

27th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding over the past few weeks. I understand that this unprecedented situation has been difficult for many families. Thank you also to the many families who filled in our return to school survey. It is still incredibly difficult for you all and we know that many of you have had to make tricky decisions for your family. We understand completely how hard these decisions have been.

Thank you also for the many messages of support that the school has received. I know you will want to join me in thanking the staff at Foxmoor who have continued to be in school regularly to provide support for the children of key workers and vulnerable children.

The entire school staff and governors have been working extremely hard in an attempt to get the school ready to welcome more children back when it is safe to do so. We are basing all decisions on the recent extensive guidance issued by the government.

Our primary aim at Foxmoor is to keep the children, staff and wider school community safe. As I am sure you will appreciate, this is a huge undertaking and there is much to think about and put into place fully before we can safely open the school to more children. We are spending time carefully planning increased cleaning regimes, organisation of classrooms, procedures for staggered break and lunchtimes and procedures for if a child or member of staff were to display Covid-19 symptoms during the school day. All of these procedures are having to be underpinned by a comprehensive risk assessment. At all times, we want to ensure that Foxmoor is safe for all who attend but also for the children to feel comfortable on their return after their time away from the school environment.

I know that you will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement last weekend that schools can accept more children on Monday 1st June 2020 for a phased return for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. However, Boris Johnson acknowledged that for a variety of reasons, not all schools will be in a position to accept more children from this date. Following a meeting of the Governing Body on the evening of Tuesday 26th May 2020, the decision has been taken to postpone opening Foxmoor up to more children. The reason for this postponement is to allow for further planning with regard to safety measures. As stated previously, the safety of all members of the Foxmoor community is paramount and we will not rush to accept more children unless we can confidently say that all risks can be managed at an acceptable level.

We are planning to be able to accept children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from Monday 8th June 2020 as well as continuing to provide provision of Key worker and vulnerable children. However, this is not a set date and the school will only open to more children when we can confidently say that all risks have been minimised to an acceptable level. I would like to reassure parents and carers who are currently accessing provision that, due to relatively low numbers, the school is currently safe for your child to attend.

Below this letter you will find the procedures that we have put in place in order to accept more children into school. It is vitally important that all parents and carers read and understand these procedures to ensure that Foxmoor reopens in the safest possible way. I know there will be many more questions so we have included a frequently asked questions section. Please contact the school office if you have any further questions.

I will keep you updated as to any further changes as soon as possible but by 3rd June 2020 at the latest.

Kind regards

Richard Bridgewater
Headteacher

This document outlines Foxmoor Primary School's plan for a phased reopening of school on Monday 8th June 2020 for **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children as well as continuing to provide provision for key worker and vulnerable children in years 2 to 5.**

It is vital that **all parents** read, understand and adhere to the plans below.

All plans have been prepared following guidance issued by the government. The plans will be kept under constant review in conjunction with evolving government and local authority guidance.

These plans are based on no staff sickness. If staff start to become ill then we reserve the right to alter these plans. This could mean partial closure or even full closure of the school. If the school have to make adjustments to whom provision can be offered to, this will be done in line with government guidance. **The guidance states that priority should be given to Key worker children and Reception and Year 1 children.** While we will endeavour to give parents and carers as much notice as possible the school may need to be closed at short notice. Any information will initially be sent via our text message service. It is vital the school office have your most up to date contact details.

We know that many parents will have questions they will want to ask. We have added a frequently asked questions section at the end of this document and hope that this will address many of these questions. If they do not then please feel free to contact the school office via email admin@foxmoor.gloucs.sch.uk

Can I ask all parents to please talk through these procedures with their child/children and ensure that they understand that school will feel very different when they come back compared to when they were last in school.

Class Group Bubbles

Class group bubbles of no more than 15 children will be organised. This means that some children will be taught in different rooms to where they would normally be and by a different adult to their normal class teacher. Please be aware that your child/children may not be in a bubble with their usual friends. The rationale for bubbles is to limit social contact of children and staff, keeping exposure to a minimum. Arrival and collection times at school, break times and lunchtimes will all be staggered. More details of staggered arrival and collection times can be found below.

