

Fairhouse Primary School
Long Riding, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1QP
Head Teacher: Mrs K Hamilton
Deputy Head: Mr M Davie



23 February 2021

Dear families

For those of you who have been watching the news and following the Prime Minister's announcements, you will know that all schools in England will be fully open to all children for face to face education. I know many of you will be thrilled to hear this news but I also understand that you may be apprehensive about how this will look and will be wanting to know what protective measures we will be taking. The protective measures we had in place in the autumn term will remain in place from 8th March until further notice.

As a school, we have followed Government guidance which includes the following document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963541/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

Supporting pupils to return

We recognise that this has been a very difficult time for families and for the children. Many children will have suffered socially as well as academically. This can affect their mental health in all sorts of ways. It can increase anxieties and make the return to school from a long break very difficult. We know this is likely and we will do all we can to support your child. We will be organising more PSHE lessons (personal, social and health education). This may include circle time, additional story time, art work, PE etc. We may include additional play times to help them through a long day of learning. Where a return to school for an individual may be even more difficult than we had hoped, we have a fantastic team of staff who are here to help – and we are here to help your child and yourselves as parents as it is likely to be a tricky time for everyone – parents included! We are here to listen and to help you and your child as much as we can to make this a positive experience and to begin to rebuild where we left off. If we can help in any way, please let us know. If you feel there is something we need to know about your child and how they have coped over the last few months, it is important that we are aware so that we can do all we can to support them. You can get in touch with us through studybugs or by giving us a call or you can speak to your child's class teacher during the weekly call. If you prefer, you can ask to speak to a member of the inclusion team who will get back to you as soon as they can if they are not available.

Below is some information that may be useful in understanding what the return to school might look like and how it will be organised.

Drop off

We are continuing with our extended drop off times of 8.40 – 9.00 am. The school gates will open at 8.40 am and close promptly at 9.00 am (rather than 8.50 am). This gives parents and pupils more time to get through the school gates, reducing congestion. Reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils will enter school via the key stage 1 playground gate be dropped off to their classroom doors (Miss Flack's class (1R) will be dropped off at the front dining hall entrance).

Telephone: 01268 523 960

E-mail: enquiries@fairhouse-pri.essex.sch.uk

Web: www.fairhouseprimaryschool.co.uk



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All pupils in key stage 2 will enter through the front key stage 2 gate and will be dropped at the key stage 2 side gate. Parents will not be permitted from this point. Pupils will walk themselves round to the side doors where staff will support them in making their way to their classrooms.

Any pupils who arrive after 9.00 am will have to enter through the main office, where they will be registered as late.

Collection:

In order to reduce congregations at collection time at the end of the day, we will have the following finish times:

- Reception to be collected from their classroom doors at 2.50 pm.
- Year 1 to be collected from the front key stage 1 playground. They will be brought out of the front of the school (KS1 dining hall) to parents for a 3.00 pm pick up.
- Year 2 will be collected from the front playground where they will be brought to the parents from the side entrance gate to be collected at 3.10 pm.
- Finish time for key stage 2 pupils will be 3.15 pm.
- Year 3 and 4 children will be brought out to parents on to the back key stage 2 playground at 3.15 pm.
- Year 5 and 6 children will be brought out to parents on the side key stage 2 playground at 3.15 pm

To summarise collection times:

Reception:	2.50 pm (from classroom doors)
Year 1:	3.00 pm (from Dining Hall entrance in KS1 playground)
Year 2:	3.10 pm (from KS1 playground)
Year 3 and 4:	3.15 pm (from rear KS2 playground)
Year 5 and 6:	3.15 pm (from side KS2 playground)

Collection/drop off:

It is really important to ensure that we limit the number of people on our site, especially at collection and drop off times. We ask, therefore, that you **limit the drop off/collection to just ONE adult**. If at all possible, other siblings should be left at home. Please do not bring friends or relatives with you so that we can keep our numbers on site as low as possible. We also ask that you do not congregate/mix with friend/other parents on site. Please try and keep a 2M distance from each other while you wait to collect/drop off.

Face coverings:

All parents/carers over the age of 11 will be expected to wear a face covering on site of the school. This includes in the playground. This measure is in place to protect not just yourselves but the others around you. IF you feel you are exempt from wearing a face covering and you are not able to do so, please let us

know so that we can recognise this - you will be asked to give the reason why you are not wearing a face covering. Children aged 11 or under do not need to wear face coverings in primary school. School staff will be wearing face coverings when they walk around the school and in communal areas outside of their classroom/work spaces, including in outside spaces. Staff will not be expected to wear face coverings in the classrooms or when working with children. Staff will not be expected to wear face coverings whilst in their usual working space e.g. offices. Staff in the front office will not be expected to wear a face covering whilst in their office.

