



# FARNBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Farnborough Hill, Farnborough, Orpington, Kent BR6 7EQ

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Website: [www.farnboroughprimary.co.uk](http://www.farnboroughprimary.co.uk)

Miss A James BA PGCE Head Teacher

Mrs C Browne B.Ed Hons Head of School

3 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and safe and had a wonderful half term. As I am sure you are aware, we welcomed back some of our children on Monday. It was lovely to see their happy smiles and some of you again! I cannot believe how much the children have grown over the last ten weeks. Whilst it has only been ten weeks since we were last open fully, it felt like we were starting a new school year yesterday. The children that came in were fabulous and were so mature and well prepared for the changes in the school; so thank you to the parents/carers that obviously spent a lot of time discussing the new safety measures with their children prior to their arrival.

I know the next few weeks leading up to the Summer Break is going to present a lot of questions and anxieties as we begin to bring more children into the building. Due to this, I thought it would be best to explain some of the logistical issues that we have, so you will therefore understand why some decisions have been made regarding how we bring more children back to school.

## Size of Classes

The Government Guidance which was issued to schools, stated that 'children should be kept in 'bubbles/small groups and where schools could keep the children apart by 2m, they should do so'. Therefore, all of our classrooms have been measured, meaning only 8/9 children can fit in each classroom. For the safety of our children, staff and community I feel comfortable with this number and would not feel happy putting any more children in a room presently. This means at any one time, I will only be able to fit seventy three children in the building, using all nine classrooms.

## Staffing

Whilst many of your children are not returning to school, all of the teachers are now back working in the school building. Year one for example only has twelve children back, but due to the ensuring the children and staff are kept safe and we adhere to the 2m social distancing guidance, I need to use two classrooms, two teachers and two support staff.

We have currently opened three key worker classes, which again uses three classrooms, three teachers and one member of support staff.

Next week, we are opening to year six, and as I am sure you can see from above, I am already running out of space and staff to accommodate all of the children that are expected back in school.



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## Home Learning

The reason that I am explaining the staffing situation is because a few of our parents have questioned the work now being set by the teachers possibly not realising that during 'Week One' already two thirds of the staff are now teaching full time. They are also doing this in accordance with the guidance set out by the government stating that where possible we need to stagger the start and end of the day, playtimes, lunchtimes and spend as much time as possible outdoors. This means therefore, that the home learning package we were delivering before is not possible to set, given the recommendations above. We are now trying to teach the children at school in a way that has not been done before with very limited time and with much of our time outdoors. We are now planning work for the children that we can deliver in school, given our new daily framework, and is still accessible to those at home. The government guidance stated that we were to 'refresh the timetable and decide which lessons or activities will be delivered' I am sure you understand that we do not have capacity for teachers to be working full time with the children in the building (who they are also planning for) and then set different work for the children at home. Many of you have said 'thank you' for what we are currently providing regarding home learning, and for that, we are truly appreciative.

Because we are now all back in the school building, I feel that we are able to deliver some input via a secure school Zoom account. For each phase this will differ and details of this will be sent to you at the end of this week along with a consent form.

## Years Reception, Two, Three, Four and Five

I know lots of you will want to know if and when your children will be able to return to school. Unfortunately, I cannot give any information regarding a potential return to school date. We are still awaiting further direction from the government.

Regarding a potential start date for Reception, once we welcome back year six next week and receive further guidance regarding the possible reintroduction of other year groups, this will be easier to plan. Therefore, a letter will be issued mid/late next week with further details. I know for those of you needing to plan your childcare, this is far from ideal, but I have no way of knowing when further guidance regarding other year groups will be issued.

I am sorry that I cannot give you firm dates and times for your children to start, but as soon as we are given the details of the return of other year groups, we will of course contact you.

## Key Workers

We have currently opened three classes for key worker children. I am however, anticipating that we may be asked to open more classes for key workers due to many industries returning to work. Please be aware that we will only have very limited space for any more classes as we will potentially have the current key workers, year one, year six and potentially reception – all with only 8 children in each group. Therefore, should we offer out any places, please respond immediately as we will not be able to hold places.

## Friday Arrangements

From Monday 8 June, we will be welcoming more children into the building, therefore our school, whilst being cleaned daily by our cleaners and school staff, will need a thorough clean



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on a Friday; therefore school will close to years one and six for the afternoon. Year one, will finish at 1pm, and year six will finish at 1:20pm. Key worker children will remain on site until 3:30pm.

## Communication

Every Friday I will issue a new timetable for the following week. Please read this carefully, as times and rotas are likely to change on a weekly basis depending on guidance issued.

Thank you for taking the time to read yet another very long letter which hopefully has answered some of your questions.

Best Wishes,

Miss James  
Head Teacher



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