Opening Hours

From Monday 8th June the school will open Monday to Thursday for core hours but on **Friday the school will close after the morning session.** All children, including those of key workers, will need to be collected at the allocated time. The reason school will be closed on Friday afternoons is to allow for deep cleaning to be carried out ready for the following week and to provide teaching staff with statutory planning, preparation and assessment time.

Staggered Start Times

To keep the numbers of parents and children at the gate to a minimum, the guidance from the government states that we must implement staggered start and finish times. It is essential that **all children arrive and are collected on time.**

If your child/children arrive late then you may have to wait outside the school gates until 9.30am for them to be admitted to school. Children will need to be supervised at the gate by their parent and maintain social distancing at all times.

All children should be brought to school by **one adult only**. Ideally this will include Year 6 children. If any Year 6 parents would like their child to walk to or from school on their own, then they must inform the school prior to Friday 5th June by emailing admin@foxmoor.gloucs.sch.uk No child will be allowed to walk home alone unless the school have received prior permission.

If any Year 6 child walks to or from school it is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that their child/children adheres to social distancing rules.

Monday to Thursday

Year 6 children will arrive at 8.45am and will need to be collected at 2.45pm.

Year 1 children will arrive at 9.00 am and will need to be collected at 3.00pm.

Reception children will arrive at 9.15am and will be collected at 3.15pm.

Key worker's children from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will arrive at 9.00 am and will be collected at 3.15pm.

Friday

Year 6 children will arrive at 8.45am and will need to be collected at 12.15pm.

Year 1 children will arrive at 9.00 am and will need to be collected at 12.30pm.

Reception children will arrive at 9.15am and will be collected at 12.45pm.

Key worker's children from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will arrive at 9.00 am and will be collected at 12.30pm.

Key worker's children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 must arrive and be collected with their year group. We understand that this will be inconvenient for some key worker parents where they have additional children in Year 2 to 5. However, the guidance is very clear that mixing between bubbles is not allowed.

All parents will need to ensure that they and their children maintain social distancing when waiting at the gate.

Little Foxes Nursery

Little Foxes Nursery will be open 9.30am - 3.30pm Monday - Thursday.

Parents will need to use the top gate and wait on the grass on the right hand side outside Little Foxes tunnel. **NO-ONE** is to enter or wait in the tunnel, Little Foxes staff will come out to collect the children in the morning and will bring the children out ready for pick up.

It is parents' responsibility to social distance whilst waiting and only 1 member of family to drop off and pick up.

Hygiene and Cleaning

The children will wash their hands regularly throughout the day. This will be supervised by an adult. Tables, door handles, sinks and toilet areas will be cleaned periodically throughout the day and at the end of each day. Deep cleaning will be carried out on Friday afternoons. Where possible, bubbles will be allocated different bathrooms to minimize bottle necks at these pinch points.

Classroom Set Up

No bubble will have any more than 15 children. Where room layout and dimensions allow, desks will be spaced so that children are sat 2m apart. Children will be allocated a desk that they sit at each day. Children will work at their allocated desk on an individual basis. While every effort will be made, parents need to be aware that the school cannot guarantee social distancing at all times within each bubble. This particularly applies to our younger children.

Children will take break and lunchtimes with the children in their bubble and bubbles will not mix. Break times and lunchtimes will be outside as much as possible. The children will not have access to their normal cloakroom so please do not send children in with a rucksack.

Curriculum

There will be changes to the taught curriculum and it will not be possible to teach all primary subjects. This is due to the limit the guidance places on the use of physical resources and the necessity to maintain social distancing. Children will work individually at their allocated desk and they will only be given verbal feedback. If your child usually has 1:1 support, this will not be possible due to social distancing guidance. No school resources will be sent home. This includes reading books. This is because coronavirus can stay active on surfaces for up to 72 hours. Apart from lunch boxes, drinks bottles and clothing, no personal items should be brought into school from home.

Lunches

Universal Free School Meals will be available Monday to Thursday for children in Reception and Year 1. If your child is entitled to benefit based free school meals then these will be available Monday to Thursday. **You will need to inform the office prior to Monday 8th June if you require free school meals.** All other children will need a packed lunch daily and a drinks bottle. We have been advised that there will be no fruit delivery for Reception and KS1 children so all children will need to bring in a fruit snack.

