

PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST
Fitzwaryn

'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'

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25th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I do hope that you all have had a lovely summer and managed to get out and about in the sunshine wherever possible.

I know that FitzKids was once again very successful with lots of fun being had by all!

We have had works carried out over the summer break in school – the library has been refurbished and looks amazing, we have purchased new interactive white boards in all classrooms, the nurture room is looking great, we have created extra office space, new ovens have been installed in the cookery room, the car park has had the parking bays redefined making more spaces available to park cars and sections of the playground has been levelled off – once again nothing stands still at Fitzwaryn!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to school and cannot wait to see happy smiling children back in school on Thursday 3rd September!

As promised, this letter contains the information you need for the September start for all pupils and staff when attendance is now mandatory.

I appreciate that you or your child may be anxious about the return to school especially for those that have not been in school since March. If after reading this letter, you require a conversation with either myself or your child's class teacher, please email a request to office.7027@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk and someone will get back to you on one of the INSET days next week (Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd)
You will also be able to review the Risk Assessment on the school's website from Tuesday 1st September.

Some of you have requested a phased return to school for your child; if you have not done so previously, but would like to now request a phased return for your child, please let us know and we will do all we can to accommodate your request.

What can my child bring to school?

Please do not send excess baggage to school – do not send toys in from home:

Children can bring:

A book bag containing the home/school book and a reading book only.

A small bag of essentials for children who need personal/intimate care - please do not fill it with unnecessary items.

A lunch box if having packed lunch – preferably one that can be wiped down.



A named water bottle.

A small bottle of sun protection – please administer this at home before departure and ensure it is named.

A PE kit.

Please ensure that all items are clearly named.

What can my child wear for school?

Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for school, do not worry if this is not their usual uniform.

Ensure that your child's clothes are freshly laundered each day.

What about a face covering?

If you wish for your child to wear a face covering when travelling to and from school, that is your decision and you will have to liaise with transport over this. Once at school, your child will be asked to remove their face covering unless we have been advised otherwise by the authorities (i.e. if the school is instructed that a localised lockdown is necessary) If you would like your child to wear a fresh face covering for the journey home and transport agree, then please provide one.

Please be aware that staff will not be assisting pupils with face coverings until we are given further guidelines on the matter.

What will my child learn?

Our curriculum for the start of the year is very much based on our research into a Restorative curriculum model, following on from what we were providing in Terms 5 and 6; details of which are on the website. We have kept the mental health and well-being of the children and staff as the central principle.

Teachers will be working with the children to baseline their learning to find out what they need to learn and find out what new things they have learned during lockdown. We will be providing a range of learning activities within this model and moving to a full curriculum offer as and when it is safe to do so.

Unfortunately, for safety reasons, we cannot provide yoga, cookery (apart from sixth form cooking their own lunches), swimming, RDA and hydrotherapy for the first term; I am working with the personnel involved in these activities and will reinstate the activities as soon as it is safe to do so.

I am hoping that the choir can still meet even if it must be virtually in the first instance!

Outside learning will play an important part in the curriculum if the weather is good!

Will my child's EHCP still go ahead?

I am delighted that all the EHCP meetings were completed in the correct time frame for the last academic year. You will already have been allocated a date for your child's EHCP meeting for the next academic year. The meetings will still go ahead when planned but these may be virtually/over the telephone rather than in person. Someone will be in touch with you to discuss the arrangements for your meeting nearer to the time.

Will my child be with familiar staff?

We are lucky that our classes are relatively small compared to some schools and we have ensured that the children remain with staff who know them well. We will endeavour to keep the children in their groups and limit the amount of mixing as far as possible.

Can social distancing be guaranteed?

Whilst every effort will be made for staff and pupils to adhere to 2m social distancing rules, we cannot guarantee it 100% of the time. We are limiting movement around school and large groups will not be gathering e.g. assemblies.

Will staff be wearing PPE?

The school has acquired PPE and it will be used by staff for certain tasks such as intimate care.

PPE will not be used routinely in school, but extra precautions will need to be in place for certain activities where intimate care and close working is needed.

Will my child be in a class 'bubble'?

I made the decision before the summer break that the children will be returning to their pre-lockdown classes in the first instance.

I am delighted that we are welcoming some new children into the school and transition arrangements have been made individually with each family.

