

# ***FARINGDON INFANT SCHOOL***

*Faringdon Academy of Schools*

e-mail: [office@fis.faringdonlearningtrust.org](mailto:office@fis.faringdonlearningtrust.org)

website: [www.faringdoninfantschool.co.uk](http://www.faringdoninfantschool.co.uk)

*Our Vision for FIS –*

*Future of Faringdon; Including all; Supporting everyone to grow*

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Return to School – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

We can't wait to have all the children back with us and are asking for your support to make this as successful as possible. As you will be aware, we will be fully open to all children in all year groups from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will be continuing to work within our extensive risk assessment and with all the measures in place to ensure that the whole of our school community can remain as safe as possible. I am writing today to remind you about some of these measures, in order to help you and your child/ren feel as confident as possible about coming to school. I am also writing to ask for your support with those measures that depend upon all of us working together and sharing our social responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID 19.

### **When your child is in school ...**

- We will be continually encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene with frequent handwashing (including on arrival to school, after using the toilet and before eating or drinking). Please support them to remember why this is so important if they have not been in school since December.
- We will be maintaining class 'bubbles'. This means that the only people that your child will be in direct contact with during the school day are the children in their own class and the staff teaching their class.
- We will still not be moving children around the school site. Learning and play will take place in their own classroom and in outdoor spaces on a rota basis so that the class does not come into contact with another class.
- Hot school lunches will be available daily, made fresh each day in our kitchen and delivered to classrooms so that children do not have to mix in a busy space in the hall. A small number of classes will be using the Hall for their lunches without mixing bubbles.
- We will not be joining together for Assemblies or events where children from across the school come together.
- PE will take place on an allocated day (this will be the same day as before Christmas and teaching staff will remind you of this) and your child should wear their PE kit all day on that day (NOT keep PE kit in school and change in school). Please therefore keep PE kits at home.
- Your child's classroom has been organised to create the safest possible environment. In the classes for the older children this includes tables being organised so that children are not facing one another. In Reception and Nursery classes this includes removing some resources to give space, creating areas for play and making maximum use of the outside. In all classes this includes removing excess soft furnishings and toys which cannot be easily cleaned.

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- We will be continuing with our enhanced cleaning regime, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces and toilets during the school day. Toys will be cleaned in sterilising fluid and will not be shared between classes.
- Playtimes and Lunchtimes are staggered so that children can make use of the outdoors without overcrowding.
- The trim trail and outdoor climbing equipment remain out of use in order to avoid transmission between groups. Please remember this when arriving at or leaving school.
- Reading books used in school or taken home will be quarantined for at least 72 hours between uses so that they cannot harbour germs.
- We will not be inviting visitors into school or going out of school on trips or visits until it is considered safe to do so. Essential visitors to the site (such as educational professionals supporting children with SEND, or contractors undertaking essential compliance checks/ maintenance) will be subject to a COVID 19 questionnaire and will not work in classrooms.
- Between 8<sup>th</sup> March and the Easter break, all children will have the following built into their daily timetable to support their return.
  - A period of physical activity
  - A focus on one or more of the learning muscles
  - Some direct teaching about wellbeing and self-regulation
  - Dedicated reading and book talk time

We will also be taking time to evaluate children's learning so that we can continue to support them from their new starting points.

## What we need you to do ...

- Arrival and departure from school will once again be staggered and spread across different entry points in order to avoid excess congestion. The times and places are as before Christmas but are listed below to remind you.
- **It is crucially important that drop off and pick-up times are not used for socialising and that parents and carers maintain 2 metres distance from others outside their own family or support bubble.**

### Morning Arrivals

**8.40 – 8.50 am** Cherry, Willow and Maple Classes arrive via the school car park (on foot only) where you will see staff to meet and collect your children via different access points.

**8.40 – 8.50 am** Rowan Class arrive via Canada Lane gate and meet staff to take your child to class via the wooden gate on the Canada Lane playground.

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**8.55 – 9.05 am Holly and Chestnut Classes arrive via the school car park (on foot only)** where you will see staff to meet your child or show you where to take them.

