

Falconhurst School



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

Tuesday 30th June 2020,

Dear Families,

At the time of writing to you, we are still without any form of formal guidance or direction from the Department for Education (DfE); consequently, there is some limitation on what arrangements we can set in place and communicate to families for September. Despite the level of uncertainty and significant changes to school life, staffing changes and transitions for children carry on regardless of Covid-19 and therefore I am in a position to keep you updated on these matters.

Staffing:

At the end of this term, we shall be saying farewell to Miss Harrison and Miss Johnson as they take up positions in other schools. Although their time with us has been cut short, we wish them all the very best in their future teaching posts and thank them for the contributions that they have made during their time with us. Reception families may also have noticed that Mrs Sharman left us during this period of partial school closure; her work in school was exemplary and we wish her all the best in her future working.

We will also be preparing to wish Mrs Loxley, Mrs Sharpe and Miss Dempsey (midday supervisor) lots of luck and good wishes as they prepare to start their maternity leave. At this time, we do not yet know the exact start date of their departure but in case the new babies make an early appearance, we wish them well and hope that the summer holidays bring a chance to put their feet up and rest!

With staff departures comes new arrivals and I am delighted to be welcoming Miss Gray, Mrs Bonham, Miss Leather, Miss Carter and Miss Kozowy to our teaching team. Alongside them will also be Mrs Woods who is joining the Teaching support team. Our new staff come with wide ranging skills and knowledge; indeed some of them have previously trained or worked in the school so are familiar with our ethos and expectations. I am confident that all of these colleagues are going to be an excellent addition to the school team and ask that you join me in wishing them a very warm welcome.

Transition and End of Year Arrangements:

We are keen to try and engage safely with as many children and families as possible before the end of term. The traditional transition event of children moving between classrooms to meet their new teacher is sadly not



possible under the DfE guidance; neither is the option to relax all distancing rules and have an afternoon where all children return to school as a 'one off' event. Therefore, we are going to organise letters, booklets and events for all families which will provide as much information and reassurance as possible. I anticipate that letters and booklets notifying you of your child's new class teacher will be emailed out on Friday 10th July so please check your inbox and junk mail.

Alongside this we will be hoping and praying for dry weather on the afternoon of **Wednesday 15th July** so that we can host a family farewell/hello 'picnic' on the field. Families with children in Nursery, Years 1, 3 and 5 are welcome from 1pm to 2pm whilst families with children in Reception, Years 2,4 and 6 are welcome from 2pm to 3pm. For families with children in multiple year groups, you are welcome to attend for whichever hour works best for you. Families will be able to enter through the side gate which leads directly onto the field as this is wide enough for families to arrive and depart with sufficient space in between them. **In order for this to happen, school will close to all children at 12pm on this day.** Once the children have left the site, staff will prepare areas outside where they can meet up with children in their current class, handover end of year reports and have a general (and much awaited) chance to catch up and see children that they have not seen for so long. Within the allotted hour, children and families will also be able to say hello to their new teacher as we are hoping that the new teachers will be able to leave their existing commitments and join us for the afternoon. Whilst the hour may not be time for a full-on picnic, I'm sure that snacks will help the get together feel even more enjoyable!

I know that various leaked articles relating to September have made their way into the press; however, we need to wait for the full DfE guidance so that a clear return to school plan can be shared with all our families before the end of term. I have no wish to delay communicating decisions to you as this only increases your understandable anxiety; therefore, I would like to assure every family that as soon as decisions are made and finalised, they will be shared with you via email and Dojo.

Please continue to look after yourselves and keep in contact with school notices.

Kindest Regards,



Louise Aird