Uniform

We are not expecting children to wear school uniform. Where possible, children should come in clean clothes each day. Please ensure that your child wears sensible shoes that are suitable for outdoor activities. They will need to bring a coat on rainy days and a sun hat when necessary. Sun cream must be applied at home.

Scooters and Bikes

We ask that children do not bring bikes and scooters to school. This is to reduce the risk of children from different bubbles coming into contact with each other by the bike racks.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the school be open to all Children on 8th June 2020?

No. In the first instance schools have been asked to open for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children alongside key worker's children from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Will my child be taught by their usual class teacher or teaching assistant?

Not necessarily. In order for us to reduce bubble sizes to below 15, your child may be taught by a different adult.

Will my child be taught in their usual classroom?

Not necessarily. In order for us to reduce bubble sizes to below 15, your child may be taught in a different classroom.

Will I be able to choose which children my child will be with?

No. Staff will allocate children to bubbles. This will be based on the class teacher's knowledge of the children.

Do I have to send my child to school?

No. The government have made it clear that while they are encouraging parents to send their child/children to school, at this time it remains parental choice.

Will I be fined if I do not send my child to school?

No. The government have made it clear that, for the final half term of this school year, parents will not be issued with fines if their child/children do not attend school.

If I send my child to school and then change my mind, can I keep my child at home?

Yes. It is parental choice whether to send their child/children to school. However, we would expect parents to inform the school as soon as possible.

If I do not send my child to school initially, can I change my mind?

Yes. In these circumstances, please contact the school office.

Can I send my child to school on a part-time basis?

Yes. While we feel it would be more beneficial to send your child to school full time, parents can send their child/children to school part time. However, we will not be able to accept children for part days.

Will my child be taught everything that was taught before schools closed?

No. The guidance clearly states that, 'Education settings still have the flexibility to provide support and education to children and young people attending school in the way they see fit during this time'. We will prioritise reading, writing, maths and outdoor learning but we may teach some of the other subjects.

Will my child be able to bring reading books home?

No. Children will have access to books in school but no books will be sent home.

Will I be able to come into school to speak to the office staff?

No. Visits to school will be strictly by appointment only. Please call the office on 01453 757251 to make an appointment.

Will there be the usual whole school activities that normally take place in the summer term?

No. Whilst government social distancing measures are in place, we will not be able to run events such as the Key Stage 2 production, Sports Day, Leavers' Assembly or school photographs.

Will there be breakfast and after-school provision?

No. The government have made it clear that children should be placed in specific bubbles and that bubbles should not mix either during the school day or before or after school.

Can my child bring their rucksack to school?

No. We need to minimize the number of items being brought into school from home. The only thing that children will need is a lunch box, drinks bottle, waterproof coat and a sun hat when necessary.

Will children be sharing pencils and pens?

No. School has purchased a pencil case, pencils and pens for each child. These will remain on the child's allocated desk.

Will the children have access to the computer suite?

No. This will limit the chance of cross contamination between bubbles.

Will teachers be setting work online for the children who are not attending school?

Parents should continue to access the online resources, which are collated on the school website. The government have set up the Oak National Academy and recommend that parents access lessons on this site if their child/children are not attending school.

Does my child need to wear a face mask in school?

No. The guidance clearly states that no one will need to wear face masks in school other than in circumstances where a child or adult becomes ill with Covid-19 symptoms. The school has purchased items of PPE to use in these circumstances.

Can I send sun cream into school?

No. Please apply sun cream before school when necessary.

What will happen if my child becomes ill during the school day?

Normal procedures will apply if a child becomes generally unwell during the school day.

We have set up a specific room for children that present with Covid-19 symptoms. A designated adult will accompany children to the room. Parents will be contacted and the child will need to be collected as soon as possible. Parents will be informed of the procedures that will need to be followed on collection.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in my child's school?

The guidance is very clear on procedures in these circumstances and **ALL** parents must adhere to them. See guidance below:

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus. Please see NHS website for testing information.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their bubble within their school should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the child or young person's cohort or in the wider education or childcare setting, Public Health England's local Health Protection Teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children and young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure.

Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

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