The children will be kept in their class bubbles for most of the teaching time, but classes will be linked to form one bubble:

Maple (including some new children) and Beech

Cedar and Hazel

Ash and Willow

Pine and Rowan

Chestnut, Holly and Student Centre

This does not mean that the children will necessarily be in larger groups, but it makes it easier for staffing to be flexible.

How about the classroom set up?

Any unnecessary equipment has been removed from the classroom and stored. As far as possible, children will be given their own equipment to use. Any shared equipment e.g. bikes, outdoor, PE equipment will be wiped down after each use. Where children are seated at desks, the desks will be spaced as far apart as possible. Learning support for TAs will be primarily given side by side rather than face to face. However, due to the nature of the children's needs at Fitzwaryn, this is not the ideal way of supporting a child and cannot always be strictly adhered to. The rooms will always be well ventilated.

Will my child be supported by therapists and school nursing staff?

As far as I am aware, NHS therapy staff are planning to return to school visits. NHS special school nursing staff have been supporting in schools throughout this period and will continue to do so. The NHS have their own protocols for working in schools and due to the nature of their work, it is likely that NHS staff will be wearing full PPE.

New Classes

Some children will transition to a new class after October half term. You and your child will be informed of their new class in due course and transition arrangements will be made as appropriate.

The children who are due to start at the Student Centre will transition there on 21st September after spending some time in their pre – lockdown classes.

Will my child be able to have a snack and a school lunch?

Our school lunch service will be up and running as usual – there may be changes to the menus and we will send them as soon as we have them in place.

Children can bring healthy snacks into school to eat at break.

Lunches will be served in classrooms to avoid larger groups gathering in the hall.

Will my child be able to have break outside?

It is of the utmost importance that the children have the opportunity of having a break outside each day. We will be staggering break times so that large groups of children and adults will not be gathering at any one time.

What will happen if anyone at school shows symptoms of the virus at school?

Our staff are vigilant to any sign of illness; if a person falls ill with symptoms they will be immediately isolated and supported by staff. We will contact the relevant agencies to determine our next steps.

What if my child falls ill during the day?

Please do not send your child to school if they are at all unwell.

Again, as above, if your child shows signs of being unwell, they will be isolated and supported by staff. You will be contacted immediately and asked to come and collect.

Please ensure that you have given the correct emergency contacts into the office, it is essential that we can contact someone immediately should your child fall ill.

You will also be given information about accessing a COVID 19 test.

What do I do if there is a confirmed case of COVID 19 in my family?

Do not send your child into school if there is a case of COVID 19 in the family.

Please inform us immediately if your child has been in contact with an infected person and has been into school. We will then seek advice from PHE.

Transport/Drop Off and Pick Up

School has already communicated with transport over the summer holidays. However, it will be a good idea to contact transport yourself to check individual arrangements.

Some of you have indicated that you will be transporting your child yourself in the first instance – please ensure that transport knows this. For safeguarding reasons, please let your child's class teacher know if someone else is picking up your child – we will need written permission from you and the person collecting will need to provide some form of identification.

We will continue to ensure that drop off and pick up are carefully managed and we ask that you are patient with us. We want to minimize the amount of footfall in the car park and ensure 2m social distancing as far as possible.

Please do not bring family members to drop off and pick up your child including siblings.

For those of you who walk into school, please do not arrive before 8:55am and remember to maintain social distancing as far as possible. Do not gather in groups in the car park.

Please read the separate guidance for more information.

Liaison with staff

There will be limited chance to speak to staff in the mornings and at the end of the day.

Please liaise by email to the office or by telephone as much as possible.

Try not to enter the school buildings for any reason unless it is for a pre-arranged meeting.

Hygiene and Cleaning

The Trust has instated a new cleaning company following a robust tender and interview process. The new contract has started, and a daily cleaning schedule is in place.

Toilets have been allocated to groups of children and there are plans in place for toilets to be cleaned after use.

We have installed extra hand sanitizer units across the school and will be encouraging children to keep up the good hand hygiene regimes.

Please ensure that your child washes their hands before leaving the house in the morning.

All our endeavours are to keep you, your child, and the staff safe so please adhere to the guidance above.

If after reading this you have any queries about your child returning to school, please email the school on office.7027@fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk and someone will be in touch on one of the INSET days.

As has already been the case, we will be keeping all that we do under regular review; I will endeavour to communicate with you as often as I possibly can and will always keep the children, staff and the Fitzwaryn Community at the centre of any decisions that I make.

Best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy
Headteacher