

# Falconhurst School

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**“Proud to be learning, succeeding  
and caring together”**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020,

Dear Families,

I am writing to share a brief update with all of you about how things in school have been going and how we are busily preparing for September and the next school year.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> June, more children have been encouraged to return to school and on average we have had about 50% of the eligible children (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) returning. Everyone in school is sticking to the new rules and expectations for social distancing as well as hand-washing. It is very strange seeing our children operating in isolation, but I am so enormously proud of the way that they have adapted and accepted that this is the new ‘normal’ at the moment. Thank you also to our amazing families who have either prepared children for life back in school or who have been providing on-going support and understanding to those learning at home. Neither choice is easy but hopefully we are heading towards a time when all children can be back in school with a level of confidence amongst all families that this is a safe place for them to be.

At the time of writing to you, I have no further information on the wider re-opening of the school, access to tutors or events over the summer which we can direct you to. As soon as I have details, I will share without delay as I am certain that you are as anxious as us to know what is happening and what the return will look like.



Despite not yet knowing specific details from the Department for Education, it has not stopped us from getting prepared and ready. Welcoming back our children and making sure that they are as relaxed and well informed as possible is our primary focus. Over the next few weeks, we will be finalising welcome booklets for children from their new teachers and hopefully a little video for them to watch too so that they can really familiarise themselves with their new teacher over the summer. It is a shame that our usual transition morning cannot take place this year, but we will find ways of being creative to make sure that every child knows where they are going when they finally return.

Teachers are also busily writing reports for children as although we have not had classes since March, there is still a legal obligation to write and provide these by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Understandably they will be quite different to previous years with the level of attainment for children being recorded from March and no national assessment (SAT/phonics/EYFS) results or up to date curriculum information. There will still be the personal comment from your child's teacher and it is this that means such a lot to everyone; really knowing your child's personality and having a chance to praise them for their efforts and wish them well is what motivates staff when completing each child's report.

It is frustrating that there remain more questions than answers but please be assured that as soon as we can plan and communicate with certainty, we will.

I miss all of the children and our families,  
Please continue to look after yourselves and stay safe.

Best Wishes,  
Louise Aird.

