR parents / carers can pick their children up from the Pine gate** used in the morning. Please do this first before coming through the Station Road gate to pick up older siblings in our one way system.
- **Y1-Y4 parents/carers can enter by the main gate** (like in the morning).
- You can then walk round the school **following the one way system** to pick up your child(ren) from their classroom door. There will be signage to help on the 1st day!

Year 1	Parents walk round and pick up from the Y1 classroom doors.
Beech	Parents walk round and pick up from the door to the Y2 block in the courtyard.
Cedar	Parents walk round (in between the retaining wall and the Y3 block) and pick up from the Cedar fire door.
Elm	Parents walk round and pick up from the door to the Y3 block.
Hazel	Parents walk round (in between the retaining wall and the Y3 block) and pick up from the KS2 playground end of the Y3 corridor.
Year 4	Parents walk round into the courtyard Oak class - parents pick up from hall door to courtyard, walk across courtyard briefly into Y4 corridor and exit out the other doors in the direction of the KS2 playground. Willow class - parents come into the Y4 corridor briefly, pick up their child and exit out the other doors in the direction of the KS2 playground.

- After picking up your child, the signs will direct you through the area, where the stage is and out through the new Y4 garden. (Please be



careful and look after the Y4 garden on your way through!)

- We have conducted some work over the summer to create a permanent safe exit past the Y4 classrooms. See pictures above.

Working to keep everyone safe

Despite the return to 'normal' operations, keeping everyone safe is always our highest priority and we are still following the detailed government guidance regarding the measures that are still in place.

We will continue to:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
 - Children will wash their hands regularly throughout the day
 - We will continue to ensure plentiful supplies of hand sanitizer is available for everyone to use when visiting / using the site.
 - We would be very grateful if your child could bring their own bottle of hand sanitizer.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
 - We will continue to include all frequently touched surfaces as key parts of the cleaning schedule.
 - There will continue to be a cleaning of frequently touched surfaces twice a day
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
 - Teachers will ensure there is good ventilation in all classrooms
 - The school will make use of Co2 monitors if/when we receive them from the DfE
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
 - A flow chart from Central Bedfordshire Council, explaining the new rules, is attached with this letter. (It is also available on our website).

As required by the regulations, we have a plan in place to manage any outbreak which requires the temporary reintroduction of any of the restrictions.

PE kit

- We have decided (following positive feedback from parents and staff) to continue the practice of asking children to come into school in their PE kit when they are doing PE. You will find out when PE is when you get the 'Welcome' letter at the end of the 1st week.
- On colder days, could children please wear their green school fleece over their PE top and if they come in a hoodie please can it be green or black. (Thank you).
- **Holly** - children need to come in PE kit Wednesday and Friday
- **Maple** - children need to come in PE kit Wednesday and Thursday
- **Y2** - children need to come in PE kit Tuesday and Friday
- **Y4** - they will be doing PE on the 1st day and so will need to wear their PE kit on Monday 6th.

School Uniform

When children are dressed smartly in their uniform it really does help them to develop the right mindset and adopt a positive attitude towards their learning. Please help us with this by ensuring:-

- All children should come to school in their school uniform
- No trainers should be worn apart from when it is a PE day
- Black school shoes must be worn with their school uniform
- Hair bands or ribbons must be green or black only
- No nail varnish should be worn

We can't wait to see all our children again and we really look forward to having the children all join us back in school again on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam J.G. Campbell'.

Adam J.G. Campbell
Headteacher