Curriculum:

- The full curriculum will be taught
- Emphasis will be on reading (including phonics), writing and maths
- PE, where possible, will be taught outside.
- The additional PSHE lesson will focus on transitioning back to school and rebuilding relationships
- Priority will be given to PSHE as well as the core subjects. Where possible, reading, maths and writing will be used in topic lessons to support the catch up of those areas of learning.
- Gaps will be identified with baseline tests and interventions used to address these gaps

Classrooms:

- Desks will be forward facing in Year 2 and in key stage 2
- Key Stage 2 children have their own pencil case with essential equipment in
- Windows will be open for ventilation

Toilets:

- Each "bubble" will be allocated toilets to use.

Break times and lunchtimes:

- Each year group will have their own allocated space and time for play and lunch
- Children are not to mix outside of their own year group
- Each "bubble" will have their own set of play equipment that can be shared between the bubble but not between other bubbles/groups unless it is fully sanitised between groups.
- Children and adults should ensure good hand hygiene and wash their hands before and after eating
- Children are not to move around the hall during lunchtime
- Children will eat in their year groups in the hall or dining space; some may be requested to eat packed lunch in their classrooms
- Children will have a set "eating time" and a set "playtime" during the lunch period
- Children will only be able to access their own play areas at the set time
- Children should bring their own water bottle so they have access to water at any point needed
- Purchased dinners to be taken to the children at the table in the dining hall so children do not queue up for lunch

- The school will continue to provide 4 lunch options but there will only be one desert option each day
- Spaces will be sanitised before next year group come and sit for lunch
- Every year group/bubble will have their own first aider and first aid kit.

Cleaning and sanitising:

- There are sinks in each classroom with soap and paper towels available. There are also hand-sanitising points on entry to every classroom and located around the school.
- Increased, regular cleaning of touch points (door handles, taps, light switches and stair handrails)
- Staff have access to cleaning products in the classrooms for additional and regular cleaning of surfaces
- Additional cleaning of toilets – especially where shared with another year group (KS2)

Additional hygiene:

- Hands will be washed or sanitised upon entry to school, before exiting the classroom and on re-entering the classroom. They will also be washed or sanitised, before break, before lunch and after lunch.
- Hands will be sanitized before home time
- Tissues will be kept in every classroom and the theme will be “catch it, bin it, kill it” in every classroom
- Lidded bins in every classroom

Uniform

All pupils will be expected to wear the full school uniform:

- Grey trousers/skirt/shorts (**no leggings or jogging bottoms**). Black bottoms may still be worn but are being phased out within this school year
- White polo shirt or shirt/blouse
- Bottle green jumper or cardigan
- Black school shoes or all-black trainers (including black soles – no logos or colouring)
- Natural hair colour – no coloured hair.

A number of on-line retailers are available for you to purchase grey trousers/skirts, white polo shirts and bottle green jumpers or cardigans and blacks shoes. Supermarkets often sell of these items too.

If you are really struggling with uniform, then please do get in touch and we will see what we have in the way of spares that may help you out.

Attendance

Attendance to school is compulsory. Any absence must be authorised. All illnesses must be reported on the first and subsequent morning of absence via studybugs. Any symptoms that relate to coronavirus must be reported to the school office and the pupil is to stay at home for at least 10 days from the onset of the symptoms. A test must be sourced to determine whether the infection is coronavirus. A child may only come back to school if the test proves negative or after 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If any member of your household develops symptoms of coronavirus, your child and your household must isolate from 10 days from the onset of the symptoms. You must inform the school immediately if either your child or a member of your household has symptoms or tests positive for coronavirus. The school will follow up any absences that need further discussion.

Breakfast club

Breakfast club will be available from 8th March. This must be pre-booked in advance through Clubbly and there are limited spaces due to the need for distancing and keeping children in groups. Breakfast club will run from 8.00 am until 8.40 am and will cost £1.50 per child per day. **Last entrance for breakfast club will be 8.15 am.** www.clubbly.co.uk

After school clubs

We will be looking at a way that we can offer after school catch-up/homework clubs but these will be organised in year groups (on different days) in order to keep children safely within their bubbles. Further information will follow. These will not begin before 15th March at the very earliest. Again, any clubs will be pre-booked in advance through Clubbly. www.clubbly.co.uk

Behaviour expectations

We have revised our behaviour policy to ensure that behaviour at school keeps the children and adults safe during this time. We must be extra cautious where behaviour may put others at risk by not following or compromising safety guidance. The information on this can be found in our behaviour policy which is available on our school website: www.fairhouseprimaryschool.co.uk . The specific guidance related to expectations of behaviour during this period of extra safety (Covid) are on the website too.

