

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is almost time for your children to return to school and I would like to reassure you that staff have been working incredibly hard to ensure school is a safe environment for your child, while remaining friendly, welcoming and a place they want to be.

Our new Reception and Nursery children will be starting school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September when they will be welcomed by the Early Years team who are very excited to start learning with them.

All other children will return to school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and will spend the remainder of this week with the teacher they were with last year. This will give the staff who know them best chance to informally assess any impact of lockdown on their learning and emotional well-being, ensuring their new teacher will be able to meet their needs straight away. It will also give children the chance to say a proper goodbye to their old teacher and class as lockdown prevented this from happening.

Children will move into their new class on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Parents will be informed via Class Dojo who the new class teacher will be next week. We do have a couple of staffing changes; Mrs Ottewell decided to take early retirement at the end of the last academic year and Mrs Moore has decided to start her maternity leave early so will not be returning in September. However, she is on the end of the phone if we need her! We are looking forward to welcoming Miss Goodhead to teach Mrs Moore's class. We are also welcoming back Miss Sheldon who is returning from maternity leave and is very excited to be back .

We have been awaiting Ofsted and were looking forward to our inspection as we were confident they would recognise the huge improvements in the school since our last inspection. Sadly, this will now

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Firs Primary School, Raven Street, Derby DE22 3WA

be delayed. However, Ofsted may visit this term to assess how well the children have settled into school following lockdown. We will keep you informed if this happens.

Practical information for returning to school;

- We request that any parent/carer or visitor who comes onto the school premises, be it the playground or the entrance hall, wears a face covering. This is to protect yourselves, your children and our staff. While in school, face coverings will not be worn by children or staff so we wish to ensure they are kept as safe as possible. If you do not have a face covering, staff will be unable to speak with you.
- Hand sanitizers will be available on the playground and in the entrance hall. Please use these, or your own, when you come onto school premises.
- We will only permit children onto the playground in the mornings – parents cannot come onto the playground. Staff will be available on the gates to welcome the children. Please make sure you drop your children off at school between 8.30am and 8.55am. Toast will be served on the playground and children can start going into the classrooms from 8.45am as usual.
- It is vitally important you are not late. We will only be allowing one person in the entrance hall at a time meaning late comers could be waiting a long time on the street to be admitted into school.
- Children should be in school uniform every day. On PE days they may come to school in PE kits, though please make sure these are appropriate for the weather.
- Children will be bringing home reading books and home learning so can bring a small book bag to school to transport these items.
- We will be providing hot school dinners as usual. If you pay for school dinners, please send dinner money in with your children and this will be collected by the teacher and sent to the office.

End of the day arrangements:

- School will end at 3.30pm for all children and we will aim to open gates at 3.25pm. Please respects our neighbours and do not come too early.

- Parents/carers are responsible for maintaining their own social distancing and keeping themselves safe. Hand sanitizer should be used and face coverings should be worn on the playground, just as would be expected in a shop.
- There will be visible barriers showing where parents should stand – please do not cross these barriers. Staff will bring children out behind these barriers and release children to their parents from here. If you need to speak to a teacher, please contact them via Class Dojo or telephone school.
- No school age child from a different school is allowed to collect siblings at the moment, it must be a parent or other adult.
- Only one adult per family should come onto the school playground as we have a lot of children and limited space.
- Please leave school through the nearest gate as soon as you have collected your child from the teacher and do not spend time socialising on the playground.
- Currently, we are not in a position to offer after school clubs so all children will need to be collected promptly at 3.30pm.
- The gates are potential bottlenecks at the school – please be mindful of this and be patient to ensure we are all kept safe and well.

We understand that there are many rules and regulations for parents to follow but the health and safety of your children and staff is of paramount importance. We will constantly review our procedures in line with government guidance and will keep you informed via text. Please ensure the school office has your most recent contact details if they have changed over the summer.

Thankyou in anticipation of your support in helping us maintain a safe and healthy environment for our school community.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Paula Martin

Headteacher