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Dear Parents,

As you all know, since the 1st of June we have welcomed back pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Whilst we all understand that our school is very different place to what it was before the lockdown began in March, we are still delighted to have our children back and to see them thriving in the school environment.

Although the Government's revised plans to only open school to the above year groups means that unfortunately pupils in Years 2, 3 and 4 will not be returning to our school until September, we are pleased that we can now accommodate Year 5 pupils for the final few weeks of this term.

Transition into Year 6 is an important time for Year 5 pupils, as they prepare to become the oldest in the school; taking on more responsibilities, developing into independent learners and start to think about their future paths. This is why we feel it is beneficial for Year 5 pupils to come back into school. A return to their Year 5 class will help them re-establish routines and relationships that will ensure a smooth start to their life in Year 6 in September.

Please find below some very important information regarding your child's possible return to school:

Children will attend school on a rota, a copy of which can be found detailed below.

Year group	Days in school	Start time	End time
Nursery	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	9.20am	2pm
Reception	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	9.10am	2.10pm
Year 1	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	9.00am	2.20pm
Year 5	Tuesday, Wednesday	8.55am	2.25pm
Year 6	Tuesday, Wednesday	8.50am	2.30pm

The journey

We encourage children get to school by foot, bike or car, avoiding public transport as much as possible, accompanied by just one parent or carer. **Car sharing with another household must also be avoided.**

The drop-off



The new



school day starts slightly later for some, because there is a staggered drop-off time to **avoid large numbers of parents and children gathering at the school gates.** Please note that the start and end of day times are NOT the times that were in place before 20th March and **MUST** be strictly adhered to.

Only ONE adult should accompany the children and we ask that you avoid bringing siblings please. It is important that parents/carers adhere to the social distancing markers and the designated route in and out of school.

Parents/carers should not enter the building or gather at the school gates or doors.

Drop-off areas have been marked out and adults will be asked to remain outside while pupils queue to get into the building, ideally keeping 2 metres apart. Conversations with adults will be held at a safe social distance outside, or by phone or email, so schools can remain sealed off to all but essential staff and pupils.

We expect everyone to abide by social distancing protocols.

Children attend in small groups or 'bubbles'. Each group or 'bubble' of children has their own area, teacher/or teaching assistant, toilet, play space etc. Each 'bubble' is kept separate from all the others and that children and adults stay within the same 'bubble' throughout. This means that your child may have a teacher or teaching assistant that they are not familiar with on their return and that they may not see all their friends at school. Children are split into two or three groups to limit the numbers mixing. Parents leave their children with staff who lead them into school after the children have first washed their hands very thoroughly. Children are not be allowed to bring anything from home – no PE kit, school bag. They can bring a lunch bag with them which is cleaned and stored on arrival.

New-look classrooms

Currently, the school looks very different to how it did pre lockdown. Much of the furniture and many of the resources have been removed. Children are reminded of social distancing rules, tables and seats are separated and children have their own equipment. Each child has a zipped plastic wallet, labelled with their name, which contains the equipment that they need for their learning, which cannot be shared. We do encourage children to maintain a 2 metres distance from each other at all times, (included when seated). Windows and doors are kept open for better ventilation and the corridors are marked out with tape as a one-way system to keep children a safe distance apart. Children are expected to stay in the same room – apart from outdoor play – with the same classmates and teacher in a "protective bubble".

Lessons

Our main focus is on the children's health and well-being, on helping them transition back to school and preparing them for next stage of their education. Many activities we would normally undertake with your child are unable to happen in the same way. Where we can, adjustments are made, but reducing risk of transmission is the driving force in all decisions that the school makes regarding care and curriculum. Sadly, our Y6 children are not able to take part in the usual end of primary school activities but we are working closely with our secondary colleagues to provide transition support.

Lunch and playtime

Break & lunchtimes are staggered so that the 'bubbles' are not mixing together/moving around the school at the same time. Movement around the school is restricted in order to reduce the risk of contact. We provide a lunch service meal for all children who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) or Universal Meals. Parents/carers can purchase a school lunch for those children not eligible for FSM. Any packed lunches sent in from home must be in a lunch bag. All children must be sent with a **fresh water bottle every day.** All meals are eaten in the designated classroom areas/'bubble' space and then each group is allowed to go and play in their part of the playground, marked off with sports cones. Each group is allowed one set of simple equipment – for example, balls or hoops – which is easily cleaned. Staff clean the classrooms regularly, wiping surfaces and equipment, with a full clean overnight, while children are expected to observe a strict handwashing regime throughout the day.

Home time

Pick-up times are staggered, with each group of children escorted off the site by their assigned teacher.

School will be open between 8:50am and 3:15pm.



If you are late dropping your child off – you will be asked to take your child home and return at the correct time the following day.

If you are late picking your child up at the end of their school day on two or more occasions, the school has the right to withdraw the offer of a place for your child for the remainder of this term.

Keeping safe.

We have completed comprehensive risk assessments. PPE will only be worn when staff are supervising children who are ill/showing symptoms in school, (whilst we wait for parents/carers to collect) or administering first aid/intimate care.

Frequent hand washing and sanitising of surfaces takes place, (children are encouraged to help keep their own area clean). The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' mantra is stressed and bins emptied throughout the day. In addition, rigorous cleaning programmes take place throughout the day and each classroom is sanitised by a cleaning team at the end of each day. Doors are propped open, where safe to do so windows opened and rooms well ventilated. We aim to do as much outdoor learning as possible as being outdoors carries less risk of contact. Outdoor equipment/ apparatus/ play equipment/ climbing frames is not accessible because of the difficulty of sharing surfaces and of cleaning.

Children do not have to be in school uniform, however please send your child in to school in fresh clean clothes every day. We also strongly advise that clothes are washed at the end of each school day. Coats are placed on the back of each child's chair.

If anyone has a cough/ temperature/ feels unwell at school, they will be sent home. They will need to self-isolate for 7 days, or until tested negative. Anyone in the child's household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. If a child or adult shows symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19, then the whole group (BUBBLE) that the child/adult was in, must be sent home and they must self-isolate for 14 days. Staff and children MUST NOT attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household.

Many thanks to the parents of Year 5 pupils who have informed us of your decision as to whether you will be sending your child to school. This has given us an idea of how many pupils might attend and has really helped with our planning. We have followed all the guidelines and taken all the necessary precautions to keep your child as safe as possible and we are confident that it would benefit your child greatly from attending school once again. However, we understand that you will want to make your own decision about what is best for your child under these circumstances and we will support and respect whatever you decide.

Parents have the right to change their mind. Should you wish to change your mind and no longer want the place, please email admin@forestpark.org.uk or phone the school by 3pm on Friday 26th June.

Many thanks for all of your patience and support during this challenging period. We really appreciate this.

Miss S L Irving

Head teacher

