

## **Guidance on returning to Foresters in September 2020**

You will be aware that the Government is expecting all children to return to school in September. In the past few weeks, we have been meeting with staff to plan this.

In its message to schools, the Government states: 'For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19). The curriculum should remain broad and ambitious: all students should continue to be taught a wide range of subjects'. It is important to note that there will be extra focus on the core areas of English and maths in order to begin children catching up on missed learning.

However, the Government guidance makes clear that a 'one size fits all' approach will not work, and schools will need to come up with local solutions for reopening as every setting has different cohort sizes, age groups, facilities and building restrictions.

To keep all children, staff and parents as safe as possible, we will be implementing the following measures:

### **Staggered start and end times to limit mixing**

All classes will have a start and finish time to allow reduced numbers of children and parents in and outside of school. We would ask that as soon as you have dropped your child at the gate that you leave to allow as much social distancing as possible between the adults (and children).

We ask that parents allow their children to walk to the class themselves to limit adults mixing on the school site

Rowan, Cherry, Peach and Apple children can be taken to their class by **one** parent (Ash will be included in this initially as well) where they can be settled and then parents are asked to leave promptly.

Both the main entrance to the school and the side gate will be used for bringing and collecting children and an additional side gate will be used to try and ease any potential congestion.

### **Phase bubbles in school**

Classes will be grouped in phase bubbles linked to their key stage:

Rowan, Cherry and Peach. (EYFS)

Ash, Oak and Apple (KS1)

Willow, Pine and Larch (Lower KS2)

Sycamore, Beech and Maple (Upper KS2)

Staff will be assigned to these bubbles and only work within them to limit mixing.

As much as possible, we will keep these bubbles discreet from each other but there is acceptance from the Government that having brothers and sisters in different bubbles mean that there will be some links and as long as we use 'best endeavours' then this is acceptable.

All non-class based teachers and TAs (with the exception of Mrs Merritt, Mrs Caffrey, the office and myself) will be assigned a bubble for the duration. Mrs Merritt, Mrs Caffrey and I will be assigned to a different bubble in the event of cover required.

### **Playtimes and lunchtimes**

Playtime and lunchtime will be staggered. There will be three sessions for playtime to allow separate bubbles. EYFS will continue with free flow.

Lunchtimes will be staggered and bubbles will eat at different times and no more than two bubbles will be in the playground at any one time. At lunchtime, the playground will be split in two to allow two separate bubbles to play.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to use the pavilion or other areas of the school for lunch clubs and we will reserve certain spaces such as the IT suite and the library for individuals or small groups who need support (from within the same bubble) at lunchtimes.

### **Music and PE**

Music and PE will continue but to avoid mixing Mrs Ralton and Mrs Billin are to be reassigned to a bubble. Teachers and TAs, with the support of Mrs Ralton and Mrs Billin, will teach PE and Music.

Children will not need to change for PE in the autumn term so they do not need to bring a PE kit into school.

### **Limiting the Spread and Communication with Teachers**

One way of limiting the spread of the virus is to limit contact between adults so we are asking parents not to come onto the school site unless absolutely necessary. This means that if children are able, they will leave their parent at the gate and walk to their class. Teachers will bring the children to the gate at the end of the day.

If a parent wants to talk to a teacher they should communicate via email or class Dojo. If a parent wants a meeting with a class teacher then they must contact the office to arrange this.

Again, to limit contact, no parent (or visitor) should enter the school site without permission and the office will only allow parents in if they have a prior appointment. A phone call to the office is best under the current circumstances.

### **Breakfast Club**

Unfortunately we will not be running our breakfast club in September as this will affect the integrity of the bubbles. We will review this each month depending on Government advice. The Magic Breakfast deliveries that have taken place over lockdown will continue whilst breakfast club is closed.

### **Covid-19 Guidelines**

**Government guidelines have made it clear that they don't expect primary school children to social distance within their bubbles but there should be a rigorous focus on hygiene** especially handwashing and catching sneezes (tissues and lidded bins will be available in all classrooms and around the school). All children and adults will be expected to wash their hands when arriving at school, when coming in from outside and as usual

before eating and after using the toilet. Sanitiser will be available in classrooms and around the school as well.

Government guidelines are that children do not need to wear a facemask whilst in school so if your child wears one to come to school, they need to have a sealable bag to store it safely and be able to remove it themselves.

Outside of EYFS and Year 1, resources will not be shared and classrooms will be reorganised to have all children facing the front as per Government advice.

In the EYFS children will free flow inside and out as normal but resources will be cleaned daily or left 72 hours before being reused.

Classrooms and the school will be cleaned daily as before but we have detailed specific areas of focus for the cleaning staff.

### **What happens if my child becomes ill with the virus?**

We will ask the child to self-isolate and engage with the NHS 'track and trace' system which means they must be tested. If the test proves positive, you must tell the school immediately and then they must isolate for seven days. We would then take advice as to what needs to happen next for anyone who may have come into contact with your child. All members of your household will then isolate for 14 days but only need to be tested if they start displaying Covid-19 symptoms.

If the test proves negative then let the school know and your child can return to school.

### **If your child has a medical condition which may affect their attendance**

The Government have said that schooling will be compulsory again in September so if you have any concerns about your children returning due to a medical condition that makes them more vulnerable to Covid-19, then please contact the school for further advice and reassurance. The Local Authority Medical Team and the school nurse will be able offer advice on how your children will be kept safe in school.

### **And Finally...**

Daily online learning will stop in September as children should be in school but teachers will still use the Google Drive to support children's homework. If a child has to self-isolate for either 7 or 14 days then we will use the Google Drive to share work for home learning.

Hopefully the situation in the country will improve quickly and we will be able to ease these measures. We will review either half termly or follow Government advice.

I apologise for the length of this guidance but I believe it is extremely important that parents understand how seriously we are taking the safety of our school community; this is not how Foresters normally runs. I ask for your support and understanding during these difficult times and please feel free to contact me or other members of staff if you have questions or concerns.

Together we will keep your child happy, socialising and learning at school

Mr Spring