

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



3 September 2020

Dear families

From 7th September, we will be fully open for all pupils across the school. I understand that some of you may be apprehensive about how this will look and will be wanting to know what protective measures we will be taking.

I know I wrote to you all at the end of July, but that seems like quite a long time ago now and I wanted to ensure that the information I shared is fresh in your minds.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

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 mindfulness, yoga, 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. 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 have extended the drop off times to 8.40 – 9.00 am. The school gates will now 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

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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).

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)

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
- The curriculum for year 1 will be transitional from Early Years to year 1, ensuring they still have time and space to learn through play and work towards the Early Learning Goals the best we can. This

will support their transition to more formal lessons and being able to sit at a table in a focussed activity for a longer period of time.

Classrooms:

- Desks will be forward facing in Year 2 and in key stage 2
- Key Stage 2 children will be given pencil case with essential equipment in
- Windows will be open for ventilation
- Air conditioning will not be used whilst children are in the room.

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
- 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 this year but are being phased out within the 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.

Face masks

Young children (below the age of 12) should not wear face coverings within school. This is in accordance with the Government guidelines. Children will be kept within bubbles and the biggest preventative strategy is handwashing. Staff do not need to wear face coverings when teaching or moving around the school but they may wish to wear them in busy areas or where there is a higher number of adults present.

Any parent entering the school building will be required to wear a face mask/face covering.

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 before the 7 days if the test proves negative. The school will follow up any absences that need further discussion.

Breakfast club

Breakfast club will be available from 14th September. 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 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 14th September 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 child's family is unwell with symptoms, they must seek a test. The child or the staff member can still attend school unless the person in their household tests positive. If the member of their household tests positive, the household member should be isolated as best as possible from the rest of the household and the rest of the household isolate for 14 days.

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 14 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 14 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 from year 1 and above 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 01268523960. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you all on 7th September.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hamilton

Headteacher