**8.55 – 9.05 am Apple and Hazel Classes arrive via Canada Lane gate.** Hazel Class will go to class through the wooden gate on the Canada Lane playground and Apple Class will be directed around the building to meet their staff on the main playground.

**In all cases, please arrive ONLY within the allocated time slot and as far as possible please could we ask that only one adult accompany children to minimise the numbers of people in each space.**

### **Afternoon Pick Ups**

**2.50 pm Cherry, Willow and Maple Classes pick up via the car park,** at the collection points (you will have seen where these are at drop off).

**2.50pm Rowan Class pick up via Canada Lane gate.**

**3.05 pm Holly and Chestnut classes pick up via the car park** at the collection points (you will have seen where these are at drop off).

**3.05 pm Apple and Hazel Classes pick up via the Canada Lane gate** (Hazel Class parents wait in the Canada Lane playground and Apple Class parents walk around to the main playground where you dropped off).

- Please DO NOT attempt to drive into, or park in the school car park. This will now be a pedestrian arrival point for at least 2 classes at any time and will not be open for movement of any vehicles between 8.35am and 9.05am at least.
- For safety, Parents and Carers will not be able to come into school or beyond the meeting points where your child's teachers will meet them to take them indoors. You may come onto the Canada Lane playground (Hazel, Apple and Rowan classes only), or into the car park (Chestnut, Holly, Cherry, Maple and Willow). Sunflower Nursery parents may enter the site via the Nursery gate and follow the path round to the Sunflower Nursery garden.
- Where possible, please could only one adult bring your child to school, to help us avoid overcrowding. If bringing siblings is unavoidable, please ensure they walk alongside you and respect the spaces, signage and social distancing expectations. Please leave the school site quickly after dropping off.
- Please ensure that you wear a face covering at all times on our school site, unless you are exempt for medical reasons.
- If your child comes to school via bike or scooter and you wish to leave this at school during the day, please DO NOT send your child to the communal bike and scooter racks. They should join their class group and their teacher will advise them where the safe space for their class to park scooters and bikes will be.
- Children with long hair should wear their hair tied back. Staff will do the same.

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- Please avoid jewellery and accessories which may be taken off and on and played with/ left lying around.
- Children should wear a clean set of school uniform to school every day. We strongly suggest that when children arrive home, their clothes are washed, and they bath or shower straight away. Staff are also following this guidance.
- Please try to choose school shoes which DO NOT have shoelaces. The close contact needed to re-tie these puts the children and staff at increased risk. Please also work with your child on learning to manage coat or clothing fastenings wherever possible.
- Children should bring the minimum number of items to school, to avoid risk of contamination. **Water bottles are needed every day** and will be wiped down on arrival at school. A coat or sunhat may be needed, depending upon the weather. Your child will need their book bag for their reading book. Please DO NOT send your child with toys, books or other personal items.
- **It remains absolutely imperative that if your child, or any one in your household begins to show any symptom of COVID 19, you must not bring your child to school.** If this should happen, please telephone to inform us as soon as possible so that we can review everyone's safety. In the event that anyone on site begins to show symptoms of the virus, they will be taken to a separate isolation area. Here they will be supported by staff wearing Personal Protective Equipment until they are able to leave. You will be informed as soon as possible if there should be any confirmed cases of COVID 19 in school.
- The school office will not be open for face to face communication, but Mrs Jennings, Mrs Watson and Mrs Murphy will be working as usual so that any important information that you need to pass on can be shared by phoning or emailing the office on 01367 240655 or [office@fis.faringdonlearningtrust.org](mailto:office@fis.faringdonlearningtrust.org)

The following resources may be helpful for you

1. Also, on our website, are two slideshows. One of these is to talk through with your children about coming back to school and the other is for children who have been attending school, to prepare them for how things will change when all the other children return.  
<https://www.faringdoninfantschool.co.uk/returning-to-school-1/>
2. On our school website (via the following link) you can find a presentation, for children, about good handwashing, to remind children how to do this well.  
<https://www.faringdoninfantschool.co.uk/messages-from-school/>

Thank you in advance for supporting these next steps and helping us to work safely in school. We look forward to a safe and happy start for everyone next week.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Sally Robins and the FIS Team 😊

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