

Foreland Fields School  
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**Headteacher: Adrian Mount**

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## End of Term 5 Update

We hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well.

We are all continuing to face extraordinary challenges at this time and the situation is affecting all parts of society. Our staff have risen to the challenges created by the COVID-19 crisis with professionalism, resilience and remarkable dedication. I am also truly grateful to all of you for your continued support.

### Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update

The main symptoms of Covid-19 (coronavirus) have now been revised to include new symptoms that are occurring. No child or adult should attend school or nursery if they are displaying any of the symptoms below:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with Coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

### Growing Provision from 1<sup>st</sup> June

I wrote to you all last week regarding the announcement from the Government that, as long as the spread of the virus continues to fall, schools would be re-opening to specified year groups from 1<sup>st</sup> June. As I explained, Foreland Fields School did not close so is looking at this as a 'growth' which, in line with guidance for Special Schools, is not specific to agreed year groups.

You should all have received a letter detailing the offer and also a communication from the Leaders of Learning, Nursery Manager or Deputies regarding whether you would like your child to attend for 1 or 2 days a week during Term 6, as long as it is safe to do so. As stated, this request does not guarantee attendance as we will still need to keep classroom numbers low in order to reduce the spread of the virus. Decisions will be made on a Risk Assessment basis.



We will be confirming attendance arrangements with parents/carers after the break.

We continue to recommend and encourage that those pupils with the most vulnerable medical conditions continue to isolate for the advised 12-week period. This means that they should remain at home if safe to do so.

We have received a letter from Matt Dunkley CBE, the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education. He has stated that. '*... the Government has stated that the date to plan for readmitting additional pupils is 1st June, at the earliest. This caveat indicates that the Government will assess nearer this date if it believes the conditions are right to proceed from then, and we do not expect this final confirmation until 28th May, in all probability.*'

In light of this information, we are planning to open our school, as usual, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June for children of critical workers and those previously attending only. Once we have received further clarification from the government, expected on 28<sup>th</sup> May, we will be planning to gradually increase our numbers from the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, as long as we are able to proceed safely. Please note, school is closed to all pupils on 1<sup>st</sup> June for staff training.

In support of the national effort, the school will remain open over the half-term period (Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May) to children whose parents are critical workers.

### **Transport**

If your child receives transport via Kent County Council and will be attending during Term 6, transport will continue. We will be liaising with the Transport Department once arrangements for pupil attendance have been made.

I have been asked by parents if they can temporarily transport their child to school rather than use school transport. We are happy with this arrangement, however could I ask all parents/carers to let us know if they are planning to do this, in order that we can inform the transport providers and the Local Authority.

If there are any children attending who would normally travel to school with parents by public transport, the advice is that they should consider changing their travel habits including cycling, walking or driving. If any of our parents/carers will have difficulty bringing their child to school without using public transport could I please ask that they let us know.

Some of the above may only be known once the school has been able to confirm the 'growth' of provision.

### **Home Learning**

As stated previously, parents/carers will not be fined if they decide not to send their child into school or nursery. If parents would prefer that their child remains at home, we will fully support this decision. Home learning for pupils not attending school will continue across Term 6.



## Annual Reviews

Annual Reviews of EHCPs have been taking place via telephone and conference calls. These arrangements will continue during Term 6. Review paperwork will be sent home in advance and parents will then be contacted by class teachers regarding the time and date of the review (which will, as far as possible, be the same as that previously scheduled). If there are changes, we will contact parents to let them know of new arrangements.

## Term 6 Events

Obviously, large events are not permitted at this time. This impacts on our ability to run our summer events. We have therefore made the decision to cancel all Term 6 school events, such as Sports Day and the Summer Fayre, due to the Government guidance. We know that this is highly disappointing news for our pupils, parents and staff, but believe that we must take these necessary measures to reduce large numbers of our school community congregating together in the school at any one time. This also means that next year we will have to make these events twice as good!

## After School Clubs

Please note, there will be no after school clubs taking place during Term 6 to reduce the risks of the Coronavirus.

## Revised Arrangements and Procedures - From 8th June 2020

We are in the process of updating all Risk Assessments in light of the possibility of increasing our provision in Term 6. In order to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, and also to cut down on interactions and reduce 'crowding', we are revising our procedures. This will involve the following:

- Staggered timings for the beginning and end of the school day.
- Changes to the way pupils are dropped off and collected at the end of the school day.
- Changes to expectations regarding school uniform and what can be brought into school.

We are currently putting together a Parent/Carer Information Pack which will detail all of the new arrangements for Term 6. This will be sent to Parents/Carers at the beginning of next term.

We continue to follow the Government social distancing guidelines and will be encouraging our pupils to regularly wash their hands and follow the two-metre requirement, helping pupils to understand personal space where possible.

## Visits to the School – Reducing the Number of People on Site

Following Government guidance around social distancing and reducing the spread of the virus is key to our planning. One way to support this is to reduce the amount of people on site. This applies to pupils/students, staff and visitors.

Could I please ask that parents/carers do not come into school to discuss issues related to their child returning, or any other matter. Should you wish to talk to a member of staff, including myself or other members of the leadership team, please call the school on 01843 863891 during school hours. Appointments can also be requested using the school email address: [foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk](mailto:foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk).



## Transition

To many of our pupils, the absence of the regular structure and routine over the past few months has been very difficult. Whilst we are fully aware that parents have established clear routines in home schooling their children, we do not underestimate that, when our pupils finally return to school, this will not necessarily be an immediate return to their 'normal' routine. We are aware that many of our pupils will return to school disengaged.

Many of our pupils will have experienced a deep sense of loss. Loss of structure and routine; loss of friendships, opportunities for play, social interaction and freedom. Families have been kept apart for prolonged periods of time and many of our pupils will have heard about the devastating consequences of the pandemic on the news and they may have absorbed some of the anxiety of adults around them. They will have seen adults behaving very differently – wearing facemasks and social distancing.

These losses will have impacted on all our pupils. Many parents have told us that their child is not sleeping, or that they are becoming increasingly anxious.

When pupils finally return to school, we will need to support them to recover from this loss, so that they rebuild relationships and a sense of security, before they are able to embark on the next stage of their learning journey.

During Term 1 (in September) we are planning on introducing a 'Recovery Curriculum' which can be described as a 'relationships-based approach to reigniting the flame of learning in each child.' Our intention with this curriculum is to guide our pupils through a process of re-engagement, which slowly helps them to settle back into school life and reintroduces that all important routine and structure.

We are also planning to ensure that transition to new phases and classes is part of this 'recovery phase' which could mean that pupils remain, where possible, with their current teacher during this period of transition. We are fully aware that it is not possible to keep everything the same, as we will be welcoming new pupils and staff. However, we will do everything we can to properly prepare your child for the next phase in their lives.

## Safeguarding Arrangements

We will continue to provide 24-hour safeguarding support across the half-term and during Term 6 - see rota below. **We must stress that these phone lines are strictly for safeguarding and emergency situations only.**

Safeguarding Team	Phone Number	Days of Availability From 7am – 7am the Following Day (24 hours a day)
Adrian Mount Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	07593 140028	Sunday and Monday
Jeremy Edwards Deputy DSL	07593 140031	Tuesday and Wednesday
Sarah Thorp Deputy DSL	07593 140032	Thursday and Saturday



Sharon Bremner Deputy DSL	07471 125198	Friday
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We will be in touch early next term in order to discuss attendance arrangements and also to provide the parent/carer handbook.

Stay Safe



Adrian Mount  
Headteacher