Response to concerns over health of child or adult (in relation to coronavirus)

Symptoms of the virus may include one or many of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in school, they must be sent home. They will be isolated in a room which can be disinfected afterwards. Any staff dealing with the infected person will wear PPE.

Suspected case or symptoms

If a child or staff member at home begins to feel unwell with symptoms of covid, the parents or staff member must report this to the school immediately and seek a test for their child/themselves. Anyone displaying symptoms must stay home and isolate for 10 days unless they are tested negative for covid 19.

If anyone in the household is unwell with symptoms, they must seek a test. All members of the household must stay home and isolate unless the person in their household tests negative. If the member of their household tests positive, the whole household must continue to isolate for 10 days from the onset of the person's symptoms or, if asymptomatic, for 10 days from the result of the positive test. The link for organising a test is below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

Confirmed cases of Covid-19

- If a test is confirmed positive for a child who has been attending school or for a member of staff, the bubble and staff within it must isolate for 10 days from the last day of contact with the infected person.
- The child or member of staff who was tested positive must isolate at home for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms.
- If a child or a member of staff lives with someone who tests positive, they must isolate for 10 days from the onset of the infected person's symptoms. Other children/staff in that bubble do not need to isolate unless the child or member of staff themselves are confirmed positive through testing.

Questions and answers:

Is it compulsory for my child to attend school?

Yes it is compulsory for your child to attend school. If you have any concerns about your child's return that you wish to discuss please call the school office to arrange a conversation with the inclusion team as soon as possible.

Will my child need a PE kit?

Yes your child will still need a PE kit. This must be kept in school so it is accessible for whenever PE will take place. Keeping it in school also helps reduce transmission between home and school.

What will my child be learning?

Your child will be partaking in all activities. We will be prioritising reading, writing, maths, PSHE and PE to begin with but we will be teaching all subjects within a full curriculum. We will continue to work through our engaging and creative curriculum themes. Where needed, some children may receive additional interventions throughout the day to help close gaps and help catch up on learning. Much of the learning taking place in lessons will take account of what has been missed and help children to move forward at a pace that is sensible and meets their needs.

Does my child need their own pencil case and stationery?

No, your child will be provided with their own pencil and equipment. Children in Key stage 2 will be provided with a pencil case that will be kept in school.

Will my child receive reading books?

Yes. Children will all receive reading books weekly. These will only be changed weekly. Younger children reading shorter books can re-read books to develop fluency. These children will be given 2 books a week. Older children will be given a reading book which they will be responsible for changing at given times.

Does my child need a water bottle?

Yes. It is very important that your child comes to school with their own water bottle which is clearly labelled with their own name. The water fountains will NOT be in use for the children. Please ensure these are washed and refilled daily.

Can my child bring in a packed lunch?

Yes, your child can bring in their own packed lunch if they do not wish to have school dinner.

Can my child bring a school bag?

Yes. Please be mindful of the sizes of school bags as they do not need to bring much to and from school. Their bag should only be needed to transport their reading book, their reading log, their water bottle and their lunch on a daily basis.

Will my child get to play with their friend?

The children will still get play time and lunch time in their year group bubble. This means that they can play at lunch and playtimes with anyone in their own year group whether they are in their class or the other year group class. Unfortunately, we cannot mix children from different year groups at the moment.

What should I do if my child is ill?

If your child has ANY symptoms of Covid-19, then you must let us know immediately and arrange a Covid test. Your child cannot return to school for 10 days unless the test proves to be negative. If the test is positive for Covid, you must inform us immediately.

If your child is unwell with any other symptoms (not related to covid) and will not attending school, please report your child's absence on each day of their absence via the studybugs app.

Can I speak to my child's teacher if I need to?

Yes you can. This is best done in the playground where there is fresh air. If you need to have a more personal/private conversation then you should contact the school and make arrangements/an appointment to speak with the class teacher via telephone or to arrange a meeting in school. Alternatively you can message in via studybugs and we will pass the message on to the class teacher to contact you. Any parent entering school will need to wear a face covering.

If you still have a question or concern that you feel is not answered in this information, please do contact us and we will do our best to get back to you. You can contact us via the studybugs app or through emailing enquiries@fairhouse-pri.essex.sch.uk . Alternatively, you can call the school office on 01268 523960. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you all on 8th March .

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hamilton

Headteacher